In conversation with Martin Amis - Part 4: Meeting Colombia’s assassins

Leo Hornak

Earlier this year, journalist Toby Mott interviewed Martin Amis for Prospect at the Hay Festival in Cartagena, Colombia. First Drafts now features the highlights of that conversation as four exclusive webcasts, with Amis expressing views on topics ranging from terrorism and Barack Obama to his new (much anticipated) novel, and the challenges of portraying the sexual revolution in fiction.

You can view Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 of the Amis interviews at these links, plus a web exclusive article from our arts and books editor, Tom Chattfield, looking at the troubled genesis of his forthcoming book: Martin Amis, return of the master.

In the fourth and final part of our series of Martin Amis interviews, below, Amis remembers an earlier trip to Colombia, and a visit to a home for retired hitmen. Although Amis doesn’t expand on what he found interesting about the “crippled assassins of Cali,” no Amis fan will miss the similarities with some of his classic themes: once ‘terrifying men’ emasculated by physical frailty; and the banality of violence.

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The Oxford Mail has a write-up of one of the winners of the Prospect/Franco British Council short story prize.

The expenses incident mentioned in Lucy Kellaway’s FT column was a long time ago, and does not involve a current member of Prospect staff.

Jonathan Derbyshire draws upon the wisdom of Prospect’s managing editor James Crabtree in his New Statesman profile of Michael Sandel.

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Earlier this year, journalist Toby Muse interviewed Martin Amis for his new book, "Return of the Master." Amis, the author of "London Fields" and other novels, reflects on his troubled genesis of his forthcoming book.

Amis remembers an earlier trip to Colombia, and a visit to a home for retired hitmen. He discusses the role of shame in politics, and the challenges of portraying the sexual revolution in fiction.

Amis considers the terrifying men he was raised with, and how they shaped his writing. He reflects on the changing attitudes towards slavery, and the impact of the American Civil War on his work.

Amis also touches on the Hay Festival in Cartegena, Colombia, and his upcoming book titled "Return of the Master." He talks about his experiences in the country and how they influenced his writing.