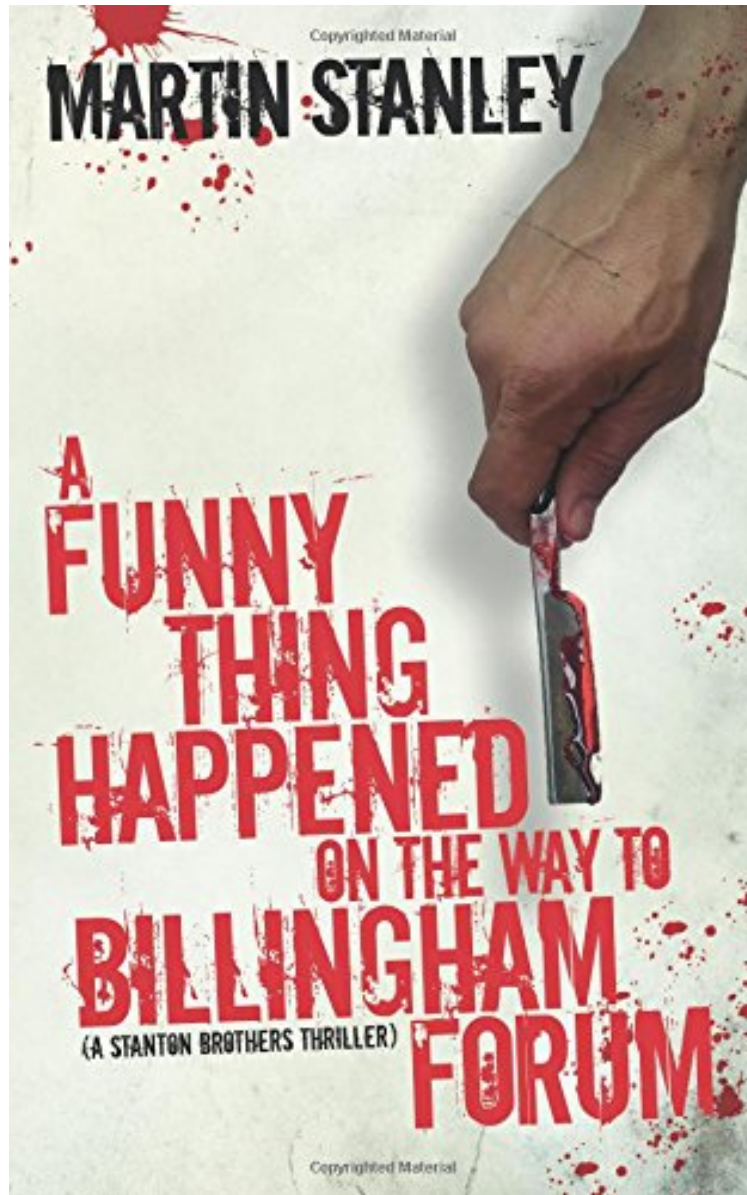


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## A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Billingham Forum (A Stanton brothers thriller)

*Martin Stanley*

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**Martin Stanley : A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Billingham Forum (A Stanton brothers thriller)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Billingham Forum (A Stanton brothers thriller):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. British Criminals With Lots of GunsBy arleen allemanI haven't read any other books in this series, but there was no need since the story did not really allude to prior events. This is a very well-written book with realistic free flowing dialog. To say that the story is gritty, is an understatement. As an American, I found the British slang and dry humor to be entertaining. The story is unique in that it is populated by characters who are all bad guys—villains. Their moronic stupendously violent escapades as a whole are softened a little by the humanity and pathos of Harry and his son, and Eric Stanton doesn't seem quite as bad or stupid as the rest. This one is not for the faint of heart or anyone allergic to foul language. I was thoroughly entertained.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very grim but much subtlety tooBy Mets6986This hardcore British crime story is not short -- but it's paced so swiftly that I inhaled it in two days. At its core are the ever-bickering Stanton Brothers, whose quarrels provide welcome counterbalance to the extreme grimness that is Martin Stanley's stock in trade. What's interesting, though, is that in this outing the Stantons are "on screen" for a relatively low amount of the story. Instead, they are the mainspring that sets the machine ticking. Then Stanley presents and develops a very deep cast, which includes a great new crazy named Billy Chin. The subplot involving the reluctant criminal who wants to go straight, Harry Sparks, is also quite well done. The family drama involving Harry, his wife, and his young son is often very touching. The shades of grey with moral codes -- which are also quite visible with the smart Stanton, Eric -- are something Stanley explores to very good effect.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Addition to a Great SeriesBy Dman4227It has been a long wait, but Martin Stanley's new Stanton Brothers novel, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Billingham Forum, is finally here and it just may be the best book in the series (and that says a lot). As always, the brothers are up to their necks in crime and violence, and also at each other's throats. When the brothers get some intel from a snitch and agree to hijack a drug deal, they anticipate a smooth plan. Troubles arise when they need to bring a new crew member on board and they are unsure of his ability to keep to the plan. Sure enough, he takes too much liberty during the commission of the crime and he leaves them exposed and on the radar of some dangerous men. Instead of taking their money and running away, Eric Stanton insists they do the honorable thing and help their contact out of the rough spot he now finds himself in. Trouble and violence soon follow suit and the Stantons must extricate themselves from this round of trouble, as well as try to stop some former cronies from getting their desired revenge on the brothers. Stanley has a knack for doing everything right in his books. His writing is both fun and engaging, with a nice layer of suspense thrown in for good measure. The banter between the brothers gives his books a nice touch of comic relief, but not so much as to distract from the action. This book rises above the many crime novels I have read due to the level of character depth Stanley infuses into each character. The characters come to life through the backstories Stanley weaves into his narrative and the reader truly gets the sense each character is 3-dimensional and alive; allowing us to understand them, their motivations, and allowing us to understand their actions. I really have enjoyed seeing Eric Stanton grow throughout the series. He is a deep character and, although he commits amoral actions, he has a moral center to which he stays true. He is a good man who resides in a bad world. He makes decisions that only hurt people he feels have it coming to them and he does his best to keep innocent people out of harm's way. Having his brother as his sidekick allows him to have muscle as well as an opposing viewpoint for every decision he is faced with. The two characters play off each other very nicely and add a great amount of humor and tension to the book. Overall this is one of the better books I have read this year. From great recurring characters, fresh new characters that have great depth and show great depravity, a good plot, and some excellent writing, this book should attract a large audience of readers who are looking for a fresh take on a familiar plot tale of a robbery gone awry. Highly Recommended.

The job should have been easy. Put a gun against a drug dealer's back, walk him to his car, grab his cash, and dump him unharmed in the middle of nowhere. But when the Stanton brothers choose the wrong partner for the task they realise that there's no such thing as an easy job. Their screw up has had consequences... Reluctant criminal Harry Sparks wants to get the money back to keep his young family out of harm's way. His boss, Jonno, wants somebody, anybody, to pay for the mistake, and Harry is as good a candidate for punishment as any. And then there's psychopathic Billy Chin, who'll quite happily take care of anybody who gets in his way. They're all chasing the Stanton brothers, and each other, across the industrial landscapes of Teesside for a cool fifty thousand in cash. Robbery, assault, blackmail, and murder – it's all in day's work for this bunch of rogues. And one thing is for certain: this is one day's work that is going to end badly for somebody. From the bestselling author of The Glasgow Grin. The fast, funny, and ferociously violent A Funny Thing Happened is the best Stanton brothers' thriller yet. **WARNING: CONTAINS VERY STRONG LANGUAGE AND VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT. NOT FOR THE EASILY OFFENDED OR THOSE OF A SENSITIVE DISPOSITION. UNTIL THE END OF OCTOBER, A FUNNY THING HAPPENED... IS ONLY £1.99/\$2.99 - AFTER WHICH IT GOES UP TO THE FULL PRICE OF £2.99/\$3.99**