



## Gangs

*Ross Kemp*

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Ross Kemp squares up to the world's hardest streetfighters in Gangs... Across the world millions of people are members of street gangs. In groups they fight, stab, rob, rape and murder anyone who isn't one of their own. And when rival gangs meet - what you get is warfare. Ross Kemp, whose dad was a copper and taught him right from wrong, decided to infiltrate these secret underworld organizations to discover who they are, what makes them tick and what the law is doing to curb their criminal activity. On his harrowing journey he:

- meets murderous members of the Number gang in a Cape Town jail
- crosses paths with warlords in Guatemala
- gets shot at in El Salvador
- is set on fire as an initiation test for Russian Neo-Nazis

Only TV hardman Ross Kemp could get this close to the world's most violent street gangs: he's tough enough to earn their trust and so get them to confide their innermost secrets. It's a wild ride - and not for the faint hearted. Ross Kemp was born in Essex in 1964, to a father who was a senior detective with the Metropolitan Police and had served in the army for four years. He is a BAFTA award-winning actor, journalist and author, who is best known for his role of Grant Mitchell in Eastenders. His award-winning documentary series Ross Kemp on Gangs led to his international recognition as an investigative journalist.

## Gangs Details

Date : Published October 30th 2007 by Michael Joseph (first published January 1st 2007)

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Author : Ross Kemp

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## From Reader Review Gangs for online ebook

### Laura says

Couldn't put this book down!! Ross certainly put himself in danger just to get an inside story on how many different gangs work all over the world, something I'm sure many people wouldn't do!!

I found his writing style engaging, like you could imagine being there yourself and seeing the horrors unfolding in front of your own eyes.

Gangs have always interested me and this was one way I could be informed without watching a show (at the time I purchased this book I didn't know he had a show on Gangs)...Sometimes I find writing can be a purer form of showing a situation whereas TV shows can easily be edited depending on what country you live in. Plus your own imagination can make the situations that Ross got into even scarier than just watching it on the TV...However, I'm also keen to see his TV show now..From what he's mentioned in his book he just wants to give a frank account of how these people work, what they're out to achieve, why they want to belong to a gang,etc. It's an eye opener and truly happy I read it.

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### Yassemim says

Loved it!

This book was an awesome insight into the various gang cultures of different countries in today's society. Ross Kemp struck me as a man of such bravery and courage and extremely admirable, he took many risks trying to interview various gang members and none of which he avoided. I would certainly recommend this book if your interest lies with true crime or even if your just a fan of the guy, I mean lets face it, he's pretty cool!

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### Laura Crosse says

I have this book over three years and I actually bought it for my boyfriend because he was a big fan of the TV series. However as I've come to realise hes not a book person so I found this the other day, dusted it down and gave it a chance and what a read!

Literally from the first page we are pulled into the sinister worlds of gangs first in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro and then through a multitude of other countries including New Zealand, El Salvador, Jamaica and more. Kemp doesn't just find out about the lives of gangs by talking to the usual policeforces and government figures, although he does do this also to get their perspective, but he talks to the highest up gang members he can get in contact with. He meets them in their neighbourhood under their rules and he just prays that they take a liking to him.

I found New Zealand the most interesting chapter as I have lived their previously as a young child and after asking my parents they tell me they can remember seeing members of the Mongrel Mob, distinguished by their facial tattoos, nearly in every town they visited.

To sum it up this book is a brilliant, if shocking look into the lives of gang members. You come to

understand that most gangs are a vicious circle of death and violence and a lot are helped along by corrupt governments and you almost begin to feel sorry for the cruellest, meanest, most dangerous men in the world.

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### **Brian Pujols says**

this book is about a guy that is in a gang and then he gets in a gang promblem so he need to watch out for wat happened in the street because he could get shot or kill in the street from other gangs and he dont know what to do anymore because he have a problem and his gang members dont waht to be in that problem he got so the guy he tries to solve the problem by carry a gun and if the people comes he be ready to fight back.

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### **Jocelyn says**

OK, but didn't go into much detail and not very informative about the area of crime the gang was involved in. Ross Kemp has no expertise in this field and acts only as an observer. Too much of an overview and non-specialist account for my liking.

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### **Michael says**

I really enjoyed the series whilst it was on TV and the book is equally as interesting to read. Although Ross Kemp is not a journalist he provides a good insight into gangs.

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### **Lauri says**

Pealiskaudne, ühekülgne, kallutatud. Tegelikult oli alguses tegu telesarjaga, millest siis raha pärast tehti ka raamatuversioon. Herr Kemp ei hiilga taustatundmissega, tundub uskuvat igasugu härjasitta mida (sageli ja enamjaolt harimatum ja kirjaoskamatud) gängsterid ärbeldes puhuvad. Suht vastik oli lugeda kuidas härre respekteerib ja mõistab kõiksugu võikaid inimjätiseid, Salvadori õudstaest jõukudest või Lõuna-Aafrika vanglakunne, Numbrijõukusid. Tolerants saab aga kohe otsa kui kokku puututakse Moskva neonatsidega. Teksti hakkab signema halvustav ilkumine, mannetud katsed halvustada ja üleolev mõnitamine. Võib-olla oli asi sellest, et need Moskva proto-neonatsid (kes tänapäevaks on niikuinii muutunud puutinlasteks) olid kõige vähem inimesi tapnud - kui üldse - , nende hulgas oli ka ülikoolis käivaid noori ja jõukatest perekondadest ja hea haridusega inimesi, seevastu mitmekordsed massimõrtsukad Kolmandast maailmast jällegi ei osanud oma nimegi öleti kirjutada aga ilmutasid inimeste piinamise teel hukkamiste alal erakordset fantaasiat ja leidlikkust. Lame ja nüri, härra Kemp.

Raamatu poindist ma ei saanud ka aru, peale hirmusegase põnevusväärina tekitamise. Sihtgrupp ju kuskile El Salvadori slummidesse Mara Salvatrucha ja 18 Streeti vahelistesse tülidesse muidu ei satu, Lõuna-Aafrika range režiimiga vanglatesse rääkimata. Kemp käis ringi, küsis kogu aeg samu küsimusi a la "Mis tunne on siis olla gängimees ja esimese tappa 12-aastaselt?", imetles gängsterite relvi ja kuulas nende kiitlemist ja ärplemist (ja tundus seda ka uskuvat) ja ilmutas kaasatundmist ja sümpaatiat kõigi, välja arvatud Moskva "neonatside" puhul. A noh, lääne inimesele on kallutatud poliitiline korrektsus ikka pealuuusse taotud, seal ei aita enam midagi.

Raamatul on ainult hariv ja informatiivne tähdendus, Kempia maailmaparandajalikud tüütud ja imalad

targutused võib kohe tähelepanuta jäätta. On ka teine osa, "Gangs II", ma olen seda ka kunagi lugenud, aga seal need gängid läksid kuidagi lahjemaks. Ma ei mäleta kas Bloodide ja Crip-side sõtta ka süveneti aga üldiselt olid seal "gängid" a la Poola jalgpallihuligaanid, hea et naabertänava poiste õunaraksu kampa kajastama ei tormatud. Vaatan, ehk tulevikus jäääb ette uesti, tegemist on ülikergesti loetava ja seeditava asjaga, selline hamburger raamatu kujul, paras kuskil reisi peal lugeda.

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### **Justin says**

Lurid and superficial, the book focuses more on outrages than any meaningful investigation or insight into gangs. To his credit, the author notes he is not (and not attempting to be) a journalist; all the same, Gangs smacked too much sensationalism for my liking.

The only attempt to explain the whys of gang life is a vague, unexplored 'income inequality exacerbates things' theory.

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### **Andrew Voysey says**

Picked it up completely by accident as easy travel reading. My only preconceptions, having not seen the TV series, were of various impressionists ripping Kemp apart for his narrative style and ridiculous situations he claims not to want to find himself in, despite being the purported creator of the idea behind the book/series.

Anyway, irritations about the narrative style aside, a pretty interesting tour through some of the world's most viscous ganglands - quite apart from some of the detail that I hadn't appreciated before (like New Zealand being the country in the world with the highest gang per head of population ratio) as well as the geographically diverse contexts he takes you through, I found his bigger messages about what links all of the gang behaviours and motivations together, regardless of local circumstance the most powerful. I'm not convinced these were his original thoughts but then I don't really care - some interesting thoughts to ponder on regarding equity, equality and opportunity. The power of the Big Society?

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### **Niels says**

This book is a page-turner of the good kind. As a result of the gang topic, you never know what to expect in the next part of the book.

Kemp describes his subjects with a delicate touch of words, which neither makes the criminals being portrayed seem too good or too bad.

The book is a light read, and you will after reading it sit and ponder social subjects instead of more heavy literary or philosophical issues.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in gang culture and global subcultures of crime.

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### **Daniel Tinnion says**

Just a cool little read on an interesting subject. Big fan of Ross Kemp and his shows.

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### **Aditya says**

an insightful book about the most dangerous and notorious gangs in the world. It also inadvertently ends up giving you an insight into the jail systems of the world and the way the police and society in general has handled the formation of these gangs.

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### **John somers says**

If you liked the Sky t.v. series or are interested in the dif this is well worth a read as it does give a small few more details. An interesting if not particularly deep look at the varying forms gang violence has taken around the world.

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### **Kirsty says**

I read this on Holiday in Butlins (the only positive thing to come from that holiday!) and i really enjoyed it, so much so that i bought the second one and the dvds when i came home. I have a huge deal of respect for Ross putting himself in that situation and coming up with something that is frightening, heartfelt but also very funny at times. He seems to be able to communicate with many people on all levels and i really enjoyed the book. I would recommend to anyone who is interested in crime or true life.

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### **Ruth Soz says**

Wow. Definitely not the thing to read in the weeks leading up to Christmas. A very eye opening look at gang life and gang culture in various locations throughout the world. This book serves as a companion to the Sky TV series, although I have never seen it. The writing itself was good, and it was easy to follow and in a twisted way fascinating. But a strong stomach is needed to get through some parts.

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