

The Reading Guide

Reading Group Questions

1. Do you find Mystery Man, the narrator and main character in DR YES, a likable character?
2. How reliable is Mystery Man as a narrator?
3. In DR YES, Alison is pregnant with Mystery man's child. How do you feel about their relationship? Is it sustainable?
4. How do you feel about Mystery Man's approach to Alison's pregnancy and his family in general?
5. How important is the setting of Northern Ireland to the novel and would it work in another location?
6. How does the comedy in the novel work in the tense and suspenseful parts of the book?
7. How does Bateman use crime fiction clichés and what effect does this have?

About the Book

You don't say no to Dr. Yes, the charismatic plastic surgeon on the fast track to fame and fortune.

But when the wife of obscure and paranoid crime writer Augustine Wogan disappears shortly after entering his exclusive clinic, the Small Bookseller with No Name is persuaded to investigate. As fatherhood approaches, our intrepid hero is interested only in a quick buck and the chance to exploit a neglected writer, but he soon finds himself up to his neck in murder, make-up and madness - and face to face with the most gruesome serial killer since the last one.

Further Reading

Mystery Man – Bateman
Orpheus Rising – Bateman
The Big Sleep – Raymond Chandler
The Maltese Falcon – Dashiell Hammett
The Yellow Dog – Georges Simenon
The Eyre Affair – Jasper Fforde
Monsieur Pamplemousse – Michael Bond
Aberystwyth Mon Amour – Malcolm Pryce

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About the Author

Bateman was a journalist in Northern Ireland before becoming a full-time writer. His first novel, *DIVORCING JACK*, won the Betty Trask Prize, and all his novels have been critically acclaimed. He wrote the screenplays for the feature films *DIVORCING JACK*, *CROSSMAHEART* and *WILD ABOUT HARRY*. He lives in Ireland with his family.

Reviews

'Grown-up stuff, told in a joyfully childish way' *Mirror*

'An inspired satire on crime fiction's genre clichés...Seductive' *Telegraph*

'Sometimes brutal, often blackly humorous and always terrific'

Peter Gutteridge, *Observer*

'Bateman writes with sympathy and humour' *Telegraph*

'Comic thrillers that are actually comic and thrilling' '50 Crime Writers to Read Before You Die' *Daily Telegraph*

'He delivers an extraordinary mix of plots and characters begging to be described as colourful, zany, absurd and surreal' *The Times*

'Real humour in abundance. A riot of colour and absurdity, where even the bad guys are strangely loveable and in one way or another everyone ultimately gets what they want, if not what they deserve' **Henry Sutton, *Mirror***

'Bateman himself is quickly growing into a legend so pick up a piece of him now'
Daily Sport

'A superb comic talent. Comparisons with Carl Hiaasen are not inappropriate.'
Marcel Berlins, The Times

'Bateman does not follow in the conventional tradition of crime-writing; rather he should be seen as the natural heir to the black comic novels of Tom Sharpe'

Mike Ripley, *Birmingham Post*