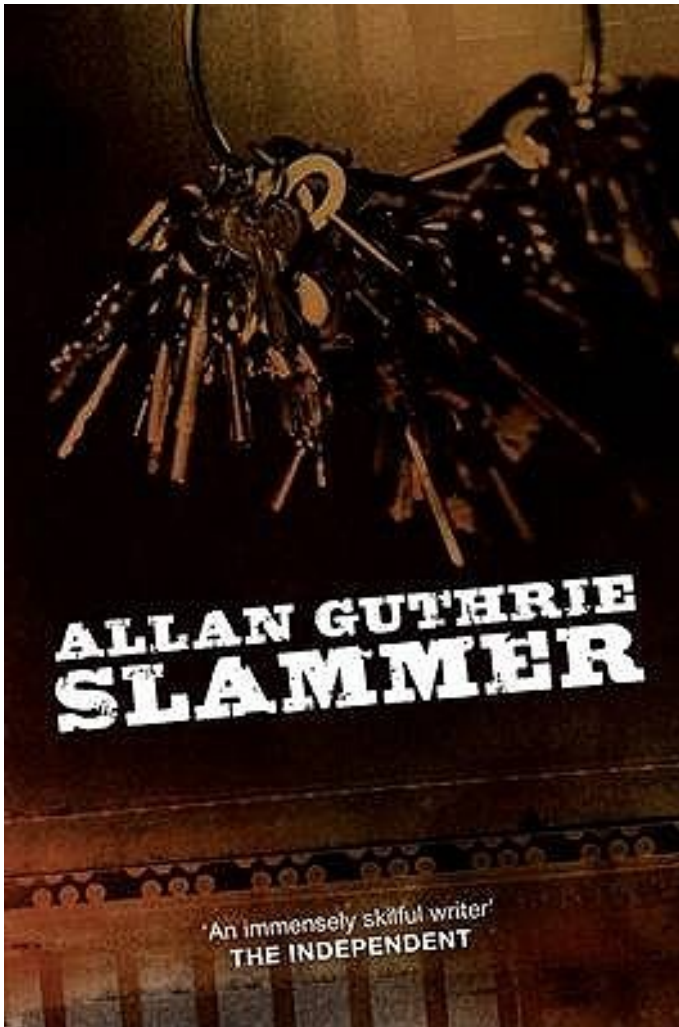


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**Allan Guthrie**

**Slammer**



Title: Slammer

Author: Allan Guthrie

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 263

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 1846970970

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 5.1 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

Young prison officer Nicholas Glass is finding the stresses of the job increasingly hard to handle. When a group of cons use outside help to threaten his wife and daughter, Glass agrees to help them out with a 'favour'. But, as their threats escalate, and one favour leads to another, he grows ever closer to breaking point.

## Insightful reviews

Ctgt: **But these days I'm more philosophical about it all. I've thought a lot about death. And you know what I've concluded, Nick? Anybody can be a killer. Circumstances, you know. Shit happens. You put your head down for a while. When you look up, somebody's dead. You know how it is.**

This starts as a straight forward thug-lit/crime story.

Nick Glass takes a job as a prison guard and moves his wife and daughter to Edinburgh away from the meddling influence of his mother in law. He has trouble gaining the respect of his fellow guards and in short order the inmates pick up on this. Caesar, the prison drug trafficker wants Glass to smuggle drugs in and uses his outside contacts to threaten Glass's wife and daughter. So he begins muling for Caesar and only becomes more entangled as the demands grow.

This was moving along at three star clip until I started to notice a few moments, just small sections that seemed to pop up out of nowhere and made almost no sense in the context of the story. As the story unfolds these moments become more pronounced until it finally dawned on me that things were not quite what they seemed. This ended up as more of look at the psychology of a human under pressure. How does this one character deal with the stresses of family, job and forced criminal activity and to what lengths will he go to cobble his life/psyche together. How many things can you hide from others? How many things can you hide from yourself? How far will you go to convince yourself that things are as they should be?

Keith Nixon: Nick Glass is a prison guard. No one likes him, prisoners and colleagues alike. Even his wife isn't a big fan. Nick is a guard because he has to be, he's a young daughter to pay for. But he's scared and insecure, and everyone can see it. He comes under the influence of lifer (for murder) Caesar, whos uses Nick as a mule to bring drugs into the prison, threatening his family to make him agree. Nick starts using the drugs himself, struggling to cope with the stress. But Nick isn't as transparent as the people around him think and he starts to turn the tables, eventually resorting to murder and subterfuge.

This is an excellent story, a very strong psychological thriller. The tension starts on the first page and doesn't relent to the last. One of the many strengths is the limited use of description, the reader is only aware Glass is in a prison because of the characters and the dialogue. It's very well done. As Glass begins his slide downwards the reader is pulled along with him.

Highly recommended.

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Nigel Bird: Slammer. When I got to the end of this book I was questioning my own sanity in ways I've never done before.

The reach and scope of the book is immense and it had me absolutely hooked from the very beginning. This is a complicated book, though on the surface it reads as a straightforward, white-knuckle ride from the crime genre; Guthrie is always a step ahead of the reader and, in spite of laying everything out, manages to keep a couple of aces up his sleeve.

Guthrie is one of my favourite living authors (if he dies, he'll be one of my favourite dead ones) and this is one of my favourite books by him.

Intense, psychological, evocative, crazy and absolutely page-turning. I wouldn't want you to miss this one for the world. And it's such an amazing bargain as a Kindle book it's like one of the dark ingredients to the book itself.

A must read.

Miyan: Welcome to the the very darkish underbelly of Scottish society. a really nasty position to reside, even if you are a "screw" or a "con." Guthrie stocks with us a coarse bunch of characters, who're all searching for a few kind of redemption. what is their angle? would not you love to know!

Scotchneat: Nicholas Glass is the beginner at tough Scottish prison. He will get invited to "help out" many of the inmates and issues spiral uncontrolled from there. Definitely dark, and favouring the "how to psych em out" form of mystery. you may be checking your fingers.

Bryce: Slammer starts off out with as virtually Hitchcock-ian, "man within the mistaken position on the mistaken time" form of story. It follows Nick Glass, a brand new prisoner officer with little flair for the job, as he's sucked right into a lifetime of drugs, desperation and blackmail. Had the tale ended because it had begun, it will probably were a neat little mental revenge story. Unfortunately, Guthrie took a detour midway during the narrative. In fact, "detour" can be an understatement. On web page 139, the plot is continuing well to a bloody-if-satisfying finishing and on web page 140, all hell breaks loose. Suddenly, there is hallucinations, a visit to the psych ward, an simply solvable "surprise" homicide and Glass all of sudden becomes an unreliable narrator. think me, i like the idea that of the unreliable narrator. whilst performed well, it creates an awesome mindfuck moment, the place the reader has no selection yet to place the ebook down and mentally revisit each step of the plot. extra usually than not, however, the approach is finished in a clunky matter, with out buildup or foreshadowing. it is a cop-out and all it does is satisfy an author's must be as smart as possible. the main disappointing factor approximately this e-book for me individually is that it was once a variety for my booklet club. And it kind of feels i'm consistently the Debbie Downer that exhibits as much as crap at the books that everybody else turns out to enjoy. Well, there is regularly subsequent month to show my acceptance around, I suppose...

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