

john niven kill your friends

Exploring the Dark World of John Niven Kill Your Friends

The phrase **John Niven Kill Your Friends** immediately evokes curiosity and intrigue, referencing a compelling novel that has captivated readers and critics alike. Written by British author John Niven, *Kill Your Friends* is a darkly satirical novel that offers a brutal, unflinching look into the ruthless world of the 1990s London music industry. This article delves into the depths of Niven's novel, exploring its themes, characters, and the reasons it remains a significant work in contemporary literature.

Overview of John Niven Kill Your Friends

About the Author: John Niven

John Niven is a renowned British novelist, screenwriter, and former music industry executive. His background in the music business lends authenticity to his writing, especially in *Kill Your Friends*, where he vividly depicts the cutthroat environment of the 1990s music scene. Niven's sharp wit, dark humor, and incisive social commentary have made him a prominent voice in modern British literature.

Synopsis of the Novel

Kill Your Friends follows the story of Steven Stelfox, a young and amoral A&R executive working for a major record label. Set in the height of the Britpop era, the novel chronicles Steven's ruthless pursuit of success, fame, and wealth at any cost. As he navigates the treacherous waters of the music industry, Steven's moral compass becomes increasingly skewed, leading to a series of morally questionable and often shocking decisions.

The narrative is a biting satire that exposes the greed, vanity, and superficiality of the industry, painting a bleak picture of a world where success often comes at the expense of integrity and human decency.

Thematic Analysis of John Niven Kill Your Friends

1. The Corruption of Success

One of the central themes in *Kill Your Friends* is how the pursuit of success can corrupt individuals. Steven Stelfox's descent into moral depravity exemplifies how ambition, when unchecked, can lead to unethical behavior, manipulation, and even violence.

Key points:

- The obsession with fame and money drives characters to immoral acts.
- Success is portrayed as a double-edged sword that can erode personal morals.
- The novel critiques the superficial values of the music industry.

2. Satire of the Music Industry

Niven's sharp satire highlights the superficiality, greed, and superficiality prevalent in the 1990s music scene. The novel depicts a world obsessed with image, chart positions, and celebrity culture.

Main aspects:

- The commodification of music and artists.
- The relentless marketing and media hype.
- The shallow relationships and priorities of industry insiders.

3. Morality and Human Nature

Kill Your Friends probes into human nature, exposing the darker tendencies that surface in high-pressure environments. Steven's journey is a reflection of how societal pressures can unearth primal instincts.

Discussion points:

- The moral ambiguity of the protagonist.
- The ease with which people justify unethical actions.
- The exploration of psychopathy and narcissism.

Character Analysis: Key Figures in the Novel

Steven Stelfox

The protagonist, Steven, embodies the ruthless pursuit of success. His charisma masks a deeply amoral personality, and his actions serve as a critique of the ruthless nature of ambition.

Characteristics:

- Manipulative and cunning.

- Emotionally detached.
- Willing to do whatever it takes to climb the industry ladder.

The Industry Insiders

Supporting characters represent various facets of the industry, from eager interns to overly ambitious executives, each contributing to the novel's critique of the industry's superficiality.

Notable types:

- The scheming record label executives.
- The fame-obsessed artists.
- The media personalities craving sensational stories.

Critical Reception and Impact

Reception of John Niven Kill Your Friends

Since its publication, *Kill Your Friends* has received mixed reviews, praised for its wit, dark humor, and unflinching honesty, but also criticized for its brutality and cynical tone.

Highlights:

- Recognized as a scathing indictment of the music industry.
- Appreciated for its sharp satire and vivid characters.
- Controversial due to its explicit content and moral ambiguity.

Influence on Literature and Popular Culture

The novel has influenced various adaptations and discussions about industry ethics. Its portrayal of a ruthless professional environment has resonated with readers beyond the music industry.

Notable impacts:

- Inspiration for the 2015 film adaptation starring Nicholas Hoult.
- Sparked debates about morality in corporate culture.
- Elevated Niven's reputation as a writer unafraid to tackle controversial themes.

The Film Adaptation of Kill Your Friends

Overview of the Movie

The novel was adapted into a film in 2015, directed by Owen Harris and starring Nicholas Hoult as Steven Stelfox. The film captures the novel's dark humor and gritty atmosphere, translating the satirical critique onto the screen.

Differences Between Book and Film

While the film remains faithful to the book's core themes, some adaptations include:

- Visual dramatization of key scenes.
- Condensed character arcs for cinematic pacing.
- Changes in dialogue to enhance dramatic impact.

Why Read Kill Your Friends? Key Reasons for Readers

1. Insight into the Music Industry

For music enthusiasts and industry insiders, the novel offers a candid look at the darker side of the business, making it both entertaining and educational.

2. Appreciation of Dark Humor and Satire

Niven's wit shines through in *Kill Your Friends*, making it a compelling read for fans of dark comedy and satire.

3. Reflection on Morality and Human Nature

The novel prompts readers to consider ethical boundaries, ambition, and the cost of success.

4. Literary Merit

Beyond its industry critique, the book is lauded for its sharp prose, memorable characters, and compelling narrative.

Conclusion: The Lasting Legacy of John Niven Kill Your Friends

Kill Your Friends remains a provocative and influential novel that offers an unvarnished look at the ruthless world of the 1990s music scene. John Niven's masterful storytelling, combined with his sharp satire and dark humor, creates a compelling narrative that continues to resonate with readers interested in industry critique, morality, and human nature.

Whether you are a fan of music, satire, or psychological thrillers, Kill Your Friends provides a thought-provoking exploration of ambition's corrupting power. Its film adaptation further extends its reach, solidifying its place as a significant work in contemporary British literature and pop culture.

Key Takeaways:

- Kill Your Friends is a dark satire set in the 1990s London music scene.
- The novel explores themes of ambition, morality, and industry superficiality.
- The protagonist, Steven Stelfox, exemplifies ruthless pursuit of success.
- The book has inspired a successful film adaptation and continues to influence discussions on ethics in entertainment.
- It remains a must-read for those interested in industry critique, dark humor, and psychological depth.

Meta description: Discover the gripping world of Kill Your Friends by John Niven, exploring its themes, characters, impact, and the film adaptation. A must-read for fans of dark satire and industry critique.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Kill Your Friends' by John Niven about?

'Kill Your Friends' is a dark satirical novel that offers a gritty, cynical look at the British music industry in the 1990s, following the story of a ruthless A&R man named Steven Stelfox who will do anything to succeed.

Is 'Kill Your Friends' adapted into a film?

Yes, 'Kill Your Friends' was adapted into a film released in 2015, directed by Owen Harris and starring Nicholas Hoult as the protagonist, Steven Stelfox.

How has 'Kill Your Friends' been received by critics and readers?

The novel has generally received positive reviews for its sharp satire, dark humor, and candid portrayal of the music industry, though some readers find its tone quite cynical and provocative.

What are the main themes explored in 'Kill Your Friends'?

Key themes include greed, ambition, decadence, moral corruption, and the destructive nature of the music industry, all wrapped in a satirical, darkly humorous narrative.

Who is John Niven, the author of 'Kill Your Friends'?

John Niven is a Scottish author, screenwriter, and former music journalist known for his dark humor and satirical writing style, with 'Kill Your Friends' being one of his most popular works.

How does 'Kill Your Friends' compare to other music industry novels?

'Kill Your Friends' is often praised for its brutal honesty and satirical edge, setting it apart from more romanticized or glamorous portrayals of the music scene, and instead presenting a cynical, unvarnished view.

Are there any notable quotes from 'Kill Your Friends' that gained popularity?

Yes, several quotes from the novel have become iconic for their sharp wit and dark humor, such as: 'The music business is a lot like a car crash—horrible but impossible to look away from.'

What is the significance of the title 'Kill Your Friends'?

The title reflects the novel's themes of ruthless competition and moral decay within the music industry, suggesting that success often comes at the expense of loyalty and integrity.

Is 'Kill Your Friends' suitable for all readers?

Due to its mature themes, explicit language, and dark humor, 'Kill Your Friends' is best suited for adult readers who appreciate satirical and provocative fiction.

Additional Resources

John Niven's "Kill Your Friends": An In-Depth Review and Analysis

Introduction

In the realm of contemporary British fiction, few novels have managed to carve out such a provocative and compelling niche as John Niven's *Kill Your Friends*. Published in 2008, this darkly satirical novel offers a brutal, unflinching look into the ruthless heart of the 1990s UK music industry. Combining razor-sharp wit, biting social critique, and an unapologetic narrative voice, Niven's work has garnered both critical acclaim

and controversy. This article aims to dissect the novel comprehensively, examining its themes, narrative structure, characterizations, and overall impact, providing readers and potential fans with an expert-level insight into what makes Kill Your Friends a standout piece of contemporary fiction.

Overview of the Novel

Synopsis and Setting

Kill Your Friends is set against the backdrop of London's music industry during the mid-1990s, a period marked by excess, hedonism, and a relentless pursuit of success. The story follows Steven Stelfox, a ruthless and amoral A&R executive working for a major record label, as he navigates the cutthroat landscape of music promotion, artist management, and personal ambition. From the outset, Stelfox's worldview is cynical, and his actions reflect a moral vacuum, encapsulating the darker side of capitalism and artistic obsession.

The narrative unfolds through a first-person perspective, immersing readers directly into Stelfox's disturbed mind. His voice is sardonic, witty, and often brutally honest, creating an immersive experience that oscillates between black comedy and outright horror.

Themes and Motifs

At its core, Kill Your Friends explores themes such as:

- Moral Corruption and Amoral Success: The novel examines how the pursuit of fame and wealth can erode personal morality.
- Cultural Cynicism: It critiques the superficiality and commodification prevalent in the music industry.
- Escapism and Hedonism: The narrative reflects the hedonistic lifestyle of the 1990s, highlighting excess and escapism.
- Identity and Self-Destruction: Stelfox's character embodies the destructive potential of narcissism and ambition.

Motifs such as consumerism, media manipulation, and social stratification are woven throughout, painting a stark picture of the era.

Character Analysis

Steven Stelfox: The Antihero

The protagonist, Steven Stelfox, is arguably one of the most compelling aspects of the novel. He is both repulsive and fascinating—a deeply flawed antihero whose ruthless tactics and moral depravity serve as a mirror to the industry's darkest facets.

- **Personality Traits:** Cunning, manipulative, narcissistic, and nihilistic.
- **Motivations:** Driven primarily by greed and a desire for power, with little regard for ethics or empathy.
- **Development:** Despite his apparent lack of moral compass, Niven offers glimpses into his vulnerabilities, revealing a complex character who is both a product and victim of his environment.

Supporting Characters

While Stelfox dominates the narrative, the novel features a cast of characters—including rival executives, aspiring artists, and industry insiders—each embodying different aspects of the music world's decadence. Their interactions with Stelfox serve to critique and satirize various industry archetypes.

Narrative Style and Tone

First-Person Perspective

Niven's choice of a first-person narrative immerses readers directly into Stelfox's mind, creating a visceral experience. The voice is colloquial, sharp, and laced with dark humor, which enhances the novel's satirical edge.

Tone

The tone oscillates between cynical humor and outright brutality. Niven employs profanity and visceral descriptions to underline the gritty realism of the industry, often shocking readers but also grounding the narrative in authenticity.

Language and Style

- **Colloquial and Sharp:** The dialogue and narration are laden with slang and industry jargon, adding authenticity.
- **Black Comedy:** The novel's humor often derives from its grotesque honesty and absurd situations.

- Pace: The story moves swiftly, with punchy chapters that maintain momentum and tension.

Critical Themes Explored

1. The Corrosive Nature of Success

Kill Your Friends vividly depicts how the pursuit of fame can lead to moral decay. Stelfox's manipulative tactics and ruthless ambition showcase a world where ethics are optional, and success justifies any means.

2. The Illusion of Artistic Integrity

Niven satirizes the pretensions of the music industry, exposing how commercial interests often overshadow genuine artistry. Artists are commodified, and their creative expression becomes secondary to marketability.

3. Materialism and Consumer Culture

The novel critiques 1990s consumerism—luxury lifestyles, superficial relationships, and the obsession with status symbols are central motifs. Stelfox's lifestyle epitomizes this obsession.

4. Media Manipulation and Public Persona

Niven explores how media shapes perceptions, with industry insiders manipulating narratives to serve their interests. This mirrors real-world practices of branding and image management.

Strengths and Weaknesses of the Novel

Strengths

- Sharp Satire: Niven's satire is incisive, managing to be hilarious and horrifying simultaneously.
- Authentic Voice: The first-person narration feels raw and genuine, immersing the reader.
- Timeless Themes: Despite its 1990s setting, many themes remain relevant today.
- Pacy Plot: The story's brisk pace keeps readers engaged from start to finish.

Weaknesses

- Moral Ambiguity: Some readers may find the protagonist's amorality challenging or off-putting.
- Graphic Content: The novel contains explicit language and scenes, which might not appeal to all audiences.
- Limited Character Development: Focused primarily on Stelfox, supporting characters are less fleshed out.

Comparison with Similar Works

Kill Your Friends often draws comparisons with other dark satires of the entertainment industry, such as Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho* or Nick Hornby's *High Fidelity*, but it distinguishes itself through its British humor and specific industry focus.

Similarities

- Dark humor and satire.
- Exploration of moral decay.
- Critique of superficiality.

Differences

- Focused specifically on the 1990s UK music scene.
- More nihilistic tone.
- More visceral and explicit in its content.

Adaptation and Cultural Impact

Film Adaptation

In 2015, *Kill Your Friends* was adapted into a feature film directed by Owen Harris and starring Nicholas Hoult as Stelfox. The film sought to capture the novel's gritty tone, though opinions vary on its success in translating the book's dark humor to the screen.

Cultural Significance

The novel is often regarded as a quintessential critique of the music industry's excesses. Its unapologetic portrayal of greed and amorality continues to resonate, especially in discussions about corporate culture and

entertainment ethics.

Final Verdict: Is It Worth Reading?

Kill Your Friends is a visceral, unflinching exploration of ambition, morality, and the corrupting influence of success. Its sharp wit, authentic voice, and incisive critique make it a must-read for fans of dark satire, industry insiders, or anyone interested in a raw look behind the glossy façade of the music world.

Strengths Summary:

- Unparalleled satire and wit.
- Engaging first-person narrative.
- Provocative themes with contemporary relevance.
- Fast-paced and compelling.

Weaknesses Summary:

- Graphic and explicit content.
- Morally challenging protagonist.
- Limited character development outside Stelfox.

Recommendation: If you appreciate dark humor, social critique, and stories that strip away illusions of glamour, Kill Your Friends offers a compelling, provocative experience that will leave a lasting impression.

Conclusion

John Niven's Kill Your Friends stands out as a brutal yet brilliant exploration of the darker aspects of the music industry and human nature. Its unflinching honesty, combined with sharp satire and memorable narration, makes it a significant work within modern British fiction. Whether read as a cautionary tale, a social critique, or simply a dark comedy, it remains a compelling and thought-provoking piece that challenges readers to confront the often uncomfortable truths about success, morality, and the price of ambition.

[John Niven Kill Your Friends](#)

john niven kill your friends: Kill Your Friends John Niven, 2008-12-30 Set in 1997, this debut novel follows the loathsome and morally bankrupt 27-year-old Steven Stelfox as he curses, drinks and snorts his way through a cutthroat career in the recording industry.

john niven kill your friends: Kill 'Em All John Niven, 2018-10-04 _____ The long-awaited sequel to KILL YOUR FRIENDS It is 2017 - the time of Trump, Brexit and fake news. And time for the return of Steven Stelfox, exactly twenty years on from his Britpop heyday. Now forty-seven and rich beyond the dreams of avarice, Stelfox works only occasionally as a music industry 'consultant'. A fixer. A problem solver. He's had a call from his old friend James Trellick, now president of Unigram, one of the largest record companies in America. Trellick has a huge headache on his hands in the shape of... Lucius Du Pre. The biggest pop star on earth. Well, once the biggest pop star on earth. Now he's a helpless junkie and a prolific, unrepentant sexual predator. Through a programme of debt restructuring so complex even Trellick can barely understand it, Du Pre is massively in hock to the record company. The only way he can possibly pay it off is to embark on a worldwide comeback tour he's in no shape to do. The picture is further complicated when the parents of one of Du Pre's 'special friends' begin blackmailing him. If their video gets out, Du Pre's brand will be utterly toxic and will take Unigram down with it. Enter Stelfox stage right. Only he has the lack of morality to spin this one. With stealth and cunning he begins to chart a road out of the nightmare and to make a killing in the process. For this age of 'American carnage' - of populism, of the lowest common denominator, of the Big Lie - is truly Stelfox's time to shine. But in this time of uncertainty, nothing is a given. _____ 'A banging action satirical thriller. But it's also a proper novel about the Trumpian era, of the reality TV era, the fake news era. It's managed to say a lot of things in a way that very few other novels are doing and in a very comedic way' IRVINE WELSH 'A bruising triumph; Amis' MONEY for the Trump generation. What a monster he's created' IAN RANKIN 'John Niven understands our era better than almost anyone' DOUGLAS COUPLAND 'A scabrously entertaining satire of what it is like to be rich and white in the land of the free if you are utterly depraved, where money doesn't just talk, or swear, it nukes. ... There is a twisted poetry in Niven's mastery of invective' THE TIMES 'Savagely, viciously witty, this frantic hymn to greed is filthy, frenetic and totally fabulous' SUNDAY MIRROR 'A full-throttle send up of toxic masculinity ... Niven at full tilt is always something to behold.' METRO

john niven kill your friends: Kill Your Friends John Niven, 2014-02-06 So wahr mir Mord helfe Erfolg um jeden Preis. Steven Stelfox ist A&R-Manager in einer großen Plattenfirma, immer auf der Suche nach dem nächsten Hit, immer am oberen Level. Doch als die Erfolge ausbleiben, greift er zu radikalen Mitteln. Plötzlich verwandeln sich die guten Freunde in Todfeinde. In einer Welt, in der sich die Protagonisten krampfhaft über Sex, Drugs & Rock 'n' Roll definieren, gerät sein Leben zunehmend außer Kontrolle. Die Folgen sind verheerend. • Der ultimative Roman zum Untergang der Musikindustrie • Der Autor war selbst jahrelang als A&R-Manager tätig • Endlich ein Kultroman, der das Prädikat verdient

john niven kill your friends: Kill Your Friends John Niven, 2009-01 It s not dog-eat-dog around here...it s dog-gang-rapes-dog-then-tortures-him-for-five-days-before-burying-him-alive-and-taking-out-every-m otherfucker-the-dog-has-ever-known. Meet Steven Stelfox. London 1997: New Labour is sweeping into power and Britpop is at its zenith. Twenty-seven-year-old A&R man Stelfox is slashing and burning his way through the music industry, a world where no one knows anything and where careers are made and broken by chance and the fickle tastes of the general public Yeah, those animals . Fuelled by greed and inhuman quantities of cocaine Stelfox blithely criss-crosses the globe (New York, Cologne, Texas, Miami, Cannes: you shout at waiters and sign credit card slips and all that really changes is the quality of the porn) searching for the next hit record amid a relentless orgy of self-gratification. But as the hits dry up and the industry begins to change, Stelfox must take the notion of cutthroat business practices to murderous new levels in a desperate attempt to salvage his career. Kill Your Friends is a dark, satirical and hysterically funny evisceration of the record business, a place populated by frauds, charlatans and bluffers, where ambition is a higher currency than talent, and where it seems anything can be achieved as long as you want it badly enough.

john niven kill your friends: Corporate Life in the Digital Music Industry Toby Bennett, 2024-08-22 Drawing on a deep and long-term first-hand engagement with major labels in the early

years of the 21st century, this book sheds new light 'behind the scenes', at a time of drastic and far-reaching transformation. Refreshingly, it centres not on artists and the most powerful decision-makers but on everyday experiences of work and back-office corporate employees. Doing so reveals the internal activities and conflicts that, while hidden from public view, enable processes of change: from paperwork, data systems, managerial pressures and redundancies to graduate training schemes, departmental politics and shared playlists, providing a new route into understanding the broader cultures and infrastructures of the global recording industry. This oft-forgotten office work tells a different story of contemporary digital music, one more sensitive to the complex intersections that texture the conduct of work and organizational life.

john niven kill your friends: *Tarzan Economics*, 2021-05-18 Taking the lessons learned from his years studying the rise and fall of the modern music industry, Spotify's Chief Economist has crafted "a compelling and generous read" (Scott Galloway) that provides the tools to recognize and adapt to disruption in any industry. As the chief economist at Spotify, Will Page has had the best seat in the house for witnessing—and harnessing—the power of disruptive change. Music has often been the canary in the coal mine for major technological and societal shifts, and if there's one thing Page learned from the digital revolution, it's that businesses must be ready to pivot. Drawing practical lessons from a variety of fresh case studies covering Radiohead, Starbucks, and even Groucho Marx, Page examines the eight principles that disruption has thrown into sharp relief as keys to survival in any sector. Businesses need to be ready and willing to change and, if necessary, be prepared to rebuild entire organizations and business models to do so. Pivoting through disruption has everything to do with being able to see the revolutionary changes around the corner, recognizing your strengths, and having the confidence to let go of the old vine of doing business and grab onto the new. A rare book of economics offering actionable takeaways in easy-to-understand language, *Tarzan Economics* is the must-read book for anyone staring at their own Napster moment and wishing they knew how to fail-safe their business.

john niven kill your friends: *Contemporary Hollywood Masculinities* Susanne Kord, Elisabeth Krimmer, 2013-12-04 Kord and Krimmer investigate the most common male types - cops, killers, fathers, cowboys, superheroes, spies, soldiers, rogues, lovers, and losers - by tracing changing concepts of masculinity in popular Hollywood blockbusters from 1992 to 2008 - the Clinton and Bush eras - against a backdrop of contemporary political events, social developments, and popular American myths. Their in-depth analysis of over sixty films, from *The Matrix* and *Iron Man* to *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *The Lord of the Rings*, shows that movies, far from being mere entertainment, respond directly to today's social and political realities, from consumerism to family values to the War on Terror.

john niven kill your friends: *O Brother* John Niven, 2023-08-24 AN INSTANT SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER SHORTLISTED FOR THE GORDON BURN PRIZE SHORTLISTED FOR SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL BOOK AWARD A GUARDIAN BEST MEMOIR OF 2023 A WATERSTONES BEST BOOK OF 2023 John Niven's little brother Gary was fearless, popular, stubborn, handsome, hilarious and sometimes terrifying. After years of chaotic struggle against the world took his own life at the age of 42. Tracking the lives of two brothers in changing times - from illicit cans of lager in 70s sitting rooms to ecstasy in 90s raves - *O Brother* is a tender, affecting and often uproariously funny story. It is about the bonds of family and how we try to keep the best of those we lose alive. It is about black sheep and what it takes to break the ties that bind. Fundamentally it is about how families survive suicide, 'that last cry, from the saddest outpost.'

john niven kill your friends: *Music From Big Pink* John Niven, 2018-07-12 'I love John Niven's writing - OBVIOUSLY - but came late to his first book, and was blown away by what vivid, delicate time-travel it is. Every The Band fan in the world MUST read it - it's like living in the music. Just smoky, ravishing magic' Caitlin Moran Timed to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the release of The Band's debut album, *Music from Big Pink* is John Niven's first novel - a heady blend of drugs, music, sixties counter-culture and intoxicating youth. Greg Keltner is a 23-year-old drug-dealer and wannabe musician. Through his eyes, we witness the gestation of a record that will go on to cast its

spell across five decades – bewitching and inspiring artists as disparate as The Beatles, Eric Clapton, Wilco and Mercury Rev. *Music From Big Pink* is faction: real people like Richard Manuel, Rick Danko, Bob Dylan and Albert Grossman rub shoulders with fictional characters and imagined scenarios. Featuring a new foreword from Barney Hoskyns and a new introduction from the author, *Music from Big Pink* gives us a unique and vivid insight into the birth and legacy of The Band's debut album.

john niven kill your friends: But We All Shine On Paolo Hewitt, 2014-10-21 We orphans are the most important kids in the world.' Stepping into the past, Paolo Hewitt embarks upon an inspiring journey to track down a group of friends he grew up with at Burbank Children's Home. We meet Des, the boy who reinvented himself; Norman, the runaway child who crossed a continent; David, the boy who couldn't be heard; and Terry, the child who sat in a school field for four days. Paolo brings to life the struggles and triumphs of adults navigating life after care, and discovers many things: about himself, about care, but most of all about the indomitable force of the human spirit - even in the face of overwhelming odds. *But We All Shine On* is a worthy companion to Paolo Hewitt's classic memoir *The Looked After Kid: My Life in a Children's Home*.

john niven kill your friends: Straight White Male John Niven, 2014-10-07 From the bestselling author of *Kill Your Friends*, a wildly funny look at the midlife crisis of a loveable rogue. "A high-octane novel of excess" (Ian Rankin). Irish novelist Kennedy Marr is a first rate bad boy. When he is not earning a fortune as one of Hollywood's most sought after scriptwriters, he is drinking, insulting, and philandering his way through Los Angeles, 'successfully debunking the myth that men are unable to multitask.' He is loved by many women, but loathed by even more including ex-wives on both sides of the pond. Kennedy's appetite for trouble is insatiable, but when he discovers that he owes 1.4 million dollars in back taxes, it seems his outrageous, hedonistic lifestyle may not be as sustainable as he thought. Forced to accept a teaching position at sleepy Deeping University, where his ex-wife and teenaged daughter now reside, Kennedy returns to England with a paper trail of tabloid headlines and scorned starlets hot on his bespoke heels. However, as he acclimatizes to the quaint campus Kennedy is forced to reconsider his laddish lifestyle. Incredible as it may seem, there might actually be a father and a teacher lurking inside this 'preening, narcissistic, priapic sociopath'. "A sharp and knowing satire of the film industry, publishing and academia." —The Guardian

john niven kill your friends: The Amateurs John Niven, 2024-01-17 Gary Irvine's wife refuses to sleep with him, so he pursues an even stingier mistress: golf. But despite his spending unconscionable amounts of time and money, his game is wretched. Until the day he takes a perfect swing . . . and then everything goes black. After waking up from a coma a few weeks later, with a golf-ball-sized dent in his temple, Gary discovers that his last perfect swing has been imprinted on his brain. However, his newfound prowess is accompanied by some troubling side effects, most noticeably Tourette's. As Gary miraculously advances to the final round of the British Open, his delinquent brother, Lee, stumbles from one botched drug deal to another, his orbit drawing ever nearer to the terrifying local crime lord Ranta Campbell. With their lives on the line, Gary and Lee must rediscover the ties that bind to survive a blood-soaked final round.

john niven kill your friends: Magazin Buchkultur 182 Hannes Lerchbacher, 2019-02-14 Aktuell - kritisch - facettenreich. Die neue Ausgabe mit Interviews, Porträts, Hintergrundgeschichten und vielen Rezensionen zu ausgewählten Neuerscheinungen. Ein Roman in Geschichten, authentischer und verletzlicher denn je: Ex-Punkrocker Joey Goebel (Cover) geht mit seinem neuen Band Irgendwann wird es gut stilistisch neue Wege. Der zweite Roman von Elisabeth R. Hager erzählt in so sanfter wie grausamer Tiroler Umgebung vom Erwachsenwerden, und Jayrôme C. Robinet sorgt für ordentlich Identity Politics-Zündstoff. Zum einhundertjährigen Jubiläum des Bauhaus betrachten wir eine Reihe von thematischen Neuerscheinungen - von biografischen Aspekten bis zur Nachwirkung in Kunst, Werbung und Alltag -, und werfen einen Blick auf aktuelle deutschsprachige Debüts.

john niven kill your friends: Popular Music and the Poetics of Self in Fiction, 2021-11-29

Popular Music and the Poetics of Self in Fiction explores the various links between the self and popular music in contemporary fiction. In the novels discussed in this volume, musical references go far beyond creating a tapestry of sound, they make literary characters come alive by giving an account of the physiological and psychological effects of their musical experiences and of their ways of life in different (sub)cultural and social groups. With plots revolving around songs and albums, musicians and bands, and fans and scenes, the thematic focus on the self encompasses the relation of musical taste and identity construction, popular music's function as a medium of individual and collective memory, and its uses in everyday life across decades, spaces, and genres.

john niven kill your friends: *Reveal: Robbie Williams - As close as you can get to the man behind the Better Man film* Chris Heath, 2017-09-21 *THE INCREDIBLE STORY BEHIND THE BETTER MAN FILM* 'It's much more interesting to be a little bit broken and talk about your vulnerabilities.' An intimate, funny and frank account of the moments behind the music, the truth behind the headlines and the fascinatingly complicated man behind the imperious entertainer, Robbie Williams. Bestselling author Chris Heath has been working closely with Robbie for many years to create a personal and raw account of fame, fortune, family and music. This vivid and detailed portrait shows the real highs and lows of Robbie's life as he found his way forward, one that is unprecedented in its intimacy and honesty. Long-awaited by millions, *Reveal* is the uncensored and compelling portrait of Robbie as you've never seen him before.

john niven kill your friends: *Before You Write Your Novel* James McCreet, 2016-03-17 Previously available as *Before You Write a Word*, *Before You Write Your Novel* sets out the essential techniques and approaches that lay the perfect foundation for writing your first novel. This concise and readable guide addresses the major stumbling blocks of fiction writing: the importance of planning and structure. This book covers the essential components of novel writing including narrative, story, plot, pace, chronology, character arc and engagement techniques, as well as research, story building, plotting and editing. Using an open and honest approach, feeding from his own experience as a published novelist and creative writing teacher, James McCreet offers a guide to the structural mechanisms of the novel, helping you plan a first draft through to a finished novel.

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