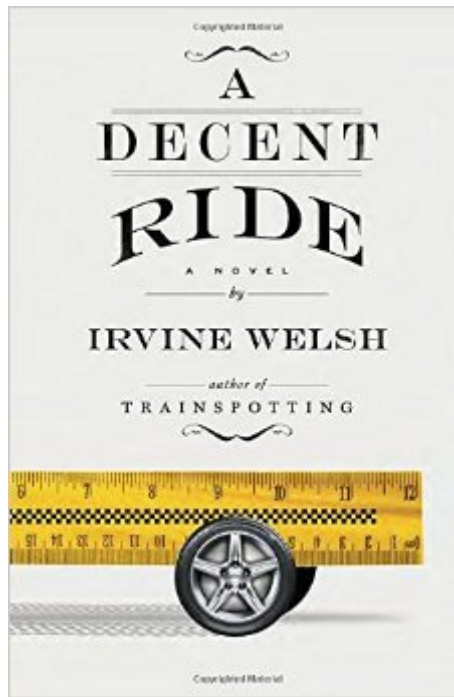


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A Decent Ride: A Novel



Synopsis

Irvine Welsh returns to Edinburgh, the home of *Trainspotting* and so many of his novels since, with a new novel featuring one of his most iconic and beloved characters—'Juice' Terry Lawson—that's thick on the Scottish brogue, heavy on the filth and masterful in its comedic timing. *A Decent Ride* sees Irvine Welsh back in Edinburgh, this time with one of his most compelling and popular characters front and center: the rampaging force of nature that is 'Juice' Terry Lawson, first seen in *Glue*. Juice is a man who contains multitudes: he's a top shagger, drug-dealing, gonzo pornstar and taxi driver. As we ride along in Juice's cab through the depraved streets of Edinburgh, Juice encounters a series of charmingly filthy characters, each of whom present their own, uh, unique challenges. Has he finally met his match in Hurricane 'Bawbag'? Can he discover the fate of the missing beauty, Jinty Magdalen, and keep her idiot-savant lover, the man-child Wee Jonty, out of prison? Will he find out the real motives of unscrupulous American businessman and reality-TV star, Ronald Checker? And, crucially, will Juice be able to negotiate life after a terrible event robs him of his sexual virility, and can a new fascination for the game of golf help him to live without . . . a decent ride? (The meaning of the title is starting to sink in now, huh?). So buckle your seatbelts and prepare for one unforgettable ride.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I first read "Trainspotting" in the mid-90's and have considered Welsh canonical in modern literature ever since; however, what was once an edgy, shocking mashup of hyper-realistic prose shows tinctures of the author trying to rekindle his earlier enthusiasm with disingenuous results. Perhaps

Welsh decided to overcompensate a bit for the mellower tones of his latter day works. While Terry Lawson remains more or less the same philanderer depicted in "Porno," the character exhibits a more more introspective quality in "a Decent Ride." My main complaint is that Welsh takes Terry's actions a bit too far in a revenge scene, probably for shock value, that attenuate the character. The other protagonist, Jonty's, arc twists all over the place in a disorganized array of braying narration and subsistence level thought. On the one hand, we're to believe Jonty as basically an imbecile who cannot even understand the concept of death, on the other, he's a murderous idiot savant. While that's not a terrible concept creatively, Welsh vacillates too much between depicting Jonty as by turns disgusting and cunning or child-like and good resulting in a hard to believe character. The U.S. reality show host, while interesting in the beginning, serves as a vehicle for a relatively mundane subplot. Welsh's prose provides as always a unique and entrancing read. I find his Robert Burns style of phonetic Scottish to put the reader more directly into the narrative. This novel, much like "Trainspotting," wouldn't have worked at all without this device. While four stars (3.5 really) may seem a bit incongruous with a critical review, Welsh's work stands above most contemporary writers even on his worst day.

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