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Jordan is just 'two bags of silicone' says Martin Amis

Martin Amis, the author, has become the latest literary heavyweight to attack celebrity novelists, dismissing the model-turned-writer Jordan as merely "two bags of silicone".

By Stephen Adams, Arts Correspondent
Published: 6:32PM GMT 27 Oct 2009

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Jordan just 'two bags of silicone' says Martin Amis

The author of books including *The Rachel Papers*, *Money* and *London Fields*, said he could not understand why she was so popular.

Amis, who has long been accused of misogyny, told an audience at the Hay Festival at Kings Place in London earlier this week: "She has no waist, no arse ... an interesting face ... but all we are really worshipping is two bags of silicone."

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So appalled – and intrigued – is Amis with Jordan that he has honoured with a character bearing some of her traits in his new novella, *State of England*.

The character is to be called 'Threnody', Amis said.

'Threnody' isn't based on Jordan, he told his audience, but readers should "bear in mind" the model when they read the book.

Katie Price, as the glamour model now prefers to be known, was the subject of a ferocious literary assault last week when the crime writer Lynda La Plante attacked the trend for publishers giving large advances to 'celebrity' writers.

She said it was wrong that publishers were paying "millions to these celebrities" for books that she described as "trite tripe".

She told the Specsavers Crime Thriller Awards: "Katie Price's book outsold the Booker Prize list. She's a terrible thing for young girls who just want pink welly boots."

In the audience was Martine McCutcheon, the former *EastEnders* actress, whose debut novel, *The Mistress*, is published next month. One critic dismissed the first chapter, published online, as "a truly awful piece of pedestrian drivel".

La Plante said: "I have nothing against Martine McCutcheon, but who knows

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what she was paid?"

McCutcheon, 33, who signed a three-book deal with Pan Macmillan last year, responded: " I just want to do a book that will be a bit of entertainment for Joe Public."

Amis was marginally kinder to Price, merely pointing out his bemusement at the use of the words "Number One bestseller" on the front of one of her books. The words were "more terrifying than anything inside" he said.

Nonetheless, he admitted to having read both volumes of her autobiography.

In 2007 Price's second book, *Crystal*, comfortably outsold the entire 2007 Man Booker Prize shortlist.

Since then she has sold millions of pounds worth of books, both autobiographies such as *Jordan: Pushed to the Limit* and novels like *Sapphire* and *Angel*.

Last December she was invited to Number 10 after being nominated as a 'Reading Hero' in a public poll, while in May she was named as one of the 100 most powerful people in the publishing industry by The Bookseller magazine.

Her spokesman declined to comment on Amis's remarks.



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