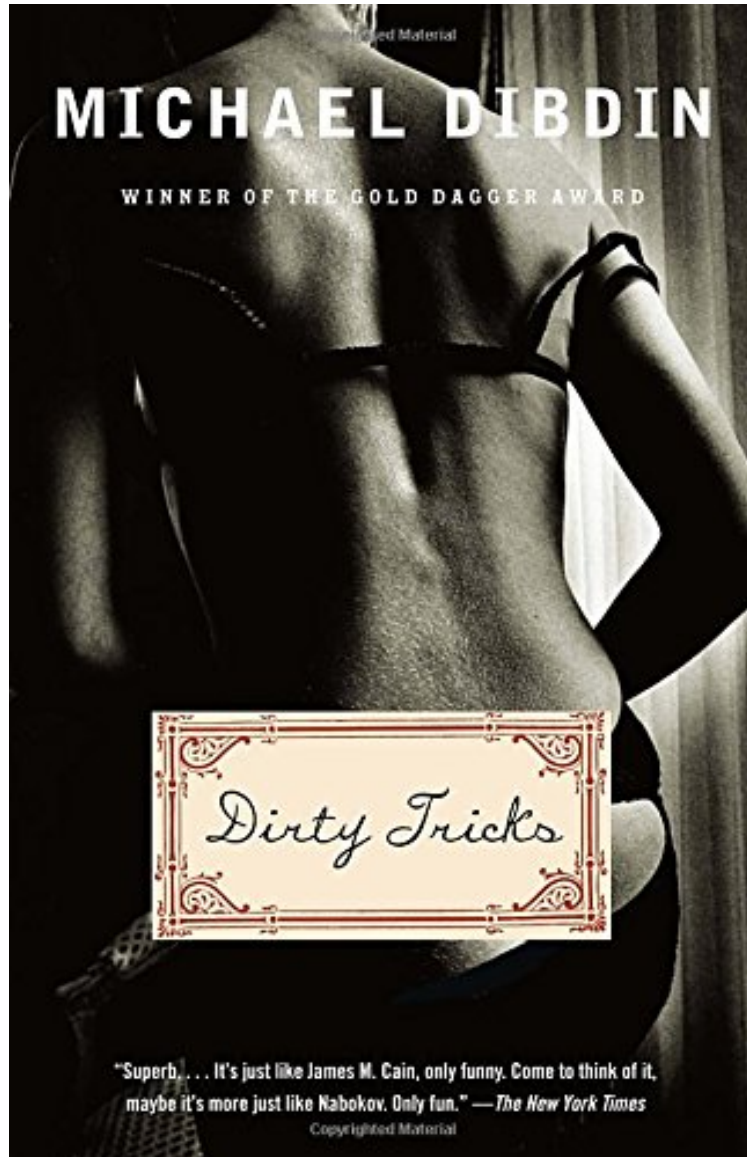


## Dirty Tricks

Michael Dibdin

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#1599931 in Books 2003-07-08 2003-07-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .80 x 5.10l, #File Name: 0375700099256 pages | File size: 17.Mb

**Michael Dibdin : Dirty Tricks** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dirty Tricks:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gives me the creeps.By L. G. PiperWell written but I didn't care for the story. The narrator is a sociopath ... and reading this ... his confession give me the creeps.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Two StarsBy angelasee above.3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A few

problemsBy R. DrebitTwo issues with this book. It did start to drag into the last quarter.Certain errors suggest this is a scanned version with some errors in character recognition:Clive was often diveold duffers as a golf reference was old buffersluckily became lucidly.

A comedy of manners, a mystery thriller, and a sardonic satire whose deliciously unscrupulous narrator claims that everything he did regarding his victims was "market-led," *Dirty Tricks* is pure entertainment from one of the most inventive writers around.When the nameless narrator embarks upon an affair with Karen, a seemingly vapid P.E. teacher married to a boring accountant, he does not know her fetish is for adultery while her husband is in the room or loitering nearby. But once he finds out, he doesn't care. He has been abroad for twenty years, and since his return to merry old England he's been startlingly uninhibited by morals or a conscience. Which is not only why he eventually gets involved with blackmail, a kidnapping, and two murders, but also how, with hilariously syllogistic logic, he's able to justify his role in all of it.

From Publishers WeeklyDibdin's ( *The Tryst* ) fifth novel is a deliciously mean-spirited satirical tale of murder and betrayal. The unnamed narrator is a 40-year-old teacher of English as a second language, by his own description "damaged goods . . . another over-educated, under-motivated loser." A sort of '60s throwback, he has reluctantly returned from stints abroad to a Thatcherized England, where chance throws him together with a well-to-do but hopelessly vulgar suburban couple. His affair with the wife proves his first step up the social ladder. As he climbs over the bodies around him, the book becomes a pointed, witty send-up of the new Tory brand of self-help, and the protagonist's clumsy ruthlessness a parody of free-market economics. On the final pages the whole thing comes together in a bleak, black joke on the era of neo-conservatism, in England and elsewhere. Dibdin's subtly inflected first-person narration is a marvel of controlled tone, with the narrator's snide, snobbish facade gradually dissolving into self-disgust until he marshals his emotional forces in the climax. A wickedly funny tour de force. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sDibdin's fifth novel (*The Tryst*, 1990, etc.) combines sex and violence in hilarious and appalling ways as narrator Tim--a poor but well-educated language-school instructor--jockeyes for position among the academics and the "right sort" at Oxford. Tim's affair with Karen begins at a dinner party--in the kitchen, while her husband Denny is pontificating at the dining-room table. As their lusty bouts heat up, the notion of dispatching Denny pops up--and soon he's done away with on a drunken sail. In due course, Tim and Karen marry, and Tim settles in to enjoy Denny's house, wife, and wealth. Then, however, Karen accepts Clive (Tim's archenemy) as her new lover, leaving Tim to moon over near-perfect Oxford woman Alison and to arrange a mishap for Karen, with Clive as the scapegoat. Will Tim get away with it? Almost, but his misreading of Alison's devotion leads to a comeuppance--of sorts. A jaunty, cynical sendup of the British class system, "perfect" marriages, and expediency as a personal leitmotif. A comedy about immorality that'll make you cringe. -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "Superb . . . It's just like James M. Cain, only funny. Come to think of it, maybe it's more just like Nabokov. Only fun." --The New York Times"[A] superior piece of noir. . . brisk, absorbing and . . . satisfying." --The Sunday Times"Nasty, original, murderously funny entertainment." --The Independent