



Sawbones: A Novella

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Gruesome American serial killer tale with a twist - from No. 1 bestseller Stuart MacBride

They call him Sawbones: a serial killer touring America kidnapping young women.

The FBI's investigating, but getting nowhere.

The latest victim is Laura Jones. Sixteen years old. Pretty. Blonde. And the daughter of one of New York's most notorious gangsters. Laura's Dad doesn't care about the law. What he wants is revenge. And he knows just the guys to get it.

This time, Sawbones picked on the wrong family...

Sawbones: A Novella Details

Date : Published (first published July 1st 2008)

ISBN :

Author : Stuart MacBride

Format : Kindle Edition 144 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Thriller

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From Reader Review Sawbones: A Novella for online ebook

Jeni says

This is a grisly but well-written novella! I think that my only criticism would be that as a British author writing a book based in America, he needed to use American terminology, like curb instead of kerb, program instead of programme, trunk instead of boot, etc. Don't read this book if harsh language upsets you as there is plenty! I really enjoyed this, although the violence is gratuitous. It's a very quick read, I read it in 2 quick sittings.

Megan says

Rating: 3.5

This was an easy one-sitting read. It's such an interesting idea for a plot, and I really liked each character, I totally wish we had gotten a more in depth, lengthier story. It would have helped me to understand why the characters did specific actions. For example, could we at least know why Sawbones is murdering these girls? The 'saving them from their sins' Jesus-loving seems like a quick and easy explanation.

I also don't think it should have been called Sawbones. Sure, it is an attention-grabbing title, but this was really about Laura and the lengths to save her or get revenge than Sawbones.

I agree with MacBride; it was fun reading from a criminal's perspective.

Maylin says

A quick, racy read, well written but decidedly McBride. One wonders what he can possibly write to outdo himself next time?

I wasn't totally convinced by the US milieu but that is actually a plus for me. Grisly, gruesome and witty.

Garrett says

Nice short read.

Tracy says

Short and weird. I liked it.

John Wiltshire says

Began this today right after finising The Ritual. It's a book I've wanted to read for ages as I loved MacBride's Logan McRae series. If you've not tried these then I highly recommend them. The first ones (Cold Granite Dying Light Broken Skin) are some of the funniest, most original and gruesome crime writing I've ever read. I was seriously spitting out tea at some of these. I think MacBride then fell a little too in love with one of his more outrageous characters (Roberta Steel) and the latter novels were less believable.

I was intrigued about Sawbones when I saw it described as gory. Seriously? More gory than Flesh House? I swore I'd never eat meat again after that book. Then I read Meat and decided I was being a wuss.

So, I digress, Sawbones was a must read for me.

So far, I'm very impressed. MacBride's managed to make sadistic killers quite nice chaps. It's irreverent and funny, crisp and well written.

I'll update when finished.

Finished. This is a great little read. Little being quite an operative word as it's so short I read this in an hour or so. It's quite a nice premise--crime boss's 16-year-old daughter is taken by a serial killer and he sends his two best men, Harry and Mark, to find her and bring her back. They believe she's probably already dead (this killer's MO is to cut arms and legs off young blonde girls) and just want to find the guy and bring him back to Mr Jones for justice. Well, justice of a psychotic crime boss kind. Harry and Mark are seriously deranged, but that's what's so funny about this little story. We are manipulated into rooting for these guys as they torture and murder innocent people on their quest to rescue Laura. They've got a dead FBI agent in their boot along with a tortured young cop! It's so outrageous it's funny and very cleverly done.

I wanted Laura rescued. I wanted Sawbones to meet Mr Jones. I didn't care too much what Mark and Harry have to do to bring that about.

I've read too many serial killer novels to remember, but this one's reveal of the horror inflicted on the girls was original and genuinely chilling. Stuart MacBride's signature novel is gory humour. This one was much more straight-faced than the Logan McRae books as it's not necessarily played for laughs. Told in the 1st person by Mark, we're laughing *at* these weird, psychotic guys more than *with* them. They take themselves quite seriously.

Great fun and highly recommended. Short though, so don't rely on this one to take on holiday unless it's backed up by many, many more.

Kath Middleton says

4.5 stars

This is a novella that packs a punch. A serial killer has added the young daughter of a gangster to the collection of girls he's killing. He's doing it by sawing off their arms and legs and he's just about to find out that there are men as nasty as he is. There are no characters here to like but the story is hugely compelling. I had to keep reading (though there should be a 'gruesome alert' on this book) to see how it would pan out. Very unpleasant but most entertaining.

Karen says

Sawbones is a novella, set in the US, not part of MacBride's series books set in Aberdeen. There are some similarities though - I harbour a fond belief that this author couldn't write out his shopping list without some sly, black humour involved.

There is plenty of humour in SAWBONES. There's also a lot of gruesome moments, which again is pretty typical MacBride. He does love to gross you out, make you laugh, then make you stop and think what the hell am I laughing at for goodness sake! It's quite a tribute to the skill of the author that he can make that work in 114 pages, whilst he also tells a soberingly believable story. You see Laura's dad is not somebody to be messed with - he knows people - who know what to do with people, and there's a car full of those people chasing our serial killer across America, tracking the killer that the FBI have nicknamed Sawbones. Dealing with Laura's boyfriend, handling the interest of local State Troopers, calling in some big favours.

The reason they call this killer Sawbones - well he's a serial killer, I think you can probably work that one out. What the pursuers have in mind - well you can guess that without the need for much synapse snapping. What ends up happening - well maybe you aren't going to quite pick all the elements of that coming.

The story moves at a very rapid clip (one ancient and clapped out Ford Crown Victoria notwithstanding). It's violent, it's brusque, it's unflinchingly gross in some places. It's funny, it's black, it's in your face in some places. It's highly entertaining and - I'm probably going to hell in a handbasket - because I just couldn't help but laugh a lot.

Emma Maclean says

Excellent novella. Short, sharp and funny with a story that packs a punch.

L.J. Forster says

A quick forty minute read, writing so large I almost didn't need to wear my glasses! Enjoyable.

Angela Verdenius says

Read this a couple of years ago and can't believe I didn't rate it! Funny, gory, and downright yucky!!! True Stuart MacBride, one of my fav cop story authors.

Jayne Fielden says

After reading the other reviews, I was looking forward to something a little different; maybe because this was the audio version it didn't seem as gritty, plot thickening or as gruesome as reviewers had stated. Up against his other books it lacked something but I can not put my finger on what.

Ally Atherton says

It's always cool to stumble across an Author that you haven't read before and I was lucky enough to receive this in a pile of books from a work colleague. I read this small book in two days and it was fun with a capital

F.

There is a lunatic abducting young women in America but this time he has picked on the wrong woman. This time it's not the police he has to worry about but a notorious set of gangsters! Sawbones is witty and dark, fast and furious and highly entertaining. I really like Stuart Macbrides style and he is an author that I must revisit at some point.

If you fancy a quick filler, you can't go wrong with this. 4/5

Neil says

I have previously read some of the Logan McRae books and I had forgotten just how much I enjoyed this author's writing. The first thing you notice is that this is not set in Aberdeen, but takes place in the US. There is still the graphic content, and the patches of dry humour laced throughout the tale so perhaps not ideal for the slightly squeamish. Despite the short length it has probably prompted me to reread the other books again and then ferret out some more.

The reader should take note of the writer's introduction, especially the part where he states that he had fun with this novella. If the author had fun with it then the reader shouldn't expect to take everything seriously and overlook convenient coincidences. So although only a short read it was still worthwhile for me.

Rog Harrison says

This is little more than a short story being only 114 pages of quite large print. Written in a different style from the author's usual books this is set in the USA and is told in the present tense. A mob leader's 16 year old daughter has been abducted by someone suspected to be a serial killer and the story deals with the gangsters hunting down the serial killer. A fast paced read with a lot of black humour though there are a lot of violent scenes.
