



## **The Boy Inside**

*Ross Greenwood*

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**The Boy Inside: a powerful thriller about the choices we make**

**How can you make the right decisions if everything you've been told is a lie?**

With absent parents and broken friends, twenty-one year old Ben is making choices, which are ruining his life. In jail, again, he and his cellmate, Jake, take a hostage in a futile gesture against a system they can't control.

This powerful, beautifully written novel gives a vivid and realistic picture of those we send to prison.

Who would you rely on if you were locked up?

Do we ask the most from the ones who have the least?

Life is never easy when you are a boy inside.

*The Boy Inside* is a truly harrowing drama with laugh-out-loud moments.. It is loosely connected to Ross Greenwood's debut thriller, *Lazy Blood* which is also available now.

## The Boy Inside Details

Date : Published February 7th 2017 by Bloodhound Books

ISBN :

Author : Ross Greenwood

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Fiction

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# From Reader Review The Boy Inside for online ebook

## Netta Newbound says

This incredibly raw story gives you an insight into the vicious circle many of the youngsters in society find themselves in. With all the best intentions in the world, they struggle to make significant changes to their lives when the only people they have to turn to are fellow criminals. I found this book to be graphic and uncomfortable in parts, yet incredibly moving and thought-provoking. Very well done and a definite 5 stars from me.

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## Susan Hampson says

I was gutted that I couldn't make the blog tour for this book as I was bowled over with Ross Greenwood's debut novel *Lazy Blood* but already having heavy comments this was my first free date. Well wow this book was worth the wait. Ross Greenwood has taken me into a new world and I am just in awe of it all. As I followed the life of Ben I didn't know if I feared for him the most when he was on the streets or locked up because trouble seemed to ride on his shoulder no matter where he was.

I am sold on Ross Greenwood's straight talking and brutal writing with out the flowering to make it easier to read. A shocking and graphic account of so many young men being born on the wrong side of town, with the wrong parents and bad company to hang out with. It is almost a passage of right, like following on a family tradition instead of being in a long line of Doctors though, these lads are harden criminals. This is the template of young men in many cites and towns.

I couldn't help but like Ben who was always determined to get out of this life one day but there was such easy money to be made too. The money that makes a difference when education and Ben had not travelled the same path and qualifications on the street were who you knew, who had your back and the best price for drugs. Prison was just something to be expected like one day getting married, and come it did for Ben and Jake his best friend, who was more of a bad luck charm an asset. The scenes in the prisons were to put it bluntly horrific and I am sure that my heart must have kept up beat for beat with Ben. There was one sure thing. In prison you can't run, there is no escape and it is one place where the law seemed not to quite have the same meaning.

This is the second book in a series of three novels but each can be read independently, though I am enjoying picking out the odd character from book one too. Loving these. There is something very refreshing about the writing and for what seem more like life journeys than stories. Just loving them!

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## Colette Lamberth says

This is the second of Ross Greenwood's books I have read and there is a quality to his writing that makes it a pleasure to read even when the subject matter is not exactly pleasant. In *Ben* he has created a main character that really came to life and it was impossible not to feel for him in his attempts to escape from his life. I was impressed with the detailed descriptions of prison life and see from the author's note that he worked in the prison system so I guess they will be accurate. I will of course now need to read *Lazy Blood*.

If the rating system allowed it this would be a 4.5 star book for me.

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## **Mark Tilbury says**

This book tells a tale that is happening too frequently to young people. Getting involved with the wrong people, in the wrong neighborhood and becoming involved in drugs and/or crime.

Ben is an excellent character. Going through a traumatic childhood impacts on him and ultimately leads him to being in prison. I found some parts of his earlier life moving and felt sympathy for what he went through.

I liked how Ross started the book in the present day and then went back in time. This isn't a thrill a minute read, but what it does do is examine what can lead someone into a criminal life, and it made interesting change to other books I've read recently.

An excellent book that approaches the crime genre from a different angle.

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## **Chantelle Atkins says**

I enjoy a dark and gritty read, and I'm fond of coming-of-age tales, so this book seemed like one I could really get my teeth into. It certainly didn't disappoint. Told from the point of view of Ben, a 21-year-old convict, who is taking part in a prison riot with his best friend Jake, the book starts with hard hitting and powerful scenes. Ben then takes us back in time to his misspent youth, in order to show what led to his incarceration. Ben's family life falls apart when his dad dies and his mum hits the bottle. He finds distraction in the form of Jake, a boy who is already heading quickly down the wrong path. As he continues to make bad decisions, Ben finds himself in and out of prison, with no way of breaking free of the destructive cycle he is in. Things get more complicated and dangerous when after release, he becomes involved in a criminal gang and starts an unhealthy relationship with one of the women. This book read like an autobiography at times. Like a memoir of an older man looking back on his life and detailing where bad decisions led him. You cannot help but feel for Ben, who has no one around when he is a kid to sort him out or show him love. Complex characters and twists and turns turn this book into a crime thriller towards the end, and I recommend it to anyone who enjoys a gritty crime thriller, or a dark coming-of-age story, as this book ticks both boxes. A great read and I would like to read more from this author.

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## **Books n All Jill Burkinshaw says**

Read 08/02/2017 -10 /02/2017 Rating 3.8 stars

I was provided with an advance copy of this book, in return for an honest review, by Bloodhound Books. I usually read contemporary fiction and thrillers (particular psychological thrillers. I am not sure this book actually fills the 'thriller' criteria for me.

It follows Ben on his journey through life and explains how the choices he made had actions with consequences and those consequences were time in prison.

He didn't have a very good start to life and this book compassionately examines the effects an imperfect

childhood in a bad area can impact on the future of those involved. This book is a dark journey in the mind of a criminal and through the prison system.

I am sure this book will appeal to many people but unfortunately didn't tick the boxes for me it lacked the adrenaline pumping suspense that I love. It is, however, very well written with well built realistic characters.

Despite it not being my type of book I have awarded it 4.2 stars as I think I may have enjoyed it more if I had read *Lazy Blood* first.

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### **Lauren Watkins'x says**

I am sad to report, I didn't really enjoy this book. I think I was expecting something more/different. I had no real desire to pick up my kindle and carry on reading. But, please, trust me when I say, I really wanted to love the book.

What did keep me reading was the writing style. I felt that a lot of time went into this book and that really came through for me. Based on this, I awarded the book 3 stars which I think is fair.

Anyway, just because it wasn't the book for me, it may just be the book for you and you can find out by clicking here: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Boy-Inside-p...>

Ross, if you are reading this, I'm sorry but I have to be honest in my review. Readers, please don't let my review hold you back. I would encourage you all to give it a chance.

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### **Sarah says**

*The Boy Inside* is very much a story about how decisions and getting in with the wrong crowd can cause you to go down the wrong route in life.

I actually really liked Ben. He is far from being a bad person, he has just made some bad decisions in life. He really wants to make something of his life and for a while he looks just like that is what he may do. Sadly I think some people are just destined to always making bad choices.

The author takes us through Ben growing up and how he falls into a friendship with Jake who introduces Ben to acts that are against the law. Jake is someone else who hasn't had the best of up bringing's and it made me wonder if they had more stability in their home lives if they would have still gone down the path that they chose to.

We get to see how easy it is for people to go from petty crimes to more serious ones. Through Ben and Jake we get to see what life is like on the inside and it is certainly somewhere that I hope to goodness I never find myself.

*The Boy Inside* is quite a thought provoking read. You can't help but take to Ben and for his story to really tug at your heart strings. I was really willing for him to turn his life around and badly wanted to grab him from the book and give him a new start in life. If this book doesn't make you want to keep on the right side

of the law then I don't know what else will.

My thanks to Bloodhound Books for a copy of this book. All opinions are my own and not biased in anyway.

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### **Terry (TBC) says**

Such a good descriptive book.

It tells the back story to how Ben ended up where he is. With his friend Jake by his side.

How family, or lack of, & choices to do with friendships get him to where he is now.

It can be linked to Lazy Blood and that's a good read too. But! Can very well be read alone as it more than holds its own story.

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### **Between The Pages Book Club (Gemma M) says**

WOW! I hardly ever read stories to do with prison, prisoners and criminals etc.. Especially like this one and I loved it! A new favourite for me, I find prison and how prisoners and workers cope in that environment very interesting but I don't fancying being in prison thanks! I loved how the story was told and the way it was split into different parts, it suited the story really well. One minute I felt Ben deserved everything he got then the next I am thinking NO, RUN RUN RUN! Or backing him up to sort himself out and I am not one to help criminals (usually ;)).

The Boy Inside is written well, easy to read and contains short chapters. It will have you hooked. This is the first book I have read by Ross and it will not be my last either. I really enjoyed reading this story, it's another well deserved five stars from me! This story highlights just how easy criminals can end up back in prison and why. You will not want to put this book down! There are many scenes which do contain 'heavy fighting' but you would expect that within prison wouldn't you? There was a particular few chapters in this story that really had me LAUGHING OUT LOUD which you wouldn't expect from a book like this but it was perfectly placed and relevant. Loved it! Highly recommend! Enjoy.

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### **Amy says**

All of my reviews can be found on [www.novelgossip.com](http://www.novelgossip.com)

I wasn't entirely sure what to expect from this book, but whatever I was anticipating, it wasn't what I received. I don't mean that in a negative way at all, this was just so highly different from any other crime novel that I have read before. It wasn't typical in the sense that there was a case to be solved, or a detective to follow, or even a killer narrating, things that fans of this genre have seen before and even come to expect. Instead it was a dark and harrowing look into the life of a teenager who bounces in and out of the prison system and how this effects his fragile life in many ways.

The book starts when Ben is about fifteen and his life is ok, not too bad at all. He's an only child and his parents are still married, and though they may not be rolling in the dough, he's taken well care of for the most part. When his dad gets cancer and passes away, his mom turns to alcohol and Ben finds that he mostly has to take care of himself. He meets Jake, another local teenager and before too long he's dabbling in petty crimes, and actually enjoying himself. He has no idea at the time that this will be his fatal mistake.

The book continues to follow Ben and Jake until Ben is twenty one as he gets locked up and released only to be picked up again as he can't seem to keep his nose clean. His struggles were awful and heartbreaking and the worst part of all for me at least, was that this is an accurate reality for many young men. Ben didn't have the necessary resources to stay out of prison even though he never wanted to be there. His mother was battling her own demons against alcohol and he was hanging around the wrong crowd so the odds were never in his favor. This was very gritty and dark, and as much as I was rooting for Ben, it really seemed like he never had a real chance at a normal, prison free life.

If you're looking for an entirely different type of book that is heavily character driven, you would enjoy this one.

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### **Shervin Jamali says**

I'm officially a fan of Greenwood's. As soon as I finished "Fifty Years of Fear," I immediately moved onto this one. I really like how this author inserts snippets of characters from the other book into this title. Once again, I journeyed with this new protagonist, Ben, and experienced his heart-wrenching tale. Greenwood's style is exceptional; attention to detail without overdoing it, and well-defined characters that are both likable and underdogs that you root for. I've already started reading his third book, "Lazy Blood."

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### **Jane James says**

A well-paced, well-judged story about crime, drugs, gangs, prison – and family life  
This is the 2nd book I've read by this author and I have to say his writing style is highly addictive. The Boy Inside is both easy to read and nicely descriptive, capturing the world of Ben, a young man who doesn't get off to the best start in life (both parents have problems) but who remains essentially a nice guy throughout. At least that was my opinion, despite all his flaws, and there are plenty. We meet Ben at a highly volatile point in his life, serving time in jail for drug trafficking and then go back to meet... well the boy inside - and find out why he does the things he does. On the way, we meet some flawed characters that seem entirely real. We can tell a lot about Ben by his friendship with Jonty and a few of his other neighbours and I really liked the way the neighbourhood initially looked out for its own, although this nostalgic period did begin to crumble later on in the story. Greenwood takes us on a wonderful human journey and we witness the good and bad in everyone through Ben's eyes. I particularly liked the very heated yet passionate relationship he has with his wife, at least in the early days, before things start to go downhill. This contrasts with the relationship he has with his mother which reveals a softer, more sensitive side to the tough talking gang member who others fear. The gangland elements were well-balanced and I particularly liked the nod to other characters that featured in Greenwood's first book in the series, Lazy Blood. It was a nice touch seeing their names pop up again and uncovering the links to their backgrounds. A great read with some thought provoking stuff. No spoilers, so won't say how Ben fairs in the end – you'll just have to read it and find out for yourself.

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## **M.A. Comley says**

What's not to love about reading a Ross Greenwood book?

This is a dark read at times and an emotional one. Told from a 21 year olds point of view, set in the confines of a prison. There are some really hard-hitting powerful scenes throughout this tale, which certainly makes this a gripping and unputdownable read.

Despite the trouble that surrounds him you cannot help but feel for Ben.

Highly recommended, engrossing coming of of age read.

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## **Helen says**

From the moment the book starts, you understand that this is going to be a gritty, no-frills story. Holed up in their cell with a 'hostage', determined to make their voices heard in their own private protest, Ben and Jake prepare for battle with the prison guards.

The reader is then taken back in time, and led through the events that will eventually bring the two young men to this point. It's a story of kids growing up on an estate, drunken parents, affairs, drugs, all told from Ben's point of view. It's also the story of a young man who knows he is on the path to self-destruction and desperately wants to change his destiny, make something of his life.

This is a well-written book with great characters that will take you through a range of emotions, from pity to anger to resignation as they hurtle towards their fate. Although it has a cliffhanger ending, it is a standalone, but I now look forward to reading the other two books in this series. I highly recommend this book and author!

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