



Skinner's Round

Quintin Jardine

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Bob Skinner must challenge local beliefs and legends to solve a gruesome murder in this fourth installment in the fantastic Scottish crime series.

A four-day tournament involving the world's leading golfers is being staged to mark the opening of a new country club created on the Marquis of Kinture's East Lothian estate. But on the previous Sunday afternoon, one of Kinture's business partners is found dead in his private jacuzzi in the clubhouse - with his throat cut. The next day an anonymous letter is received by the local newspaper, containing a fragment of a legendary witches' curse upon anyone who desecrates their place of worship. When a second murder occurs, this time by water, ACC Bob Skinner finds himself facing the most challenging case of his career...

Skinner's Round Details

Date : Published June 13th 1996 by Headline (first published 1995)

ISBN : 9780747250418

Author : Quintin Jardine

Format : Paperback 448 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime

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From Reader Review Skinner's Round for online ebook

Jane Williams-grube says

Boring, predictable

Avid Series Reader says

Skinner's Round by Quintin Jardine is the 4th book in the Bob Skinner mystery series set in 1990s Scotland. This one is a must-read for an ardent golfer who enjoys mysteries.

At the new, exclusive and soon-to-open Witches' Hill golf resort along the East Lothian coast, a business partner turns up dead. Besides investigating the murder case, Assistant Chief Constable Bob Skinner is invited to take the business partner's place on a pro-am team (a golf professional teamed up with amateur players) for the grand opening tournament. He's on Darren Atkinson's team, in awe of the number one golf professional who is dedicated to winning in all pursuits. Skinner learns golf techniques from Darren as the team practices together on the green. The amateurs on competing pro-am teams are comprised of international celebrities.

The Scotsman newspaper receives an odd letter about the murder. It jogs Bob's memory of a school project his first wife conducted, when one student quoted a witches' curse. Detective Maggie Rose investigates the history of Witches' Hill, and eventually teams up with a professor to dig into genealogical records. Readers who are interested in genealogy will enjoy the subplot of their research, which includes a family Bible with inscriptions from 1598.

Bob and his former right-hand man, Andy Martin, are in a serious personal conflict. In parallel with the golf/murder investigation, the tensions between them are explained and eventually resolved.

Skinner's wife Sarah continues as the medical examiner, called out to pronounce death for each murder victim. Sarah and Bob's 3-month-old baby son Jazz is their pride and joy, a sweet note in their home life.

I'm a huge fan of straight-arrow Bob Skinner. Unlike most popular fiction detectives, he isn't a recovering addict, his life is firmly on track and wildly successful, he has positive nurturing relationships. As he explains to one of his detectives, "Aye, it sums up police work... [the victim] deserves retribution. It's down to us to see he gets it. Those are the clients of our detecting profession, Maggie, the victims and their families, first and foremost. That's where our duty lies. We're their avenging angels."

Skinner's tournament performance is described shot-by-shot as they golf the eighteen hole course. The individual drives and putts are mildly interesting for a non-golfer, probably exciting reading for a golfer. But as he plays the course, Skinner remains a keen observer and criminal analyst. The final day of the tournament, he knows the killer's identity, and the suspense mounts. The last scene is absolutely fantastic! This book is definitely recommended for mystery readers who like to see justice done.

Chris Logan says

Well written although predictable story. Skinner is just starting to grate for me, is there nothing he can't do? I mean everyone is bad at something but it appears not so with Skinner.

LJ says

SKINNER'S ROUND (Police Proc-Scotland-Cont) – G+

Jardine, Quintin – 4th in series

Headline, 1995- Paperback

A new, very elite golf course has opened in Scotland, and they are about to hold a major, international tournament. However, co-owner and millionaire has been found murdered in his bath at the club. Skinner and his team hope to keep the death quiet, but an article appears in the newspaper quoting a letter received which links the murder to a 400-year-old curse.

*** The supporting characters are interesting and well developed. Sense of place is well done and I even found the golf interesting. The side story was particularly effective. What put me off to the point of almost not finishing the book is the character is Skinner—he is just too perfect. He is the perfect husband, lover, marksman; he's an excellent golfer, physically strong, capable, and well respected by both his reports and his bosses. He only showed a slight in which relationship with his daughter and her boyfriend, but even that works out as you know it will. I don't necessarily need the angst of Rebus, but a character a little more human would be easier to take. And it's a same, but underneath it all is a very good police procedural. Get past Skinner and read this book, and the series, for the story.

Allan says

Fabulous crime fiction; I loved all the golf details as Scotland is the home of golf. I found myself actually holding my breath at the end as the plot tension ratched up.

Jae says

This is a pretty good detective story, but it would have helped if I game half a tinker's damn about golf. There is a lot of links chatter in this book, which bored me a bit. There was also a deus-ex-machina and a cloying feel-good moment toward the end that soured me a bit, but aside from that, it was pretty enjoyable. Not as good as Skinner #3, but still good.

Deborah says

I thought this book might be a lot of work for me, since I'm not a golfer. On the contrary, it was the most engaging of the Bob Skinner series to date. I am enjoying the character development of Skinner himself, his wife Sarah, and in particular his daughter Alex and colleague Andy Martin. Really a great read!

Pauline says

Enjoyed parts of this book but there was just too much golf in it for me.

Bev Taylor says

this time the chief constable confronts evil past and present

the police are called to Witches' Hill, a new golf club shortly opening with a million pound tournament. Only one of the business partners has been found in the jacuzzi with his throat slashed

Alison is in charge of the investigation but Skinner takes an interest as he knew the man and also has a vested interest in golf

the club is built on the estate of the Marquis of Kinture and his family have a history going back centuries to witchcraft. Could the murder be linked or is it the simple matter of business?

As more bodies appear - each with apparent witchcraft links but also of power - Skinner must find all the missing pieces of the puzzle before it is too late

A well-written novel once again with great characterisation - Skinner now a dad to a 4-month son. The first 30 pages are a mix between his personal life involving his daughter Alex and also the crime which gets us a bit unsettled. Also a lot of people so concentrate!

Had my suspicions half way through

Morton would certainly have had no need to write down the appointment on the telephone pad. Wonder if Skinner's team were also eliminated but whether he would still have won the top amateur prize. Also no further mention of his bet

The ending scene was a bit odd I thought

Bev

Ishbel says

If you enjoy and understand the game of golf then this is the book for you. If like me you don't, then give it a miss. I found it a very slow read and very boring. The last chapter became very far fetched!

Laraine says

4 stars. The fourth book in Jardine's excellent police procedural series starring Edinburgh's Robert Skinner is an interesting read. Skinner is investigating a grisly murder at a new golf club where the world's best golfers are competing for a million pound payout. Witches' Hill is the name of the course and the setting is a beautiful course with a troubling past...a place where three witches were burned and rumours of a curse are troubling. Skinner turns out to be a better than average golfer and golfs on a team with the world's best player, and also proves that he is a better than average policeman with superior deductive skills as he meticulously works out the real story behind both murders and rumours. A good read.

Mrsgeo says

Too much golf. Otherwise great book.

Virginia Van says

When the business partner of the Marquis of Kinture is found murdered in the club house of then newly opened Witches' Hill Golf Club, Assistant Chief Constable Robert Skinner finds himself involved, not only into a complicated investigation with hints of the occult, but also in a competitive golf tournament. A well plotted mystery with special appeal to golfing fans who want to read play-by-play descriptions of Skinner's game. 4th in the Skinner series.

Sue says

Good, meaty read with plot twists I failed to guess. Skinner is a man's man and I'm unsure why his wife finds him quite so compelling as a partner, but I think Jardine is indulging in a little wish-fulfilment in his writing. I couldn't follow the golfing terms but it didn't matter at all. A good story.

Lewis Weinstein says

I have read and enjoyed many of Jardine's Skinner series, and this is no exception ... a suitably complex story with more than a few red herrings. Memorable ending.

NOTE: for golfers, this is something special, as it traces Skinner and the "world's best golfer" on a detailed hole-by-hole portrayal of their tournament play.
