

Crossing the Whitewash is a gripping, at times poignant, at times funny, story of the problems of fathers and sons. Despite being unfamiliar with rugby and some of the British vernacular, I found myself transported to Gareth's world. The prose here is excellent: evocative, original, unfailingly precise and often humorous. I was also impressed by the development of all of the characters, major and minor. Arnold is terrifying, but never comes off as a two-dimensional villain. By the end, the reader can see that all of the characters have changed. My biggest criticism of the novel concerns its organization. The prologue is somewhat confusing, as it made me think at first that Gary was the one in prison. It's also jarring to present the reader with this really unflattering picture of a character right at the beginning and not give us a better sense of who it is. Also, when the novel skips forward several years to introduce the subplot with The Legend, the connections between it and the main plot aren't clear. It seems like the lengthy middle section is a digression rather than a continuation. By the end, when it's revealed Arnie killed Owens's son and Anjie turned him in, the connections are clear but seem at that point a little too pat.

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## Attachments

- [img001.png \(68.42 KB\)](#)