



Skinner's Rules

Quintin Jardine

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The book that launched a legend: the first novel in the acclaimed Bob Skinner series.

As head of Edinburgh's CID, Detective Chief Superintendent Bob Skinner has seen it all... but even he is shocked by the savagely mutilated corpse discovered in a dark alleyway. The victim is identified as a successful young lawyer, and the motive for the brutal death remains a mystery. Then further seemingly random killings in the city begin to suggest a vicious serial killer is on the rampage. But when the lawyer's fiancee is also murdered, Skinner realises that someone is in deadly earnest...

Skinner's Rules Details

Date : Published January 3rd 1994 by Headline (first published 1993)

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Author : Quintin Jardine

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From Reader Review Skinner's Rules for online ebook

Fat Al says

This is the first in the long-running "Skinner" series, and I've been a fan throughout the ride.

It's interesting to see the first iterations of the characters, most of whom become firm familiars over the following 20ish novels.

It's been a while since I read this one last, and I'd forgotten some aspects of the story. Some bits are definitely "of their time" (particularly the computer technology) which now jars slightly, in a way that it didn't (obviously) at the time.

The series has had its ups and downs, but if you've not come across the books before, this is the best starting point.

Alex says

I first started reading the Skinner books about 10 years ago but I didn't start at the beginning. After reading A Rush of Blood last year I decided to read the first book to see how it all started. It was quite strange to be introduced to all the characters as if I didn't know them but it didn't detract from my enjoyment of the book. I class these novels as my 'guilty pleasure' mainly because they really are aimed at the Alpha male. I also find that some of the dialogue a bit stilted and unnatural and to be honest a bit old fashioned. I love the character development and find myself caught up in the ups and downs of their lives. As someone has already said they are a bit like a soap opera and I think that is what keeps me reading the series.

Deborah says

Mehhhh ... I wanted to like the first book in this series more than I actually did. Maybe it just hasn't aged well, but I found the characters ridiculously stereotyped ("swarthy" Arabs and the like), and the character exposition forced and clunky. I'll certainly read on to the next book, since Jardine comes highly recommended and I love so many other Scottish mystery series, but I hope things improve.

Arthur Okun says

A few weeks ago I read a new author for me Quintin Jardine's latest book THE LAST RESORT.

This series features Bob Skinner. Now Chief Constable .

The fun in reading is investigating -the author,his books, and precis of how, why what the books are about. Thanks to Fantastic Fiction among others I became a fanatic fan of Quintin Jardine.

I bought Skinner's Rule the first book in this series of many,many,books-from Amazon for use in my Kindle. SKINNER'S RULES is one of the best I read this year.

Yes! murders galore. But it is the police procedures that is fascinating. And this novels starts out as a

Scottish mystery,
But it has world effects. Mid-east mystery--a secret killer-and in a midst of all this a romance.
Buy the book.

Deb says

ACC Bob Skinner has a set of rules, or code that he lives by, even if doing so jeopardizes his career, and perhaps even his life. A series of brutal murders is blamed on a Japanese diplomat, but Skinner thinks they missed something. As he quietly investigates further he discovers a web of secrecy and lies that go to the very top of British intelligence. Eventually his trail puts his life and the lives of his family at extreme risk.

I really enjoyed this first in a series novel. First of all it's set in Edinburgh, one of my favorite cities, so it was fun to recognize places. Skinner is an interesting character, balancing his work and personal life, and the politics v. justice. As most good characters do, Skinner has a dark side which is uncovered as a result of his investigation. I like the other characters too. I am looking forward to reading more in the series.

Christina says

It started out as a lovely murder mystery with kick-ass Scottish characters. Then it turned into a political intrigue involving Syrians. I mean, who even knows where Syria is? Would try another one because I enjoyed the main character. But if there is even a hint of any foreign affairs, it is over.

Harry Dwyer says

This book is very heavy on imagery, this is what gripped me on would not let me put it down. Another thing with this book was that it was set and written in the 90's, so attitudes have changed and it is a refreshing change to see a detective who is "the strong man" who believes in the greater good. Quentin Jardine also managed to up the ante within the story as it progressed without it becoming obvious and therefore annoying.

Anetq says

Apparently this series caught on, but I have no idea why. Maybe it's selling in airports? It gets two stars only for the interesting plot. Shan't be reading the next 27 in the series... Skinner is just too annoying: perfect boss to his employees, perfect subordinate to his boss, has a perfect daughter, who loves him perfectly, 45 years old, widowed sufficiently long ago to explain the grown daughter and the perfect girlfriend 15 years younger than him. Oh yeah and a black belt in karate of course. And just the man to unravel this story of gruesome murders and international conspiracy.

But really: in my opinion great detectives are just that because of their limitations and quirks. This guy has none it seems - apart from the occasional crisis about not adhering to his own rules for the world.

Maybe it's just the way crime novels were written back in the 80s? A man's man's book? I didn't realize the age of this until technology popped up: Tape recorders and Betamax. And as for the women characters they are even more paper thin - just there to fit around the Man. This thing doesn't pass a Bechdel test - and his

girlfriend, who's supposed to be an accomplished doctor working with the police keeps almost fainting in his strong arms while sounding like something out of a Jane Austin novel: "Oh My Dear Darling..."

Ian Caithness says

Good book, even if things are wrapped up too neatly in the last fifty pages of the book. Too much happens to make all the ends meet and it seems forced and contrived. Even so, a hell of a lot of fun to read.

Kate says

Though I will read this author again, this book as somewhat of a disappointment. DCS Bob Skinner of Edinburgh is quite an appealing character, and the first 100 pages of this were great--I was really intrigued by the mystery and already planning to read more in this series. Unfortunately, and I don't think it's a spoiler to mention, we veer off into politics and spy intrigue, which I just hate in a police procedural. So I'm pretty luke warm on this but hope it is not reflective of the series as a whole.

Helen says

The beginning and ending were brilliant, the middle however, is a pile of boring pants!

Julie Kendrick says

I am copying Kate's review here because it completely matches what I think of this book and I couldn't say it any better.

Though I will read this author again, this book as somewhat of a disappointment. DCS Bob Skinner of Edinburgh is quite an appealing character, and the first 100 pages of this were great--I was really intrigued by the mystery and already planning to read more in this series. Unfortunately, and I don't think it's a spoiler to mention, we veer off into politics and spy intrigue, which I just hate in a police procedural. So I'm pretty luke warm on this but hope it is not reflective of the series as a whole.

Juanita says

This was a good work of fiction about a serial killer that the author really screwed up by turning it into an espionage type of story "mid book"! So I will probably never finish this one and will not read anymore by this author.

Sarah says

The 'sex' is about as bad as it comes (sic). But otherwise quite a good plot and the blood, guts and brains are quite unemotional as[SPOILER].... he does a good job of protecting any characters that you might get to like! And just because it was written in 1994 that does not mean it should be out of the question for any women to do violence. In fact it was quite an enlightened time for a feminist! The women in this book are only allowed to be victims, lovers, mothers, wives and daughters. However I did enjoy it - especially as it was set in Edinburgh.

LJ says

SKINNER'S RULES (Police Procedural-Scotland-Cont.) – G+

Quintin Jardine – 1st in series

St. Martin's Press, 1994 – Hardcover

Scottish Det. Chief Superintendent Robert Skinner leads the investigation into, what appears to be, a series of gruesome murders by a serial killer. But as the investigation proceeds, he finds the local murders are linked to international, political power and intrigue.

*** Skinner is the antithesis of Rebus—tall, lean, no discernible bad habits, a close relationship with his superiors, officers, daughter and girl friend. Takes a bit of getting used to. I found this a very good police procedural with twists along the way, well done atmosphere and quite good suspense. I've already ordered the next two books in the series, and would definitely recommend giving these a try.
