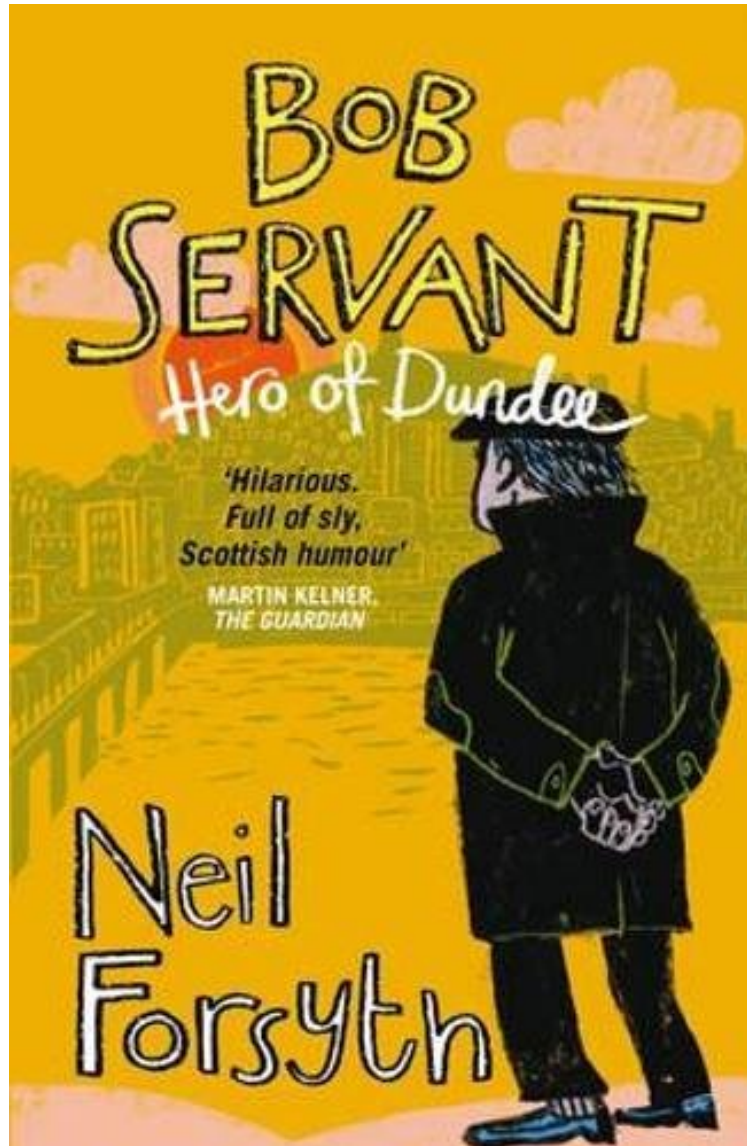


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Bob Servant: Hero Of Dundee

Neil Forsyth, Bob Servant
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Neil Forsyth, Bob Servant : Bob Servant: Hero Of Dundee before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bob Servant: Hero Of Dundee:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. IN AND AROUND DUNDEEBy DAVID BRYSONBob Servant showed up on the block first as the Scourge of the Spammers in `Delete This At Your Peril'. He was a hit, and he deserved to be as he would tell you himself. He even got his own show on the BBC, and now here he is telling us his life story by popular demand from The Boy Forsyth who has kindly edited Bob's outpourings, which are thankfully in

standard English and nothing if not articulate whatever their occasional lapses. Scottish writers tend to show a fascination, maybe even a fixation, with their native cities. Just look at the number of Glasgow-based thrillers there are these days, or, say, Iain Banks's *The Crow Road*, let alone the Rebus books. When I read *Delete This At Your Peril* it seemed to me that Dundee was almost as much of a focus of attention as our hero Bob was, and I feel it even more strongly this time in Bob's *apologia pro vita sua*. Myself, I have never actually been there, but by the end of this (quite short) book I was beginning to think I knew Broughty Ferry, Monifieth and other spots like the back of my hand. Scottish cities generate their own 'culture' (for want of a better term) and the local idea of humour can actually be very funny if someone is smart enough at it, and if you are not too fussy about what is commonly thought to be good taste, say in connexion with someone's mother's death. Another characteristic is tribal rivalries, sometimes religious or centred round football teams (the two come to much the same thing), but sometimes simply a matter of localities. One of the most hilarious episodes of Bob's career was a trip across the Tay Bridge to the Kingdom of Fife, which I knew very well as a boy. Given what happens here, I guess I was probably lucky not to have made the reverse trip in my tender years. Fife comes and goes in a page or two, the rest is all in and around Dundee. That phrase, ordinary though it is, comes from the only other literary reference to Dundee that I can recall, McGonagall's poem beginning 'Alas Lord and Lady Dalhousie are dead and buried at last, Which causes many people to feel a little downcast.' Between them Bob Servant and Neil Forsyth may at last be giving Dundee its place in the sun, if not quite in *The Sun*. Neil is a journalist himself, so it is not surprising that he has such a good ear for the style of local newspaper headlines (as well as for earnest academic writing, I ought to say), so make sure you read the footnotes, as these are by and large the funniest and cleverest things in a very funny and very clever book. I could go on picking out plums, but the book is short, it is very readable indeed, so read it for yourself. If I have a favourite episode, it is maybe the fate of Father O'Neill, whose deeply ingrained faith fails to survive a few days' acquaintance with Bob's rapier-like insights. Bob is in his 60's when his narrative closes, and his final leavetaking from the boy Forsyth suggests that Neil will not see him again if he sees Neil first. If so, I'd say that's where to leave the saga, otherwise the danger is of diluting it. It was great fun while it lasted.

In *Delete This at Your Peril*, Neil Forsyth introduced the fictional character Bob Servant to the UK and North America and his creation quickly gained a critically-led cult following. *Trainspotting* author Irvine Welsh picked *Delete This at Your Peril* for *Esquire's* Funniest Books Ever Written and both the book and the Bob Servant character are being developed for television and radio by the BBC. Sixty-four-years-old and resolutely single, Servant spends his days with a small number of trusted associates pursuing unlikely business opportunities, giving stern views on current affairs and 'chasing skirt'. His outlook on life is one of unbridled ambition and self-belief as he constantly battles the local 'boo boys' for the respect that he undoubtedly deserves. *Bob Servant: Hero of Dundee* charts the hilarious, whimsical and action-packed life-story of Bob Servant, unveiling with touching bravery, a fearless romp through a life full of incident, from his rise from a childhood of abject poverty, through a career in the merchant navy, his establishment of the largest window-cleaning round in Western Europe and his part in Dundee's infamous Cheeseburger Wars of the early 1990s, to his current standing as an 'unemployed gigolo' in Broughty Ferry.

'I have worked with a lot of funny men - Peter Cook, Spike Milligan, Harry Enfield. Bob Servant is in a class of his own' -- Barry Fantoni * *Private Eye* * 'Hilarious' * *Guardian* * About the Author Neil Forsyth is an author and journalist. A fellow Dundonian and friend to Bob Servant for over twenty years, his *Delete This at Your Peril: The Bob Servant Emails* is now available from Birlinn in a newly expanded edition. Forsyth is also the author of *Other People's Money*, the biography of fraudster Elliot Castro, and a novel, *Let Them Come Through*. Bob Servant is a sixty-four-year-old, semi-retired resident of Dundee. He has previously worked as a merchant sailor and window cleaner, among other occupations, but now describes himself as 'an unemployed gigolo'. Find out more about Bob and his world at www.bobservant.com.