



## Our Vinnie

*Julie Shaw*

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The infamous Canterbury Estate in Bradford, a hotbed of crime, drink and drugs, was a law unto itself in the '70s. So when one of their own was wronged in any way, the community always had its own way of dealing with it.

The first title in a series of gritty family sagas, Our Vinnie accounts the dramatic true story of a brother's determination to avenge his younger sister's rape. Josie was just 11 when her Vinnie, then 14, was taken away to a detention centre. Distraught by his absence and left alone with indifferent parents, when she escapes from one of their rows she naively enters the house of a neighbour, Melvin, who – horrifically – leads her upstairs and overpowers her.

Convinced by her friend Carol, Josie tells her sister Lyndsey about the rape but, with Vinnie out of the picture, Lyndsey uses the information for her own ends. When Vinnie returns, hardened by years inside the system, his outrage on discovering the truth is severe. And with new abuses continually coming to light, a cataclysmic series of violent events begins to spiral out of control...

Dramatic and shocking, Our Vinnie is an unbelievable page-turner, documenting a community forsaken by society, and one brother's unrelenting determination to take justice into his own hands.

## Our Vinnie Details

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Author : Julie Shaw

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## From Reader Review Our Vinnie for online ebook

### Deb Harvey says

#### Excellent

A really tough gritty read. Well written and gripping from the start. Look forward to reading more from this notorious family

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### Mel says

good , downloaded second one

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### Angie Rhodes says

I was sent this to review, by Lovereading,

It's a gritty, telling of Yorkshire's notorious criminal family, and boy, what a family,, Julie Shaw, tell it so well, think Martina Cole,!

Vinnie, is a likeable, fourteen year old, who is doted on by his, misguided mother, who for her, he can do no wrong, his dad, knows what Vinnie, is ,or thinks he does, a kid, who goes thieving, etc, bunks school, But Vinnie, is adored by his younger sister Josie, who in turns loves her brother, knowing if there's anyone she can count on, it's Vinnie,

All this comes to a head, when, having been spotted smashing the skylight, of the local youth centre in, This is enough, to send him to court, and with his previous, fighting,, robbing, bunking off school, things aren't looking good, He is sent to approved school.. His mum, is not pleased, and Josie is feeling lost,, It's while Vinnie, is away, that the unthinkable happens, Josie, who is only eleven is ,, and keeps it to herself, Years later, she tells her older sister Lyndsey, who when Vinnie gets out ,tells him,,

All hell breaks loose!

You can not but help, like Vinnie, and Josie, and while reading it, I could see Robbie Roscoe, a likeable character in Hollyoaks,

I can not wait for the second book, and then the third,, great writing and great reading,,

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### Dawn Gilbert says

I really enjoyed this book, its gritty and in your face but tells a brilliant story, it was a page turner...it left me wanting to read more now I cant wait to read the next one and see what happened next!

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### Karen says

This book is the first of a trilogy, and billed as a true story of Yorkshire's notorious criminal family.

“Our Vinnie” is set in Bradford in the 1970s and is the story of Vinnie McKellan. We first meet him when he is 14 years old and about to be sent to an approved school for petty thieving and general bad behaviour. Unfortunately, his behaviour doesn’t improve and so he is incarcerated for longer periods in even harsher institutions. Despite his violent and hot tempered nature I found it impossible to dislike him – I probably would have felt differently had I thought he was inherently evil.

His younger sister Josie was my favourite character of the family. She was a tough little girl and her home life wasn’t a happy one; her feckless parents and drugged up sister Lyndsey didn’t seem to care much for her at all and I suppose the lack of love and attention made it inevitable that she looked up to elder brother Vinnie. He in turn was very protective towards his sister and it was partly because of this that he got into so much trouble when dispensing his own form of justice.

As you would expect with a book of this nature, there is a lot of profanity and some violence. Although I did wince a little at some of Vinnie’s violent acts, this was actually no worse than any other book of this genre. Anyone who has read a Martina Cole book will know what I mean.

Julie Shaw has a very engaging style of writing. The book was extremely readable and I raced through it quite quickly. It’s not a big book at just over 320 pages but despite its relatively short length, the characters feel fully formed and the storytelling flows easily with quality content.

This was a hard hitting and thought provoking read. At times I felt saddened and despairing because you could see history repeating itself - the children being stuck in the same cycle of crime as their parents and being unable to change their lifestyle and circumstances.

My thanks to Lovereading for the review copy.

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### **Fiona Wardlaw says**

Really well written, kept me hooked

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### **Gavin Dimmock says**

From my review blog:

<https://themoustachioedreader.wordpress.com>...

As a fan of the city’s football team and living just outside the area, I had high hopes for this Bradford based book. After this brilliant debut from Julie Shaw, my expectations for the second and third in the series are higher than the town hall clock in Bradford’s Centenary Square.

This was an exhilarating tale, an absolute joy and I tore through it in just a few days. I found it a sheer delight; filthy mouthed and violent and hard as Yorkshire stone but just as beautiful as the scenery in “God’s Own Country”.

This first book about the authors family, the criminal Hudson's from the notorious Canterbury estate, starts in 1970 and tells the tale of 14 year old Vinnie. Like his family, he is a petty criminal, and soon finds himself locked up. His journey through the justice system can be shocking to read but you find yourself rooting for him at every stage. Vinnie does some terrible things, yet endears himself to the reader. Vinnie's sense of right and wrong and, despite his own criminality, his version of justice is well explained and seems, oddly, right. I think this is testament to the writing of Shaw; she has given the characters such clarity and depth that they seem real. Obviously they were/are – but you know what I mean!

I found Vinnie to be a wonderful, dreadful, compelling character and thoroughly enjoyed my time spent with him. Thankfully though, he was safely on the page and not in front of me. That might be somewhat less enjoyable.

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### **Maureen says**

This is the true story of the Hudson family, and in particular Vinnie. It begins in 1970 , on the infamous Canterbury estate, Bradford, in the north of England, a place that was renowned for its crime, drink, drugs, and unemployment.

We meet Vinnie when he's 13 years old - he hates school and hasn't attended for two months. Despite this fact, he does appear to be intelligent and is also wise beyond his years. However, he uses these two positives in a negative way, he likes nothing better than being in 'bother', goes out robbing, and uses his fists to mete out punishment, because he wants people to respect him, and believes that this can be achieved only by being really bad. He enjoys cultivating his "hard man" image.

His home life consists of June, his hard drinking fiery mother, whose vocabulary usually consists of effing this or eff that! Ditto Jock, his father, who can best be described as feckless, his view on the subject of work is " The only work I've ever done is the weekly 20 minute walk to the dole office to sign on for my unemployment benefit" and then there's his younger sister Josie. Josie, 11 years old, idolises Vinnie, and he in his turn appears to care for her, but can still treat her in a cruel manner when the fancy takes him.

Eventually Vinnie is sent away to a detention centre, this doesn't stop his troublemaking however, on the contrary, his violent streak reaches new levels in his effort to be top dog. While he's away, Josie, in an effort to escape yet another massive row between her parents, is lured into a neighbour's house and is raped, but she finds it impossible to tell her parents. She misses Vinnie even more at this time, but it's clear that once he's home and finds out what happened, that the rape will be avenged. This book is part one of three, and ended rather abruptly, and left me wanting to read more. It was written by a member of the Hudson family and she writes in a natural easy to read style. Though it covers the early 70's and records a slice of social history, it could be taken from today's news, as this element of society is still prevalent today. It was an interesting read, and yes, I do want to know what comes next, what Vinnie and Josie make of their lives.

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### **Gillian says**

loved this book will be reading the other ones in the series

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### **Wendy says**

I put another book down to take a quick look at Our Vinnie and found myself unable to put it down. very well written, i sympathised with Josie and also with her big brother Vinnie whose lifestyle and violence were easy to understand giving his childhood and also his love for his sister. eager to read more about this family..

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### **Victor Wright says**

Enjoyed this book enough to read the second in the series - and am now about to indulge in the third!

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### **Jody Wheeler says**

#### **Not bad**

Took me a little while to get into this one but I still enjoyed it. I can truly understand why he did what he did. And sometimes you do feel like this is your only way to end things.

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### **Gabrielle says**

Don't really have much to say other than I tried to read this thing for months now and its terrible! I couldn't even finish it. Really hate giving bad reviews but this book was that bad.

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### **Vicki - I Love Reading says**

When I first hear about this book, I really really wanted to read it, So I went and purchased it from Amazon. But me being me, I also purchased the other two that were out then too. So I have had.

?1 Our Vinnie

2 My Uncle Charlie

3 My Mam Shirley

?All sat on my kindle for what seems like an age. Just looking on amazon then, it seems I purchased this book in December 2014, I just can't believe it has taken me this long to get around to reading it.

But I have to say i'm glad I finally did get around to it, as I really did enjoy it.

?It seemed like an easy read, With some fantastic characters. Some you dispise and others you really fall for. One of the characters I really felt for was Titch, Vinnie's sister, I was really rooting for her throughout this book to do well in life and make something of herself.

Vinnie was just a character and a half, It was great following his up's and downs. more downs it seems, as he just doesn't seem to be able to keep himself out of trouble.

?Based on a Bradford council estate, this book has all you would expect. It really is a great read, A book you want to carry on with just to see what will happen next.

?Since I purchased this book Julie Shaw has since brought out another one.

4 Blood Ties  
and book  
5 Bad Blood is due out 14th July 2016

?So If you have not yet read any of this authors books, there are certainly enough to get your teeth into.

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### **Sarah Freeman-langford says**

I won a copy of this book via the Goodreads Giveaway so was very pleased to receive my copy so usual thanks to both Author and Publisher.

It has a very striking title, strap-line and cover photography so should be a good draw on the book shop shelves.

However I must say that having read the description and being promised a ripping good yarn in the 'Martina Cole' style this book didn't deliver for me.

We were promised a story filled with northern humour about a notorious criminal family and a leading role by 'Vinnie' the main character. What we actually got was a non too thrilling story of a family of petty thieves, and drug takers with a main character who not only wasn't a 'notorious' criminal but was in actual fact a youth who originally through a minor misdemeanour ended up in an approved school and never really came out of the prison system for more than a few days throughout the entire book.

The whole book didn't really feel exciting or interesting. The story glossed over huge chunks of time and events were not fully detailed. The ending was very much an anti climatic nothingness to be honest.

All the characters came across as superficial and I didn't feel as though I got to know any of them in any great detail and didn't feel any empathy with any of them even the ones you were supposed to like. None of them were the 'loveable rogue' type or 'hard as nails' criminals.

In actual fact it was just a story about a largely dysfunctional family from a council estate in Bradford in the seventies. A story that you could possibly find replicated in a lot of small towns throughout the country at that time and not that special.

Having said all that I have given it three stars as the actual writing was not bad at all and the author given the right story could probably do a very decent novel. The writing style was quite a comfortable read and didn't drag with unnecessary description or dialogue. It had a very snappy feel to it and skipped along nicely so although I didn't quite like the story I never felt the need to give up on it and nor did it fill me with dread every-time I reached for the book to carry on reading. (And believe me I have been at that stage with some books!!!)

This novel wasn't my cup of tea but some may enjoy it more and I would not discourage anybody to give it a go.

Thank You again for the chance to review and I wish the author sucess with this and the follow on novels she had written.

