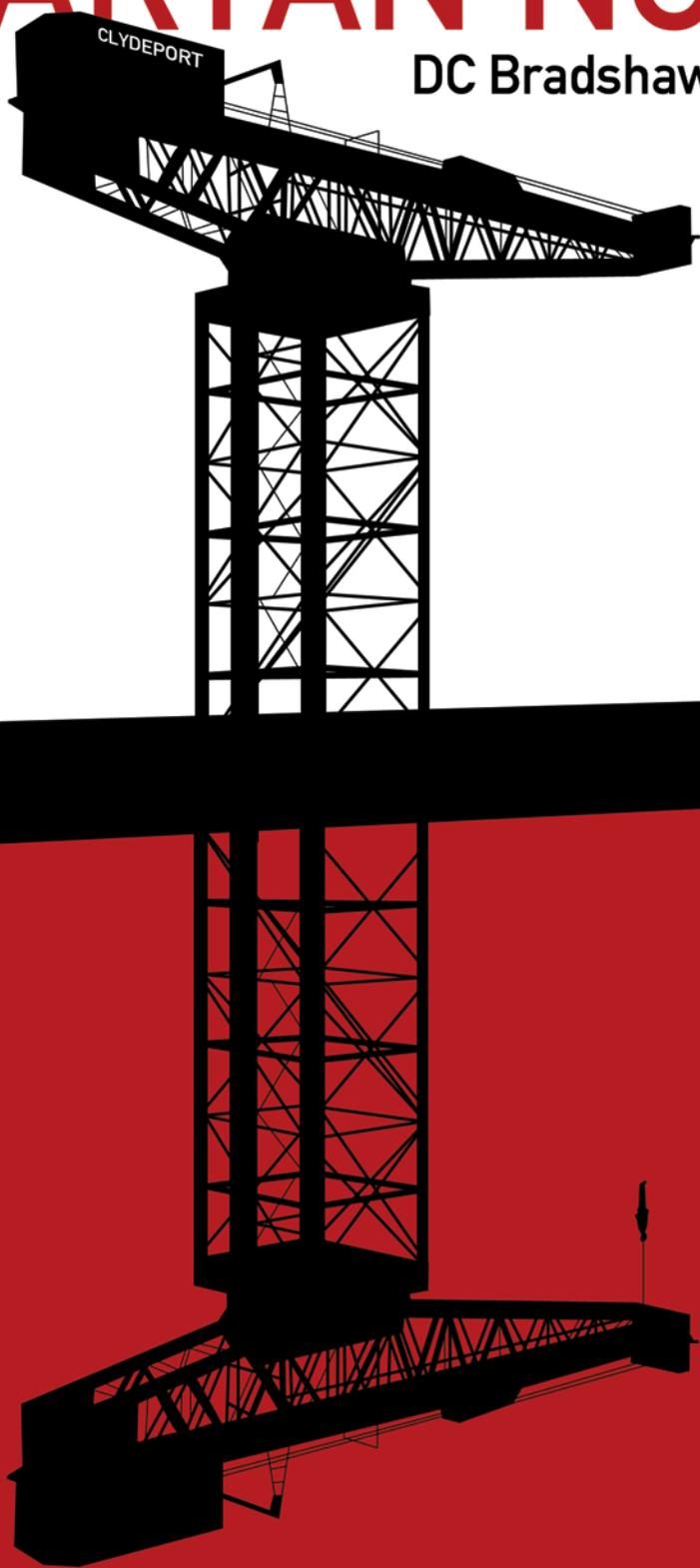


# TARTAN NOIR

DC Bradshaw



# DBO1 TARTAN NOIR

## CREDITS

Written by DC Bradshaw

Edited by Steve Segedy (with thanks to Gregor Hutton)

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

This playset was heavily inspired by the works of Ian Rankin and Chris Brookmyre. One of Chris' books, *Quite Ugly One Morning*, is also semi-adapted into the Insta-Setup.

## BOILERPLATE

This Playset is an accessory for the *Fiasco* role-playing game by Bully Pulpit Games.

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For more information about *Fiasco* or to download other Playsets and materials, visit [www.bullypulpitgames.com](http://www.bullypulpitgames.com).

If you'd like to create your own Playset or other *Fiasco*-related content, we'd like to help. Write us at [info@bullypulpitgames.com](mailto:info@bullypulpitgames.com).



"When you play, play *hard*." - Theodore Roosevelt

# THE SCORE

## NOT SO BONNIE SCOTLAND

There's been a murder. A body lies dead in a run-down apartment. There are signs of a struggle. Broken furniture litters the floor. Two of the victim's fingers have been cut off. There's a human turd on the mantelpiece. Hang on, what?

Welcome to the world of Tartan Noir: fiction with a hardboiled, cynical, violent and frequently alcoholic view of crime in modern-day Scotland. There are good guys, there are bad guys, but there definitely aren't any heroes. Tartan Noir is about world-weary anti-heroes, deeply flawed characters with a variety of vices that would not normally be becoming of someone of their narrative stature.

And while it is certainly hardboiled, there's frequently an edge of wackiness that separates Tartan Noir from its American cousin. Retired detectives running around oil rigs in their pyjamas. Christian extremists trapped in an art gallery full of pornography. And of course the aforementioned jobby on the mantelpiece. It's grim, it's grisly, but it's a hell of a lot of fun. So pour yourself a dram of single malt and prepare to indulge in a little Tartan Noir.

## A WEE BIT OF LIGHT READING...

This playset is heavily inspired by Scottish crime writers, in particular Ian Rankin and Christopher Brookmyre. Any of Rankin's *Inspector Rebus* series and Brookmyre's *Where the Bodies are Buried* and *When the Devil Drives* would be excellent fuel for your hardboiled, whisky-drinking anti-hero. For a touch of whimsical craziness, Brookmyre's *Jack Parlabane* or *Angelique de Xavia* novels will provide excellent inspiration.

## ...AND SOME THINGS TO WATCH

To give you the true Scottish feel with a Tartan Noir edge the best possible viewing would be the television series *Taggart* and the Ken Stott adaptation of *Rebus*. The movies *Shallow Grave*, *Trainspotting*, and *Young Adam* will also help to develop your cynical, binge drinking, Scottish streak. Finally, no Tartan Noir is complete without some miserable bastards and creative Scottish swearing. For that there is nothing better than the omnishambles of characters that make up *The Thick of It*.

# RELATIONSHIPS...

## 1 FAMILY

- Siblings
- Cousins
- Parent and (step) child
- In-laws
- Curious youngster and that older relative we don't talk about
- Unknowingly related

## 2 FRIENDSHIP

- Work colleagues
- Drinking pals
- Mates since school/college
- Friends with far too much sexual tension
- Friends with benefits
- House mates

## 3 ROMANCE

- Spouses
- Ex-spouses
- Life-long crush
- One-night standees
- Lovers
- Former lovers

## 4 CIVILIAN WORK

- • Pub landlord/worker and regular
- ◦ Doctor and patient
- ◦ Teacher and pupil
- ◦◦ Tour guide and tourist
- ◦◦ Office worker and boss
- ◦◦◦ Escort and client

## 5 CRIME

- • Drug dealer and supplier
- ◦ Small-time thieves/burglars
- ◦ Neds with a proud set of ASBOs
- ◦◦ Ex-convict and parole officer
- ◦◦ Corrupt CEO/government official and employee
- ◦◦◦ Crime boss and underling

## 6 INVESTIGATION

- • Journalist and photographer/editor/source
- ◦ CID/uniformed polis officer and superior/partner/suspect
- ◦◦ Special branch investigator and suspect
- ◦◦ Ex-armed forces and contact
- ◦◦ Nosey amateur and contact
- ◦◦◦ Post-mortem physician and contact

**...IN A CITY IN SCOTLAND**

# NEEDS...

## 1 TAE GET PISHED

- ◻ ... cause it's the weekend
- ◻◦ ...'cause they're gone
- ◻◦◦ ...'cause it's all gone to shite
- ◻◦◦◦ ...'cause it's all gone right for once
- ◻◦◦◦◦ ...'cause it's been a while
- ◻◦◦◦◦◦ ...'cause you can

## 2 TAE GET PAY BACK

- ◻ ...on the neds who robbed you
- ◻◦ ...on the weegie who gave you that smile
- ◻◦◦ ...on the two-faced bastard/bitch who betrayed you
- ◻◦◦◦ ...on the bawbag who fucked it up for you
- ◻◦◦◦◦ ...on maw/da for what they did when you were young
- ◻◦◦◦◦◦ ...on the polis (just 'cause)

## 3 TAE GET MINTED

- ◻ ...by selling that thing you've been holding on to
- ◻◦ ...by doing a pal a "favour"
- ◻◦◦ ...by selling that story to the press
- ◻◦◦◦ ...by robbing a bank
- ◻◦◦◦◦ ...by making them deid
- ◻◦◦◦◦◦ ...by making it look like an accident

## 4 TAE GET HAME

- ...to the love of your life
- ◻ ...'cause you've served your time
- ◻ ...and start a new life
- ◻ ...and say what you should have said a long time ago
- ◻ ...before they get there first
- ◻ ...'cause you have no fucking clue where you've woken up

## 5 TAE GET TAE THE BOTTOM OF

- ...who killed them
- ◻ ...where they're hiding
- ◻ ...why they let themselves get caught
- ◻ ...what happened to all that money
- ◻ ...when they removed the evidence
- ◻ ...how they escaped

## 6 TAE GET IT DONE

- ...while they're away
- ◻ ...before it's too late
- ◻ ...'cause it's been put off for far too long
- ◻ ...before you get caught
- ◻ ...before you pish yourself
- ◻ ...before the bomb explodes

**...IN A CITY IN SCOTLAND**

# LOCATIONS...

## 1 RESIDENTIAL

- Tourist bed-and-breakfast
- ◻ Backpacker's hostel
- ◻ Comfortable three-bedroom house
- ◻ University halls of residence
- ◻ Death-trap flat
- ◻ Sleeping bag outside an RBS

## 2 COMMUNITY

- Pulpit of a local church
- ◻ Overnight cells in a police station
- ◻ Hospital waiting room
- ◻ In the middle of the park
- ◻ An RBS branch
- ◻ That cafe where that person wrote that book

## 3 TRANSPORT

- Car dealership
- ◻ Deserted train station, late at night
- ◻ Smashed-up Bus shelter
- ◻ Airport
- ◻ Down by the docks
- ◻ On a tram, still locked in a warehouse

## 4 SHADY PLACES

- ◻ Down by the river
- ◻◻ In a pub toilet
- ◻◻◻ Behind the sex shop
- ◻◻◻◻ In the backroom of a sauna
- ◻◻◻◻◻ On the dance floor
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ In the underground car park

## 5 AULD REEKIE

- ◻ On the Royal Mile during the Festival
- ◻◻ At the top of the Scott Monument
- ◻◻◻ On the pitch at Murrayfield Stadium
- ◻◻◻◻ Under the city in Mary King's Close
- ◻◻◻◻◻ On the steps of Fleshmarket Close
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ In the back room of the Oxford Bar

## 6 GLESCAE

- ◻ Under a seat in the Theatre Royal
- ◻◻ In the changing rooms at Ibrox
- ◻◻◻ Vault in the Burrell Gallery
- ◻◻◻◻ At the foot of the Finnieston Crane
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Buried in the Necropolis
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Under the Duke's cone

**...IN A CITY IN SCOTLAND**

# OBJECTS...

## 1 TOURIST TAT

- A “see you, Jimmy” hat
- Kilt towel
- CD of “traditional” music
- Miniature bottle of shite whisky
- Cheap knock-off rugby shirt
- Mundane object with a university logo stamped on it

## 2 FOOD AND DRINK

- Haggis/fish supper with chippy sauce
- Rock-hard bar of tablet
- Ice-cold can of Bru
- Crate of Tennent’s lager
- Bottle of Buckie
- 18-year old single malt

## 3 PERSONAL

- Wedding ring
- Cross on a silver chain
- The medal you won that time
- Passworded laptop
- Pregnancy test
- Set of keys (“This key here, this key is a mystery”)

## 4 DRUGS

- ◻ Couple of joints
- ◻. Plate of hash brownies
- ◻. Couple of bags of powder
- ◻. Two dozen ecstasy tablets
- ◻. Veritable shitload of heroin
- ◻. Brown-papered package (“the boss said don’t open it”)

## 5 WEAPONS

- ◻ Replica weapon, probably historical
- ◻. Bottle of rat poison
- ◻. Car
- ◻. Broken Buckie bottle
- ◻. Illegal handgun
- ◻. A ceremonial sgian-dubh, tucked in a sock

## 6 WHAT THE FUCK?

- ◻ Burned Rangers/Celtic shirt
- ◻. Padlocked chest of adventurous sex toys
- ◻. Briefcase, bulging with £1 notes
- ◻. Signed album by the Proclaimers
- ◻. Human turd
- ◻. Clown mask

**...IN A CITY IN SCOTLAND**

# A SCOTS INSTA-SETUP

## RELATIONSHIPS IN A SCOTTISH CITY

For three players...

- \* Investigation: Journalist and source
- \* Crime: Corrupt CEO and employee
- \* Civilian Work: Doctor and patient

For four players, add...

- \* Investigation: Uniformed polis officer and suspect

For five players, add...

- \* Civilian Work: Pub landlord and regular

## NEEDS IN A SCOTTISH CITY

For three players...

- \* ...Tae get tae the bottom of: Who killed them

For four or five players, add...

- \* ...Tae get minted: By making it look like an accident

## LOCATIONS IN A SCOTTISH CITY

For three or four players...

- \* Residential: A death-trap flat

For five players, add...

- \* Community: A hospital waiting room

## OBJECTS IN A SCOTTISH CITY

For three, four or five players...

- \* What the fuck?: A human turd