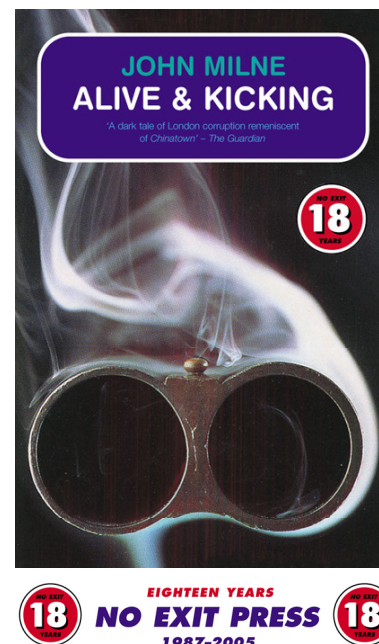


ALIVE AND KICKING

John Milne

Pub Date: 8th September 2005	BIC code: FGC
Extent: 256pp	Report Code: NE
Format: B (198 x 129mm) pb	ean: 9-781842-431566
Price: £6.99	isbn: 1-84243-156-0
Rights: UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada	 9 781842 431566
Market Restrictions:	



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Jimmy Jenner has been working as a private detective since a terrorist bomb caused him to lose a leg, and his job on London's police force. He is hired to work on a straightforward divorce case, but the stakes are soon raised. Someone tries to murder a man resembling Jenner outside his local pub, then the subject of his divorce enquiries is found dead in Epping forest.

Jenner comes to realise he is himself a catalyst in these events. He has to question his own past, especially his family history and the accidental death of his elder brother, Joe, thirty years before. Joe was a minor criminal and peripheral member of the circle of murdered South London gangster, Tommy Slaughter. Was Joe's death what it seemed at the time? The answer may explain the violent events surrounding Jimmy Jenner now.

"...Milne has a good feel for the noble seediness in both people and places ..." - *The Times*

"...Milne has created an English shamus who can hold his head up among American counterparts..." - *Evening Standard*

"...John Milne is one of the truest crime writers we have. Raymond Chandler would have applauded his voice: bruised, tender, sharp, blunt and oh so sad. This novel is his best yet. ..." - *Nicholas Shakespeare*

John Milne was born in Bermondsey, 1952 and trained as a painter but only after false starts as a policeman and a factory worker. He lives in Bradwell on Sea, Essex. The author of *Dead Birds*, *The Moody Man* and *Daddy's Girl*, his TV scriptwriting credits include: *Bergerac*, *Eastenders*, *Lovejoy*, *The Bill*, *Boon*, *Taggart*, *Wycliffe* and *Silent Witness*. He won the 1998 Edgar Award for an episode of *Silent Witness*.

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 Distribution UK: **Turnaround**, 3 Olympia Trading Estate, Coburg Rd, London N22 6TZ
www.noexit.co.uk/titles/alive_and_kicking_279.php