
Reviews by Dan Chow

BARKING DOGS



Terence M.
GREEN

Barking Dogs, Terence M. Green (St. Martin's
0-312-014244-4, 213pp, hc) March 1988

The blurb describes *Barking Dogs* by Terence M. Green as a hard-hitting high-tech thriller of a cop on the edge. That it is, in spades. It is this season's *RoboCop*, and not to be missed. Green's setting is Toronto, 1999. The gangs of the future are as vicious as any, imagined or real. The Barking Dog of the title is a perfect lie detection device which can be worn under street clothes. It is Mitch Helwig's equalizer in his war against lasergun-equipped thugs and powerful mobsters. Someone has killed his partner, and he means to track him down, whoever he is, and take his revenge.

What follows is vintage Clint Eastwood/Charles Bronson-style blow-the-scum-away action. Some may have trouble with such unrestrained gore, but Green makes his implacable policeman human just as Verhoeven did in *RoboCop*, and so lifts his work out of the morass. How he does so is for the reader to discover. Suffice it to say, Green provides a neat ending for a real page-turner and transforms *Barking Dogs* from a transplanted cops and robbers story into a valid piece of sf.