

Book Reviews

Beattie, G. (2011). *Get The Edge: How Simple Changes Can Make A Big Difference*. Headline: London.

Reviews:

'Get The Edge is packed with useful advice that brilliantly illustrates the power of rapid change.'

Richard Wiseman, Author, 59 SECONDS

'Get The Edge provides wonderful advice based on the wisdom of a lifetime combined with lessons firmly rooted in psychological research. This book is not only profoundly informative, but also a pleasure to read.'

Aaron T. Beck, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania and founder of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT)

Beattie, G. (2010). *Why Aren't We Saving The Planet? A Psychologist's Perspective*. Routledge: London.

Reviews:

'The planet is in peril on account of human activity. Politicians, philosophers, and various pundits have been proposing ways to reverse the destructive thrust of this activity. Nothing has worked. The reason is that the activity has never been examined in itself as a product of cultural forces. This brilliant book does exactly that and thus provides an enlightened way towards changing the course of human history. By focusing on the signifying cultural roots of destructive human activity, it has opened up a veritable practical path to solving the crises facing the planet. This is required reading for everyone who is interested in our survival.'

Marcel Danesi, University of Toronto, Canada, and Editor of *Semiotica*

'Many people see consumers as pivotal to helping solve climate change issues. But getting them on board may be a very complex process. Geoffrey Beattie's book represents exactly the type of visionary thinking that is now needed to improve the efficacy of communication in this critical area. His work demonstrates a real milestone in the ability to unravel, understand and change the attitudes of the public and more importantly, their behaviour.'

Fran Cassidy, Director, The Marketing Society

'This is a beautiful work, artistic and literary. The reader is led through the methods and data with a sure hand, and surprises pop up with charm and a generous concern for the reader. I especially admire Geoff's honesty and courage in using his own self as a kind narrative protagonist.'

**Professor David McNeill, Center for Gesture and Speech Research,
University of Chicago, USA**

Beattie, G. (2004). Protestant Boy. Granta: London.

Reviews:

'An eloquently-written, finely-observed, unflinchingly honest account.'
Belfast Telegraph

'In this honest, insightful memoir Geoffrey Beattie revisits the North Belfast area in which he grew up, the notorious "murder triangle" where more than 600 people were killed during the Troubles. Beattie's enlightening memoir becomes our own window into the hearts and minds of a community drenched in blood.'
Newsweek

'An absorbing meditation on the author's Belfast upbringing ... written in sentences as clean and unadorned as a Presbyterian's complexion.'
Irish Times

'An honest, moving and illuminating emotional journey into the heart and psyche of the Protestants of Ulster.'
Ruth Dudley Edwards

'In this book Geoffrey Beattie goes to the heart of his personal experience and recreates the world of his childhood – both as it was and as it is now – in a manner that will give any Ulster-born reader a series of small, agonizing shocks of recognition.'
Times Literary Supplement

Beattie, G. (2003). Visible Thought: The New Psychology of Body Language. Routledge: London.

Reviews:

'Geoffrey Beattie breathes new life into a thousand tired old clichés about body language. This is a fascinating book on two levels. The first is a serious scientific one arguing for new ideas about nonverbal communication. The second level is perhaps a shade less Nature and a dash more Heat or Hello. As Big Brother psychologist, Beattie is able to offer insights into such aspects of

contemporary culture as Stuart's wink and Kate's eye contact. It's an excellent, provocative read.'

David Cohen

'For those wanting an academic text on non-verbal communication this is a thoughtful, up-to-date book.'

The Times Higher Educational Supplement

Beattie, G. (2002). The Shadows of Boxing: Prince Naseem and those he left behind. Orion: London. Published in paperback (2003).

Reviews:

'His previous book, On the Ropes, was hailed as a boxing classic, and its sequel is equally good.'

Rated, 2002

'This brilliant and complex book....many unforgettable pages.'

City Life, 2003

'...a sophisticated insight into codes of masculinity, and the value placed on respect by everyone from the former champion, to deprived kids unable to command anything more tangible.'

The Independent, 2003

Beattie, G. (1998). Hard Lines: Voices from Deep within a Recession. Manchester University Press and Mandolin: Manchester.

Reviews:

'A hard act to follow...the magic of his articles...a master of "method journalism.'

Manchester Evening News

'Beattie is a skilled and sensitive listener...Hard Lines is an extraordinarily human book, showing the flesh and spirit beneath the scourge of unemployment and the shallow comforts of the entrepreneurial world of the political "modernizers".'

Morning Star

'compelling reading...fascinating and instructive.'

Labour History

'This superb journalistic account will interest social, economic, and political historians, sociologists, and the general reading public.'

Choice

Beattie, G. (2000). *The Corner Boys*. Klett-Cotta: Berlin.

Reviews:

*'[Beattie is] slowly establishing himself as one of the most perceptive writers in the country...Beattie is a wonderful writer...I have no hesitation in suggesting that, if *The Corner Boys* can grab its deserved amount of initial publicity, it will become one of the most important works of social fiction of the nineties.'*

Manchester Evening News

'Geoffrey Beattie's control of his first novel is remarkable...No fact is wasted, no gesture extraneous...Unreeling his story with the steadiest of hands, Geoffrey Beattie offers a slow-burn drama whose biting impact is achieved by the realism of his characters, their actions, and his knowledge of a city where indifference is impossible. Writing part in despair, part in miserable elegy, he has created a tremendously involving, affecting novel whose simplicity is the key to its punch.'

Scotland on Sunday

'Beattie's novel is teeming with psychological insight, and his observations add much-needed flesh to the one-dimensional characters too often found in other books about the Troubles. He has taken the personal, and made it universal.'

Belfast Telegraph

'This book is an interesting read...It will give outsiders (not least Belfast Catholics) a vivid account of what life is like for Protestant youths...Geoffrey Beattie writes well. He has a good turn of phrase and a great eye for observation.'

Irish News

'Beattie is worthy of associations with Roddy Doyle, laying out a convincing and addictive read which brings out the darker side to being young in pre-ceasefire Northern Ireland, but he is particularly good at using the hemmed-in feelings of youth to illustrate the claustrophobia of his surroundings.'

The Scotsman

'It makes a change to find a young male Irish novelist who doesn't simply aim straight for the funny-bone, but Beattie more than makes up for it with gritty realism.'

The Mirror

'Incisive, moving and beautifully written, this is one of the most illuminating works of fiction to come out of Belfast.'

Ireland Book News - Issue 42

Beattie, G. (1999). *Belfastin Pojat*. Otava: Helsinki.

Beattie, G. (1998). *The Corner Boys*. Victor Gollancz: London.

Beattie, G. (1996). *On the Ropes: Boxing as a Way of Life*. Victor Gollancz: London. Published in paperback, Indigo: London. (1997).

Reviews:

'Beattie can write about the low life of boxing like no-one else...[He] has got the smell of the gym in his lungs. He breathes resin, sweat and soiled towels. He even goes three rounds himself with Mick Mills. He writes for adults, and quite beautifully. Not since I first went ringside with the late Ring Lardner have I so enjoyed a book on boxing.'

Daily Telegraph

'A lifelong boxing fan, Beattie actually gets in the ring with the 'hard men' at Brendan Ingle's gym in Sheffield - and suffers for it. An uncompromising look at the often unsavoury lives of the gym's regulars, as well as a portrait of a star, the gym's Prince Naseem Hamed...a classic of its kind.'

Publishing News

'One of the books of the year. Beattie's account of the fighters at Brendan Ingle's legendary Sheffield gym...is breathtakingly good...Sharp, jabbing writing; hard, compassionate journalism.'

Scotland on Sunday

'an authentic, skilful account of grit and graft in a tough northern city - a tale oozing perspiration, aspiration and, all too often, desperation.'

Time Out

*'Extremely well-researched and moving, *On the Ropes* is as powerful and accurate as one of Naz's left hooks.'*

Maxim

*'Beattie is an impressive and eloquent chronicler of the buried underside of British life...[*On the Ropes* is] a unique portrait of the many people he discovers through the sport, characters and stories thrown-up by economically blighted communities.'*

City Life

*'[*On the Ropes* is] among the year's literary heavy-weights.'*

Arena

'He is an unusual writer, for he seems to reach so effortlessly into the complex heart of a social circle, in this case a 'fight-mad' fraternity in Sheffield...this is a book that, even those who know little about the sport, and care even less - like me, really - would still find enthralling.'

Manchester Evening News

'one of the finest sporting books of recent years.'

Manchester Evening News

'This is a sports book written by sports fan but you don't have to be a sports fan yourself to enjoy it. If you like life, you'll like this book.'

Newcastle Upon Tyne Journal

'one of the two greatest books on the modern fight ever written.'

Loaded

Beattie, G. (1992). *We Are the People. Journeys Through the Heart of Protestant Ulster*. Heinemann: London. Published in paperback, Mandarin: London (1993). Reprinted twice (1993).

Reviews:

'Just as books by Gerry Adams and Eamonn McCann have helped to throw light on the nationalist view of what ails Ulster, Beattie has provided an insight into the Protestant mind that is all too rare.'

Belfast Telegraph

'humour and incisive observation....he wins some extraordinary confidences from 'ordinary' Ulster Prods. The tales of the undertaker, the surgeon at the Royal and the paramilitary are funny, telling and vivid. He skillfully evokes the discomfort of reassimilation with the tenacity of a ruthlessly self-mocking people.'

City Limits

'In 'We Are The People' Beattie makes a good job of presenting the various strands, negative and positive, in the make-up of the Protestant workers of Belfast. Fortunately he eschews the jargon of the psychologist and social scientist.'

Irish Independent

'Geoffrey Beattie...has written a penetrating, often amusing if ultimately depressing account of the unknown people who have to live their lives amid the Troubles.'

Daily Post

'cleverly evocative....a good book....tells of the awfulness of how things are and will probably remain: and should be and needs to be read.'

New Statesman and Society

'There are very good passages indeed about the author's own background, his family his boyhood friends, for his was the generation that spawned the Shankill Butchers, and some of his childhood friends were involved in the bloodletting.'

The Sunday Tribune

'with the detachment of the expatriate and the intimate understanding of his upbringing, Beattie tells the story of Ulster's Protestants with humour, compassion and rare insight. Mixing childhood memories with present day conversations in a most effective manner, his account is really quite compelling. His descriptive writing is wonderfully evocative, his characterisation superb and his ability to elicit the most telling of comments quite uncanny. This is a valuable contribution to our understanding of the Irish question.'

Huddersfield Daily Examiner

'an educated articulate spokesman of the working classes.'

The Irish Times

'a fascinating new book on Ulster's Protestants.'

Ulster News Letter

'The best parts of the book come with the Elim pastor, a doctor, a loyalist prisoner who gives a lyrical impression of a temporary parole from where the senses are starved. The most powerful voice is that of a doctor from the Royal hospital. He gives an intensely moving description of dealing with casualties at the height of the conflict, and is a voice distinguished by resilience and compassion.'

The Times