



Hard Man

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Allan Guthrie

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ALLAN GUTHRIE writes visceral, blood-on-the-tartan Scottish noir. His latest, *Hard Man*, has a plot that makes the players in the Jaidyn Leskie case look like angels. Pearce is a standover man who's done time behind bars. He still feels the rage at his mother's murder (she was stabbed in an armed robbery). When he's offered a job by the shameless Baxter family, he politely declines. The Baxters want the hard man to protect their pregnant teenager from her psycho husband, Wallace. Having discovered the baby's not his, Wallace has reverted to type - the type that slaughters family pets for fun. But when Wallace kills Pearce's dog, the hard man's fury is unleashed. And things really start to get ugly. Guthrie writes nasty, ultra-violent, hard-boiled crime - *Hard Man* is Chandler meets Titus Andronicus on the blasted heath of Scotland's urban underclass.