



Gone to Ground

John Harvey

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From one of Britain's leading crime writers — **Flesh and Blood, Ash and Bone** — comes his new book — sure to go straight to the top of the bestseller lists.

Will's first thought when he saw the man's face: it was like a glove that had been pulled inside out.

When police detective Will Grayson and his partner, Helen Walker are called upon to investigate the violent death of Stephen Bryan, a gay Cambridge academic, their first thoughts are of an ill-judged sexual encounter, of rough trade gone wrong.

But as their investigation widens, their attention focuses on the biography Bryan was writing about the life and death of fifties film star, Stella Leonard, whose death from drowning, when the car she was driving skidded mysteriously off a lonely Fenland road, uncannily echoed the climax of her most notorious film, *Shattered Glass*.

With Bryan's journalist sister egging them on, and bringing herself into mortal danger as she conducts her own investigation, Will and Helen gradually peel away the secrets of a family blighted by a lust for wealth and power and its own perverted sexuality.

Gone to Ground Details

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Author : John Harvey

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From Reader Review Gone to Ground for online ebook

Claire says

Ici, on traque. Oui. Mais on traque les ombres de la longueur et de l'ennui ! Point d'autre !

Jen says

Bit pedestrian as a thriller. Wondered why the plot was muddled with red herrings which didn't really add much to the story to increase the suspense.

Thejelman says

A first stab at a new police pairing for Harvey, and inevitably it's a male-female combo. Not as compelling as Resnick; the storyline being stretched at a critical point with a bizarre revelation being a small problem for me, as was the author's (occasional) lapses into cliché (why is it a character they don't want us to like is always introduced as 'having thin lips'?). Other than that, pretty tight and by no means a bad read

LJ says

GONE TO GROUND (Police Procedural-Det. Will Grayson, England-Cont) – G+
Harvey, John – Standalone

William Heinemann, 2007, UK Hardcover – ISBN: 9780434014460

First Sentence: 1. EXT. COAST ROAD. NIGHT. A blank screen.

*** Detective Will Grayson's latest victim, Stephen Bryant, is a writer working on the life of late actress Stella Leonard. He had been warned off questioning Leonard's family; is that why he is dead? Bryant had also recently broken off from his gay lover; is that why he is dead? Detective Walker is caught up and stabbed trying to break up a gay bashing; is being gay why Bryant is dead?

*** Harvey is such a good, solid writer. He knows how to create interesting characters, write realistic dialogue, build a plot, and tie everything together at the end. I liked the new characters and felt this was a more traditional, less dark book than some of this others. The protagonist here was rather refreshing in that he's is a normal marriage with normal problems is just trying to keep everything on track. I particularly enjoyed how he wove the story from the past into the present. I shan't say this is the best book he's ever written, but I don't think he's ever written a really bad book either.

Anne says

I like John Harvey's detective stories, I'd like them even more with fewer F... words in them.

Jill Hutchinson says

I wondered if John Harvey actually wrote this book.....it just didn't seem his style or up to his standards in the beginning. It improved as it went along but still it is far from my favorite of his works. A young gay man involved in writing the biography of a cult film actress is brutally murdered and his estranged partner is immediately a suspect. There are family secrets here involving the actress that are impeding the murder investigation and it turns nasty quickly. This is an OK book but I wasn't as engaged as I usually am with Harvey's work.

Connie says

This is my first book by this author and it won't be my last! Very well written murder mystery with two detectives, Will Grayson and Helen Walker, who will stay in my mind for a long time. Highly recommended!

Glen says

British police investigate the murder of a quiet gay man, only to find that their case is connected to a fifties film star.

Twists and turns. It seems like it should be set in LA or at least San Francisco, but it's in England. Kind of weird.

Susy says

1 – Gone to ground, by John Harvey – 4.75

Harvey is an excellent novelist with a great sense of character. He doesn't need Resnik to deliver a strong tale. In this book the main characters are three: the pair of detectives, Will Grayson and Helen Walker, and the murdered man's sister. Grayson is a family man with two small kids and a wife who wishes to resume his work because domestic life is lonely and unrewarding. Walker is a woman strong enough in her job and her life but weak when confronted with an old lover. Leslie, the sister, is a journalist who wants to know the truth about his brother murder and tries to investigate. He was a gay Cambridge academic, intent in writing about a Fifties film star. He might have been killed because of his sexual orientation or maybe because his investigation about the movie star touches the family of a powerful man. Hate and violence form the background against which the plot unfolds. Hate for sexual, racial or social differences explode in violence. But the book is not dark; the protagonists are normal people, with problems one can relate to. I don't know if this is the beginning of a series but in my opinion the characters could be used again successfully. I didn't like much his Frank Elder, the character he devised after Resnik, but Grayson and Walker can be a great police pair.

Colin Mitchell says

Having read the Charlie Resnick series by John Harvey I decided to try this series which seems to be just two books. It is a good, straightforward police procedural novel featuring Detective Inspector Will Grayson and Detective Sergeant Helen Walker base in Cambridge. A college lecturer is found beaten to death in his home. Initial suspicion falls on his gay lover but nothing puts him in the house at the time and the trail goes cold. Meanwhile homophobic and racist troubles break out in Cambridge and is there a link to a book being researched by the first victim, the violence and a local developer and his wild actress daughter. Lots of sub plots and twist, some not quite expected that are blended into a very readable novel.

A good 4 stars

Dave Nichols says

The pace doesn't exactly fly. But it moves enough to keep things interesting.

Melissa says

Maybe just too many different stories going on here. Might have worked better if they tied in somehow with the main murder. Still, not a bad storyline.

"When police detective Will Grayson and his partner, Helen Walker, investigate the violent death of Stephen Bryan, a gay academic, their first thoughts are of an ill-judged sexual encounter or a fatal lovers' quarrel: The man's face was like a glove that had been pulled inside out. But they soon shift focus to the book Bryan was writing about the life and mysterious death of fifties film star Stella Leonard. While Bryan's sister puts herself in danger by conducting her own investigation, Grayson and Walker peel away the secrets of a family blighted by a lust for wealth and power and by its perverted sexuality."

Shonna Froebel says

Every Harvey book I read makes me like this writer more, and this one is no exception. Set in Cambridge, a body of a gay academic, Stephen Bryan, is found. Is it an encounter gone wrong? Detectives Will Grayson and Helen Walker consider the possibilities. There is an ex-lover, Mark McKusick, who seems to have remained on good terms with Bryan, but could he have been involved. What motive is there behind the removal of Bryan's computer, disks and papers on his book in progress. Why doesn't Stella Leonard's family want him writing about her? The questions are many, but the answers don't come easily. Stephen's sister, Lesley, a BBC radio reporter starts looking into the connection between the biography he was working on and his death. What about the hate crime against gays in the area? and does it have any relation to this case? Will is afraid of missing something by concentrating too hard on one perpetrator, but doesn't want to seem to be grasping at straws. The characters show real emotions and weaknesses and their suspicions are not always unbiased by their own backgrounds. I found it very engaging and hard to put down.

David Lynch says

Pedestrian.

Monica Akinyi Odhiambo says

So far of all the John Harvey books I have read ,I have loved them both.At first I thought I knew who dunnit then again I started doubting depending on how the case was going.At times I thought was really dragging,but I realized things aren't necessarily supposed to go so fast.Infact the killer had done such a perfect job of hiding all the evidence and leading to distracting places,so that the attention wouldn't point to him in.Good plot,good characterization,I was kept glued to the story the whole time.I would recommend this book to everyone who loves thrillers and crime novels.
