



## The Cutting Room

By Louise Welsh

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When Rilke, a dissolute auctioneer, comes upon a hidden collection of violent and highly disturbing photographs, he feels compelled to discover more about the deceased owner who coveted them. Soon he finds himself sucked into an underworld of crime, depravity and secret desire, fighting for his life.

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## **The Cutting Room** By Louise Welsh Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

Yet another talented Scottish author makes a debut with this dark and twisty thriller, boasting a highly unusual hero and a compelling background that shows extensive inside knowledge. The protagonist ("hero" is not quite the word) is Rilke, a promiscuously gay auction dealer working for a struggling Glasgow firm. On an appraisal call one day at the house of Roddy McKindless, a wealthy and recently deceased citizen, he comes across an extensive library of pornography, which includes pictures suggesting a "snuff"-the slaughter of a woman for sexual purposes. Rilke finds himself, to his surprise, engaged in trying to find out who the girl in the picture was, and whether she was really killed. Using his seamy contacts in the city-a pornographer, a girl who poses nude for eager "cameramen," a shady bookseller-he sets out on his peculiar odyssey, pausing from time to time for a quick and wordless sexual encounter, and becoming engaged along the way in a plot with the glamorous and world-weary Rose, who runs his auction house, to abscond with the proceeds of a highly profitable sale. Rilke is hardly a likable character, but as Welsh presents him, he is so witty, self-aware and oddly vulnerable to the occasional decent instinct that he becomes disarming. The Glasgow color is expertly applied; Welsh obviously knows her auction business, and also how to keep an intriguing story moving. She is not good at action, however, and the actual climax, in which the mystery of McKindless's death is solved, is oddly muted and unconvincing. This is one of those books, however, in which the journey is infinitely more beguiling than the destination.

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#### From [Booklist](#)

First-novelist Welsh offers a fresh voice and an arresting plot in this darkly atmospheric portrait of Glasgow's mean streets. Gay auctioneer Rilke agrees to pack up and sell off an enormous quantity of high-quality goods in an inordinately short amount of time, no questions asked. He is a bit blinded by the huge amount of cash and fails to inquire why there's such a rush, an oversight he will soon pay for. While clearing out the attic, he discovers a horrifying packet of snuff pornography. Despite his own proclivities for promiscuous, anonymous sex, he is haunted by the woman portrayed in the photographs and determines to discover whether the events depicted actually happened. His drug-dealing transvestite friend, Les, puts him into contact with an underground pornography ring, and soon Rilke learns more than he wants to about the seamy trade. Welsh offers an immensely appealing cast of characters, from the irreverent yet softhearted Rilke to his business partner, the indefatigable Rose. And Welsh's Glasgow is a desperado's paradise, filled with sodden pubs and seedy sex clubs. *Joanne Wilkinson*

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#### Review

In Louise Welsh crime fiction has one of its few real literary writers. *The Cutting Room* is a hugely commendable debut, assured and memorable. Crime fiction may have its prize-winner at last. (*Independent*)

Welsh upturns tropes and adds depth, seedy detail and Gothic lyricism to the page-turner framework. (Holly Kyte *Telegraph*)

One of the most intriguing, assured and unputdownable debuts to come out of Scotland in recent years . . . A stunning work of fiction. (*The Sunday Times*)

I was hooked from page one. Rilke is not Welsh's only great creation. The huge supporting cast of misfits and outsiders . . . are equally memorable. And Glasgow becomes a character in itself: it is oppressive,

foreboding - a dark place for a dark tale. (*The Guardian*)

What makes The Cutting Room so gripping is the combination of suspense and character as the story unfolds through the unusual eyes of Rilke . . . His horror, like the reader's, lies in the terrible intimacy, impersonality and irreversibility of what he witnesses. (*The Herald*)

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Mary Olive:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their own reader with their story or their experience. Not only situation that share in the books. But also they write about the data about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write to the book. One of them is this The Cutting Room.

#### Patrick Duenas:

The guide with title The Cutting Room includes a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. This kind of book exist new understanding the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to you to learn how the improvement of the world. This specific book will bring you inside new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

#### Stephen Beatty:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love The Cutting Room, it is possible to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

#### Steven Murray:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you, why because this The Cutting Room book written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written with good manner for you, dripping every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still hesitation The Cutting Room as good book but not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one book that can break don't evaluate book by its protect, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already said so why you

have to listening to another sixth sense.

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