

BOOZERS, BALLCOCKS & BAIL by Steve Smith

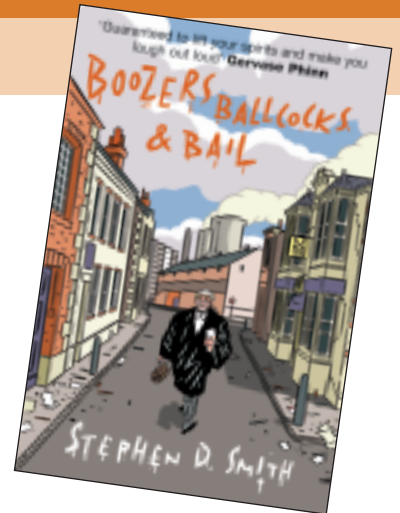
Selected Reviews

THE TIMES (Men's Stuff)

'The Rumpole of Rotherham' – September 2006

JOHN COOPER, THE TIMES

'At the other end of the legal spectrum is the vastly experienced Stephen D. Smith. His entertaining book *Boozers, Ballcocks and Bail* charts his work as a solicitor in Rotherham. In 1981 he established the firm Wilford Smith, which has become one of the leading practices in the area. Smith's style is conversational in an eminently readable book about the high and low lives of this South Yorkshire town. The "ballcocks" of the title refers to the faulty fitting in the firm's first toilet that used to dislodge and assault anyone who had the courage to use it. But the book also has some poignant tales, such as the one about Lorraine Wilson, who called on Smith to protect her from her abusive husband. Quickly, the solicitor applied for an injunction, but his client failed to turn up to court. Her violent husband had approached her the previous evening, "took a knife from his pocket and stabbed her several times". John Wilson is still in prison, serving life for her murder.' – October 2006



GOOD BOOK GUIDE

'In the tradition of James Herriot and countless other writers who have celebrated human values over gimmicky plotlines, this book shines with humour and warmth. The idiosyncratic clients that Steve encounters during his travails in the criminal justice system, and the humanity with which he records his experiences, makes for a charming – not to mention hilarious – read.' – October 2006 (page 44)

MAGISTRATE

'The first in a series of comic legal books, his anecdotes take us swiftly through both hilarious and heart-rending episodes in his life, almost always concerning his clients on the wrong side of the law...I found it very difficult to put this book down as I was drawn into the life of his compelling, foolish, pathetic and sometimes bizarre characters..' **John Newton JP** – February 2007

FROM READERS...

'Just finished reading your book you so kindly signed for me. I could not put it down! The dark circles under my eyes are your fault! What a splendid, funny at times sad, well balanced read. Please drop everything and put one of your collections of pens to paper, and give us MORE! Many thanks.' – **Paul Hunter, Barnsley** (1 October 2006)

'We are two middle-aged (ouch!) women from America. I read your book on the flight back home and finished it within a couple of days. It was loads of fun. I became fond of you, your friends, and even your clients. Good Work. I will pass it on to all of our lawyer friends. I wish you great success with your book.' – **Barbara Guzzo, Ohio** (2 October 2006)

'I heard you on Radio 4, and decided to go out and buy the book, I read the whole book in 1 day. What a joy to read, truth is stranger than fiction. I am recommending this book to my friends, and I am constantly reading it and going back to it. Its USP is for me a great pick me up, better than any therapy, and the laughter works. Many thanks for a great read!!' – **Bill McAllister-Lovatt, Chesterfield** (3 October 2006)

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LAUGHTER, LAUGHTER AND MORE LAUGHTER!

Reviewer: **Robert Winstone** (London, UK) 6 Oct 2006

I read this book on a plane to the Bahamas. Our flight had been delayed for eight hours ...I was not in the mood for laughter but I read the first ten pages of this book and forgot all about the flights, the delays, my youngest child not being able to take her juice on board, the fact there was no meal on the flight and that I'd not eaten for thirteen hours, because I was transported into another poor sod's world, a world where the most bizarre characters (the solicitor's very strange clients) completely knackered up his days and nights. This man tells such a funny story I would defy anyone, miserable or otherwise, not to laugh, cry and escape into a more crackers world than the one we all live in! Brilliant, brilliant brilliant!!

THE SPECIALIST PARALEGAL

'The book excels at its anecdotes – comparison to James Herriot for his similar conversational style being right on the money'

Junkies, Judges & Jail

by Stephen D. Smith (Neville Douglas Publishing)

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Contact

Susanne McDadd at Publishing Services

9 Curwen Road, London, W12 9AF • E-mail: susanne@publishing-services.co.uk • Telephone: 020 8222 6800

