Text for John Lucas

John Lucas was born in Whitechapel, east London, in 1978. He was brought up nearby in the borough of Hackney, and continues to live in the area. The youngest of six boys, he comes from a large family of writers and artists, although he did not immediately follow the same path. He took a degree in Creative Writing at Middlesex University, graduating in 2007and two years ago left his job to try and concentrate on his writing, supporting himself by working in an independent Hackney book shop.

In Turf, John drew upon his own experiences of growing up in Hackney, and on the numerous stories of young gang violence in the press. He is currently working on his second novel.