



STUART HARVEY
THE CHARLIE SAYER TRILOGY

"There is nothing to writing.
All you have to do is sit
down at a typewriter and
bleed."

Ernest Hemingway

The Charlie Sayer Trilogy

About the Author

Stuart Harvey – A Short Biography



Stuart Harvey was born in 1955 in Essex. The premature death of his father at just twenty-eight years of age forced Stuart's mother to re-locate her family to Kent and he spent his teenage years growing up in the seaside resort of Deal, a town he has long regarded as his adopted home town.

Leaving home at sixteen Stuart joined the Kent Constabulary as a Police Cadet in 1972 and then moved into the regular force when he reached nineteen years of age. He remained in the "job" until 1989 when he left with the intention of moving to Sitges in northern Spain with Jackie his wife.

Unfortunately, the move fell through so Stuart turned his hand to the world of the private investigator, something he continued to do until the move to Spain eventually came off in 2001.

It was during his initial years in Spain that Stuart began formulating the idea of writing a novel featuring the central character of a former cop turned PI, and so Charlie Sayer was born. In 2012 this first novel entitled *Crossing the Line*, appeared as a Kindle edition on Amazon with a paperback edition following later.

After writing *Crossing the Line* Stuart planned a second book and *Blood Route* followed several years later. At the time of the second book, Stuart decided that a third would follow although it is planned that this will be the last Charlie Sayer novel.

The third in the Charlie Sayer trilogy, *You See*, is due to be published in time for Christmas 2018.

The character Charlie Sayer is loosely based upon the author himself who draws upon some of his own experiences throughout all three books. The hero's name is actually an amalgam of the names of the two central characters from the film *The African Queen*, Rose Sayer and Charlie Allnut, played by Humphrey Bogart (Stuart's favourite actor) and Katherine Hepburn.

Stuart currently lives with his wife in Malta although thoughts of a return to Spain are never far from his mind.

The Main Protagonist – Charlie Sayer

Charlie Sayer – A Short Biography



At the start of *Crossing the Line*, Charlie Sayer is a forty something ex-cop, living with his wife Sally and teenage daughter Rachel in Estepona, a small town in Southern Spain.

Charlie had been an experienced and successful Police detective working primarily in the shady world of the undercover cop.

Then an undercover drugs operation went violently and tragically wrong and Charlie was shot and seriously wounded whilst his partner and best friend died.

After months of rehabilitation Charlie thought he would be welcomed back into the criminal investigation department and that life would carry on as before. However, his bosses had other ideas and Charlie was unceremoniously dumped from the job he loved and forced into premature retirement on an ill health and injury pension.

Not surprisingly Charlie blamed inept and unsupportive senior officers for the failure of the undercover operation, the death of his friend and ultimately for the loss of his beloved job and he rapidly took to drinking too much as he fell into a period of depression.

Seeing her husband drawing himself ever nearer to a complete breakdown, Charlie's wife Sally took the drastic step of persuading him to agree to uprooting the family and moving to Spain where they had enjoyed many happy family holidays.

However, the move did little to improve the situation. Instead the availability of even cheaper booze actually made things worse. Ever more frightened of what might eventually happen to her husband, Sally took the even more drastic step of calling on the services of Charlie's one time Police colleague Tony Ryan.

Ryan was everything Charlie wasn't. A tough, hard talking and even harder hitting Glaswegian, he took no crap from anyone.

Like Charlie he had been an experienced Police detective but too many run-ins with those in authority, and the Police Complaints Department, had forced Ryan to reach the conclusion that he was best outside of the force, so he left and started a private detective business in Barcelona.

Colluding with Sally, Ryan sought to tempt Charlie back into the world of the investigator albeit this time in a private capacity.

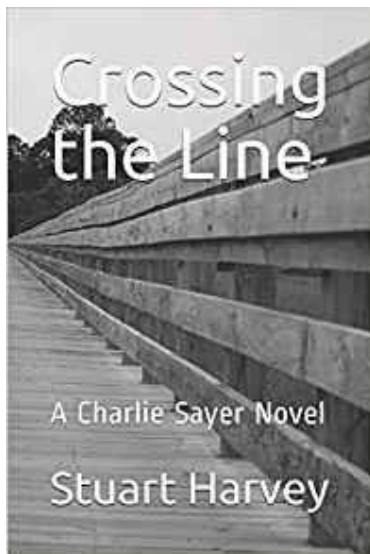
Charlie is almost everything Ryan is not, which is why they have probably remained friends for so long. Whilst Ryan often operates slightly outside the law, Charlie has a very strict set of moral standards he always seeks to adhere to.

Initially Ryan had been faced with complete indifference on Sayer's part, but over time Charlie was tempted and slowly cut down on his drinking and periods of self-loathing as he became in investigative work once again.

The first book in the trilogy, *Crossing the Line*, sees Sayer and Ryan team up when the major criminal who had been responsible for the failure of the drugs operation that preceded Charlie's early retirement, comes out of the woodwork. He blames Charlie for a fall from grace following the aborted drugs operation and is now hell bent on exacting his revenge by killing Charlie.

The Books

Crossing the Line



Crossing the Line is essentially a crime thriller but with a moral background.

At the time of *Crossing the Line*, Charlie is a forty-one year old British ex-pat living in Southern Spain with his thirty-nine year-old wife Sally and their sixteen-year-old daughter Rachel.

Charlie is a former UK cop who was shot during an undercover operation that went seriously wrong. He was subsequently, and against his own will, pensioned off from the Police, an action that sent him spiralling towards alcoholism and depression. To rehabilitate her husband Sally moved the family to Spain and Charlie gradually recovers his life.

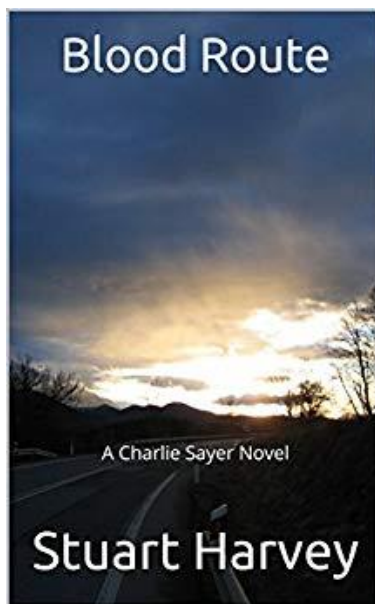
As part of his rehabilitation Charlie takes on the role of PI and whilst working on a case he comes up against his nemesis when he is hunted down by the very killer who shot him when he was still a policeman, and brought his police career to a premature end.

The story revolves around how this criminal is anxious to finish off the job he had started, and brings to life just how the work of a PI can impact upon an otherwise peaceful family life, often negatively.

Charlie is a highly moralistic guy with set standards that he tries to adhere to even when they place him in intolerable situations. Unfortunately, his best friend Tony Ryan, a tough Glaswegian ex-cop is not in possession of the same high standards and often this brings Charlie up to a line he is not sure that he should cross. Sadly, sometimes Ryan is there to push him across this imaginary line.

So, *Crossing the Line* brings the reader in touch with crime, moral dilemmas, toughness and sensitivity all set against the back drop of the family life of a retired cop in Southern Spain.

Blood Route



The sequel to *Crossing the Line*, *Blood Route*, continues the story of the life Charlie Sayer seeks to follow, namely that of a normal family man. However, yet again this life is seriously derailed by his often reluctant role as a private detective.

In *Blood Route*, what starts out as a favour to a friend of his wife, sends Charlie on a rollercoaster of a ride deep into the bowels of European criminality.

Once again Charlie's moral standards appear to dictate that he follows up on a line of investigation when common sense would appear to dictate otherwise. In this novel, he uncovers a trade in illegally bred dogs which turns out to also be a means by which a drugs trade between Bulgaria and Spain is both funded and disguised.

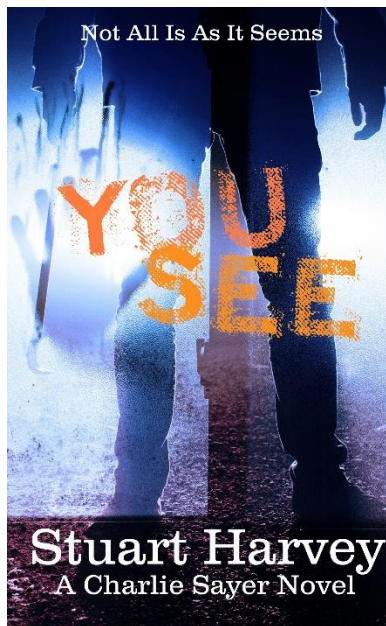
Once again Charlie's less moral friend Ryan both assists and hinders in equal measure as Charlie tries to get to the bottom of the illegal activity whilst dealing with unwanted interference from a corrupt agent within the British security services.

The whole idea behind the Charlie Sayer trilogy is to illustrate just how dirty criminal investigation can be and how it impacts upon someone who tries their best not to be dragged down to the level of the common criminal.

At the same time, the stories try and illustrate how difficult it can be for the modern-day investigator to hold on to their sanity and have a normal family life, whilst still investigating the very crimes they have come to abhor.

The intention is that the third part of this trilogy be a novel that deals with the work of the undercover operative and hopefully shows just how difficult a task that can be. Dealing with the criminal investigation whilst in effect living a lie day to day.

You See



Undercover work, sometimes known as You See (UC), is a vitally important but often controversial part of the world of the investigator, and it takes a special type of person to be a successful undercover operative.

Charlie Sayer is one such person. But as he passes the age of fifty Charlie wants to slip quietly into retirement and put his undercover days behind him. But the murder of a Police undercover operative and the violent ending of the attempted trafficking of the daughter of a rich businessman, draw Charlie back in to a world he would rather forget.

Against his better judgement Charlie is persuaded by Tony Ryan, his long-time friend and partner, to once again become someone else as he delves ever deeper into the murky and dangerous world of the international criminal, people with no moral standards who will stop at nothing, not even murder, to hold their odious empires together.

Effectively cutting himself off from all those who mean the most to him, Charlie seeks to bring down not one but three criminal empires in the best way he knows – going undercover. Reluctantly he takes on a new persona knowing that one slip in the façade he has created, could mean sudden death.

In the last of the Charlie Sayer trilogy we see our reluctant hero taking on his most difficult and dangerous investigation yet, and one he must take on almost completely on his own if he is to survive.

But is Charlie still up to the task, or have the years taken their toll and diminished his skills, only time will tell. And time is something that Charlie doesn't have.

Find Out More

If you want to know more or even buy one or more of Stuart's novels, follow the below links.

Stuart Harvey's Website

www.stuartkharvey.com



Stuart Harvey's Amazon Page

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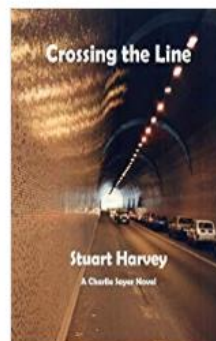
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