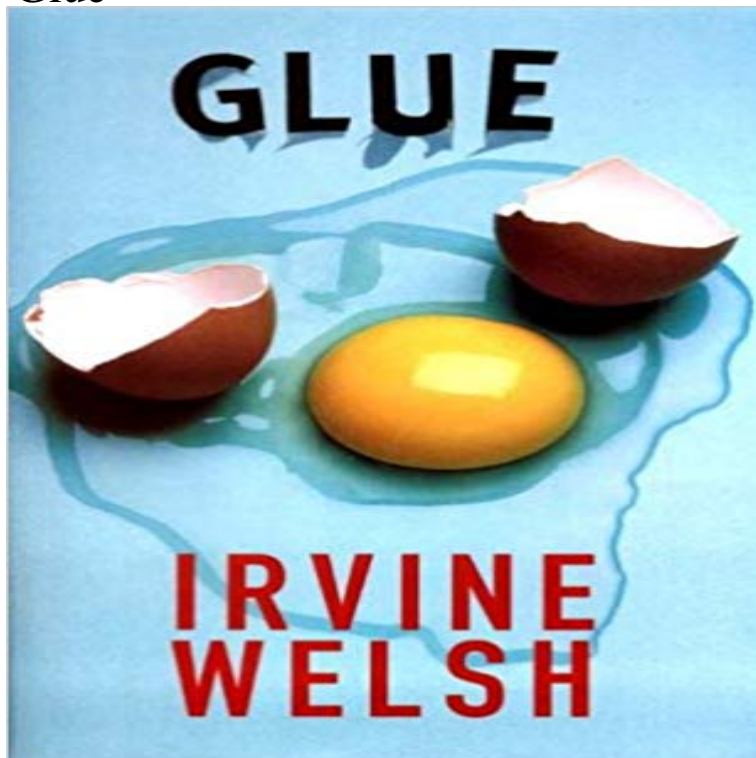


## Glue



With a title like *Glue*, it would seem reasonable to assume that Irvine Welsh's new novel is a profound reflection upon the pitfalls of solvent abuse. In fact, the glue of Welsh's book deals with the bonds that unite four boys growing up together in the scheme, the slum-clearance flats of Edinburgh, whose optimistic construction in the 1970s give way to the poverty, unemployment and crime of the 1980s and 1990s. It is this despair that defines the lives of Welsh's central protagonists: Terry Lawson, work-shy and sex-mad; Carl Ewart, budding DJ; Billy Birrell, boxer, and Andrew Galloway, a drug addict who tests HIV-positive. *Glue* is a bildungsroman of growing up bad, recounted in Welsh's inimitable style. The novel follows the boys through their early forays into sex, drink, drugs and football violence, written in the author's trademark vernacular. Carl Ewart poses crucial questions such as: How dae ah chat up a bird? and Do I wear a rubber johnny? (If so, nae problem, I've started trying them on so ah ken how tae fir them). Welsh also attempts occasional political comment on the friends' difficulties: Billy Birrell reflects: Having money is the only way to get respect. Desperate, but that's the world we live in now. However, Welsh is better at grotesque moments of sex and violence and offhand one-liners, such as: Guilt and shaggin, they go the gither like fish n chips. Fans of *Trainspotting* will love *Glue*, even down to the brief appearance of Begbie and Renton, but others may feel that the novel is just more of the same, and that this performance finds Welsh stuck in a rut.

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[\[PDF\] My Old Man](#)

[\[PDF\] A Fall Of Moondust](#)

[\[PDF\] dorothy vernon of haddon hall](#)

[\[PDF\] Betty Zane](#)

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