

READER GUIDE: JEREMY HANSON-FINGER'S DEATH AND THE INTERN

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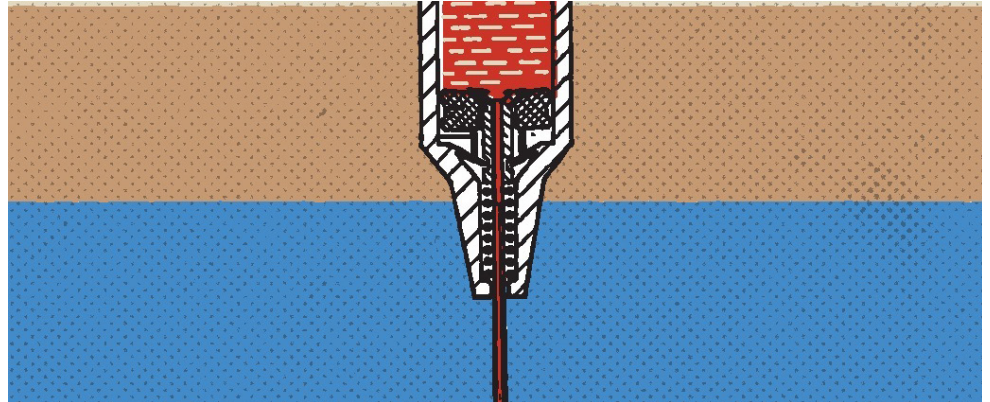
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Dear readers,

Thanks for choosing to welcome Janwar and co. into your life. I hope I have given you enough different threads to pick at to make for an enjoyable discussion!

Some of the themes that always seem to surface in my writing include anxiety, therapy, health, responsibility, ego, control, and historical trauma. The most significant, however, is the construction of masculinity. How do my preoccupations play out in the novel? And how do they intersect with the generic elements drawn from hardboiled detective novels and medical dramas? (If you want more context about how I approach my go-to themes, I'd love it if you took the time to check out my other short stories, poems, and essays. Links to any that are available online can be found here: <https://hanson-finger.com/pages/creative-cv>.)

Ottawa was another preoccupation of mine while I was living in Toronto and writing the novel. At one point there were Ottawa Tourism ads in my neighbourhood subway station that said, "We don't roll up the carpets at 7 p.m." What's the effect of setting the novel in Ottawa rather than a city perceived to be more exciting, like the crime-writing standbys of Miami, LA, and San Francisco, or even Toronto or Montreal?

Some of the non-detective, non-medical novels that had a formative effect on my writing include Terry Pratchett's fantasy *Discworld* series, Douglas Adams's sci-fi *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series, Joseph Heller's war comedy *Catch 22*, and Thomas Pynchon's encyclopedic monstrosity *Gravity's Rainbow*. How did these influences manifest themselves in *Death and the Intern*? What other books, movies, and TV shows do you think could have been influences? In what way?

Music was really important to the creation of *Death and the Intern*. You can listen to a playlist of songs that either showed up in the book or that I thought about while writing it: <https://hanson-finger.com/pages/death-and-the-intern>. What connections do you see between my writing and the music in the playlist, either thematic or stylistic? I'd love to hear what you think.

Yours,
Jeremy Hanson-Finger