



## Murder Most Fab

*Julian Clary*

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*Julian Clary*

## **Murder Most Fab** Julian Clary

Hello, I'm Johnny Debonair and this is my book - *Murder Most Fab*. Buy it. You won't regret it. Everything that has happened so publicly is explained. Of course, I'd prefer it if you remember me as I was at my height, before the past caught up with me so spectacularly - TV's Mr Friday Night with an enviable lifestyle and the nation at my feet. My fame might have looked easy to you at the time, but getting to the top of the celebrity ladder is hard work. It took talent, beauty, commitment and, uniquely in my case, a number of unfortunate deaths. If we were being picky you might describe me as a serial killer, but I really don't see myself that way. It sounds trite to say 'one thing led to another' but it's true.

As you'll discover I owe something of my rise *and* my fall to three individuals: my mother, an eccentric country girl who taught me exhibitionism by hanging naked from the clocktower of Hythe town hall; Catherine, my best friend, then partner in business ?- a devil in red heels, who, in her clear Essex accent, taught me how to 'look after number one'; and Timothy, who broke my heart and caused me to seek refuge in sex, money and celebrity.

But in the end you have to take responsibility for your own actions. No one was forcing me, were they? I hope you, the public, can forgive me and enjoy this sordid tale for what it is ?- my final entertainment for you.

## **Murder Most Fab Details**

Date : Published September 25th 2007 by Ebury Press (first published August 16th 2007)

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Author : Julian Clary

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## From Reader Review Murder Most Fab for online ebook

### **Karen says**

This was a fun book from Julian Clary. I guessed I would like it as I loved his autobiography - A Young Man's Passage. I liked the fact that the man relationship in the book is between Johnny, the protagonist and his evil flatmate/svengali Catherine. I love all things camp and this book ticks all the boxes. If you're easily offended by gay humour and descriptions of gay sex avoid like the plague, but if you have an open mind I'd recommend this.

I thought more could be made of the murders considering the title. But I think there's more to come from Mr Clary and look forward to reading whatever he has to offer.

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### **Gemma says**

This was quite possibly one of the most random books I have ever read. I picked it up in a hotel as it was the only one in English.

The story was ok and quite entertaining, but a bit too much for me. I am not homophobic, but there were a few too many references to a lot of crude things, which I guess I should have expected being written by Julian Clary. I am not really sure I would recommend this book, but I think you have to read it to understand my review on the randomness of the story.

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### **Antonomasia says**

Trashy camp comfort reading fun. All the way through, I enjoyed it 4-stars-much, and had been thinking this would be a semi-apologetic rating, esp. given the erudition of some of my GR friends. However, whilst Mr Clary is unlikely to trouble the bookshelves of those who subsist on wall-to-wall Dalkey, I realised near the end that this book is a somewhat cleverer subspecies than I first took it to be. (BTW, a little bird told me that JC has used a ghostwriter at times, though I neglected to ask whether on this book, or to what extent.)

The narrator is the kind of gorgeous, charismatic Mary Sue that every reader with half an ounce of cynicism loves to loathe, and his best friend is a sociopathic bitch...The first chapter seemed ostensibly likely to repel; such *awful* people, darling; never mind the eye-rolling stereotyped details, but I had great fun. (This book is superb comfort reading because the characters are never that happy and are unrealistically cartoonish, and there's a lot that could go very wrong for them - they won't rub anything in your face [fnar] - but the tone is always amusing and frothy. If you've ever scowled with envy at the fundamental uncomplexity of a Wodehouse cast's lives, wishing you could find quite as much solace in PGW as your friends do, this may instead do the trick.)

Incidentally, I've never been a huge fan of Julian Clary on telly, but when I read an interview with him last year, and found it amusing - perhaps I was noticing content more than delivery for the first time - I thought his books might be worth a go. And I was (as far as my own taste is concerned) right.

And of course! I realised: it's in that literary tradition of crime novels narrated by criminals. Those usually

leave me feeling grubby and sad, never uplifted, even if they can be impressive intellectual exercises. This is the first book of that ilk I've ever wholeheartedly enjoyed.

At the end was an excerpt from another novel by Clary, *Briefs Encountered* (which I certainly want to read now), and its knowing air of self-mockery and metafiction led me to conclude that *Murder Most Fab* too, is laughing at itself more than I initially thought. A layer cake in the form of a bright pink tent.

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### **Hayley says**

This book is quite funny if you can have a twisted sense of humour at times. I started reading this book as something to read on the train without particularly high expectations but found it quite enjoyable despite not me being more of an urban fantasy fan. I managed to find myself sympathising with a murderer, and find myself seeing how one thing could lead to another. The sex scenes were probably the most intensely described scenes in the book, some of the other scenes/settings could have been more detailed in my opinion. However this book doesn't pretend to be a literary classic (though it does use some classic poetry in rather fitting moments in the boom through Johnny's love of poetry) so the lack of detail doesn't take away any enjoyment from what is essentially a light hearted novel.

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### **Michelle Sibley says**

Im reviewing this book extremely late as i read it in 2011 and didnt review for some reason but all these years on i remember how much i loved this book and im actually going to reread it at some stage as it was awesome! Julian Clary is a brilliant writer and i had totally forgotten about him. I must read his other books. Totally deserves the 5 stars!

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### **Samuel says**

I will shamelessly admit that this is the third Julian Clary book that I have read. After devouring *A Young Man's Passage* (if you'll forgive the pun) and *Briefs Encountered* (and again), I suppose I'd delve into his other literary works. *Murder Most Fab* is salacious, slutty and, as always, superbly written. The narrative is constructed as that of a celebrity autobiography but the difference is it's told by a celebrity murderer. We follow Johnny Debonair - the most empathetic murderer in fiction - on his progressively lavish path to stardom. You will lose sleep over this book, and those lost hours are worth it. I hope you'll be surprised as I was by Clary's talent for profound and moving storytelling.

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### **Christopher says**

The book started off well I thought and the jokes were kinda funny but this soon went flat after about 50 or so pages in. I read the way to the end just because I never leave a book unfinished. I really was disappointed with the main character, I hated him, he was so easily led, no morals, selfish and stupid. His friend the nurse/prostitute/blackmailing murderous wretch was an awful character also, and I've no idea why the main character still had so much respect for her after so long. I felt no compassion for any of the characters in this

book, this dull, camp and not funny book.

I should give this book some good comments also since I gave it 2 stars, so I must have liked something about it..... ah yes well what I did like was the romance the main character had with the wealthy Timothy, and how it ended and so kept some part of the main character decent because of his constant thoughts about him. Then meeting him again in the club and the affair thereafter was interesting. Its a pity the rest of the book was such a waste because this relationship was interesting.

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### **Lydia says**

When you're studying an English degree sometimes you need something light to take your mind of all the really heavy existential stuff; this is a perfect example of that thing!

Very cheesy and totally depraved, this is exactly the sort of read I thought it'd be. Don't take it too seriously though and it'll give you a few laughs and a lot of light relief!

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### **Lisa says**

#### **Entertaining.**

Something a little bit different. An enjoyable read, funny and also sad but as easy read to while away a few hours.

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### **Lisa Bennett says**

WHEN I HEARD JULIAN CLARY HAD WRITTEN A FICTIONAL BOOK, I WONDERED WHETHER HE COULD REALLY PULL IT OFF. HIS BIOGRAPHY WAS A HOOT, AND I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED IT.

HOWEVER, WHEN I STARTED READING THIS BOOK, I SIMPLY COULDNT PUT IT DOWN! HAS HE PULLED IT OF? HELL YEAH!

THIS BOOK IS A BRILLIANT READ. IT'S TOTALLY ENTHRALLING, AND ENJOYABLE, AND I JUST COULD NOT PUT IT DOWN! IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANGRY, SAD, SYMPATHETIC, AND SORRY FOR THE CHARACTERS, AS WELL AS MAKES YOU LAUGH, GIGGLE AND TWITTER AWAY AS YOU READ.

I THOROUGH RECOMMEND THIS BOOK TO ANYONE, IT'S A TOTAL HOOT, AND JULIAN CLARY IS AN EXCELLENT AUTHOR, OF BOTH NON-FICTION AND FICTION!

THIS IS DEFINATELY A 5 STAR BOOK. READ IT! YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED!!

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### **Mark says**

Well, let's get the downsides out of the way first..... it features a lot of homosexual activity sometimes described in graphic detail (well what did I expect from a book written by Julian Clary?) especially during the character's role as a male prostitute. However, if you can put this to one side, it's quite an enjoyable tale of celebrity life spiced with a little murder (or two... or three). Whoever would have thought that a children's TV presenter would be involved in kinky sexual activity, drug-taking and murder? (Well, not back when this was written in 2007/08 at least.... in the innocent days before knowledge of Jimmy Saville's activities became more widespread etc).

As would be expected, there are some wickedly savage put-downs and catty, bitchy humour which one would expect from Mr Clary.

One also wonders how the lines are blurred between Julian himself and the main character of this book as there has to be some crossover areas in common (the character hankers over a simple life living in the Kent countryside - as I believe Mr Clary now does). I presume that Julian was never a male prostitute though, so clearly there are also areas where there is a wide gap between author and character.

On the whole, it's an enjoyable story, but I've rated it as a 3-star rating rather than 4 stars because of some of the graphic detail involved. This may put some people off - especially if you have any homophobic tendencies. Julian's camp and comedic put-downs do come across in the story though which counts in it's favour.

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### **Chris Allum says**

This was almost a DNF but I make it a rule to plough through just in case. I have enjoyed Julian Clary's humour and observational comedy and on that reputation I plumped for this book. Form me, it just didn't click, I can't knock the writing, comedy or plot and it certainly wasn't the subject matter. I'm a crime fiction person but this was unfortunately one of those books I found difficult to connect with.

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### **Barbra says**

This was a very funny novel and I couldn't put it down - just loved it. Very camp and filthy humour but a real page-turner. If you like Clary on stage you will love his book.

#### **Back Cover Blurb:**

Hello, I'm Johnny Debonair and thank you for buying my book. You won't regret it. Everything that has happened so publicly is explained. Of course, I'd prefer it if you remember me as I was at my height, before the past caught up with me so spectacularly - TV's Mr Friday Night with an enviable lifestyle and the nation at my feet. My fame might have looked easy for you at the time, but getting to the top of the celebrity ladder is hard work. It took talent, beauty, commitment and, uniquely in my case, a number of unfortunate deaths.

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### **Adam Dunn says**

A charming book with a better than expected plot which I thought would be funnier. Julian Clary makes me laugh out loud, I love him, but this book isn't one for laughs. There's charm, which does carry you through, and a plot that makes you turn the pages. An enjoyable concept and read, if a little forgettable.

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### **F.K. says**

Well-written, amusing, nicely plotted and fun.

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