

# The Roman

## Synopsis

Marty Jaye is 17 years old and living in a small town in the UK. He's part of a gang and nothing really is going on, but for throwing mud at cars, and getting into petty crime. However, he has ideas, ideas he has to hide from his gang, most of the time. Ideas of culture, making films or art or photography. He loves his Grandfather's Ska music and he drifts away while listening to it. Sitting with large headphones on, in the allotment shed, he dreams of making more of himself.

He falls for his Media Teacher, Yarla Milla. She is very cool, but drops the bomb shell that she is quitting her job and heading to work for a culture magazine in Italy, called The Roman. (A little like Dazed and Confused Magazine here in the UK.) One of his reasons for getting up in the morning just walked out on him. Or so he thought. Yarla has a thing for him too and they have a bit of a whirlwind romance. She also suggests that after his exams he should follow her out there and do some modelling for The Roman. He is a very handsome boy with a lot of charisma and anger and she sees that he would be an interesting subject for any designer or photographer.

Marty Jaye follows her to Roma with the full backing of his family, but after a terrible fight with his best friend, he leaves the country with a threat over his family by this gang member.

In Rome he finds himself instantly submersed in a magazine that is uber cool. There is Caro the Fashion Editor, a beautiful and profound ex-model, Enzo, the 90 year old photographer who tries to soften the snarling ambition of the young fashionistas. He and his old chemist friend have also designed a revolutionary Hallucinogen+Virus Combo, called C.Fe which he hopes could start a new movement, lead by his prodigy Caro. Bartholemew is one of the snarling wolves at the magazine. A young up and coming Fashion Editor who is brilliant but highly caustic and machiavellian. He also loves riling up the young Marty Jaye on shoots. However, the anger and innocence he gets from Marty is amazing and Marty Jaye is seen and booked by better and better designers and filmmakers. Marty Jaye rises to the top very quickly. A rise that is balanced only by the drug consumed decline of Yarla. Yarla has let him down from day one and eventually has to return home to England to save her life, or crumble piece by piece in the heady life of an Assistant Fashion Editor/Intern.

Marty Jaye, finds the life full of back stabbing on one side of the coin, but on the other side, full of people with integrity, trying to push culture forward. The juxtapositions are massive and we follow the young man trying to make sense of it all.