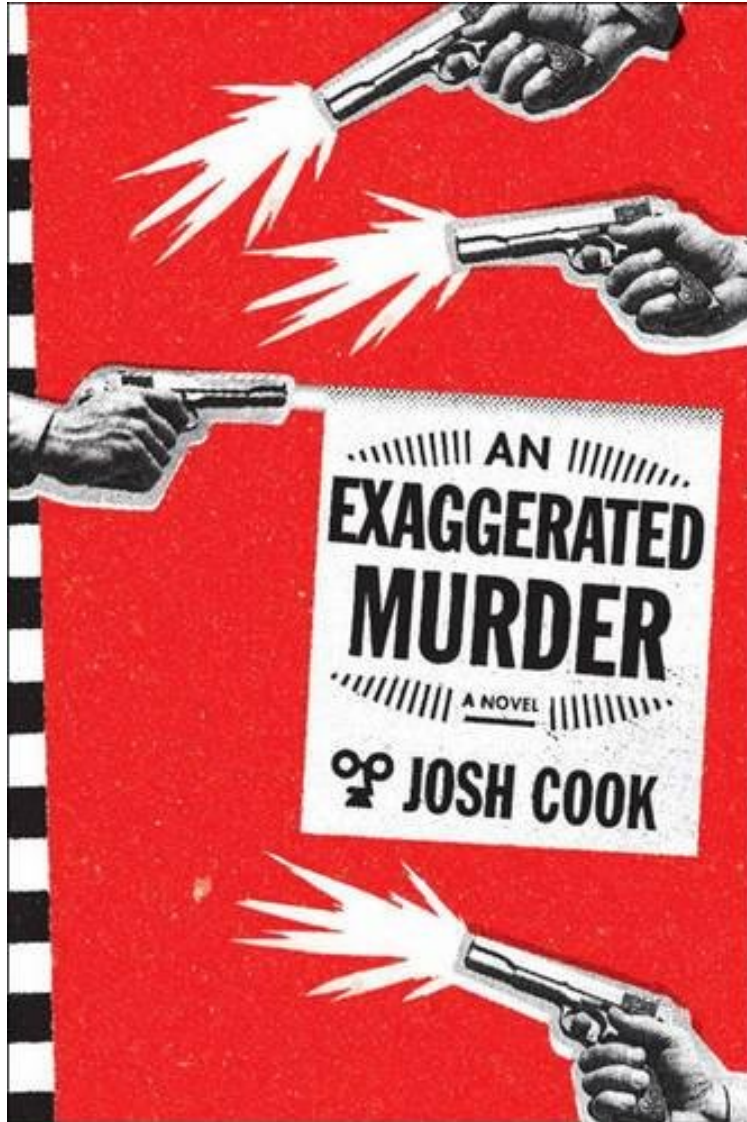


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An Exaggerated Murder: A Novel

Josh Cook

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#1693181 in Books 2015-03-03 2015-03-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.22 x 1.00 x 5.461, .81 #File Name: 1612194273336 pages | File size: 78.Mb

Josh Cook : An Exaggerated Murder: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Exaggerated Murder: A Novel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerFantastic, quirky book. Ending is a bit odd, but I should probably re-read this book at some point anyway.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. but I have like it so farBy Matthew DiMasiFinally finished it, and if I had a choice, then I wouldn't have put it down.There were parts where it was formatted differently to try and show how the case was being thought about, and that was a

nice look into the mind of Trike Augustine. Though in one of those I think there was some kind of formatting error. I think it was in the first oddly formatted section, but it didn't detract at all from the experience. I really like the way that the story was told from the 3rd person then it sometimes switched to a different mindset and an explanation as with Trike's understanding of the case. There was also A LOT of profanity. Overall it was well-written and I liked it. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Adventure, Intellect, and Booze! By mRenoA trenchcoat-clad detective. A missing billionaire. A butler. The word "dame." A mystery novel with this many cliches can't possibly be exciting or innovative, right? Wrong. An Exaggerated Murder, the debut novel from Massachusetts writer Josh Cook, twists familiar elements of detective stories into a modern, captivating, and thoroughly funny tale. When a wealthy eccentric is murdered (maybe) and city police are pulled off the case, it's up to private investigator Trike Augustine to figure out just what the hell is going on. Trike's fondness for booze and slovenliness don't get in the way of his solving cases. They may even help. His greatest asset, however, is his supreme intellect. Armed with a photographic memory and a vast capacity to deduce hidden meaning from the most mundane of clues, Augustine is up for the task. It also doesn't hurt that he's seen enough danger in his days that he can casually - and hilariously - brush off numerous threats against his life, which in this case include a dead pig in his kitchen. Augustine is assisted by former FBI agent Max and starving yet ass-kicking artist Lola. Both are strong characters in their own right but also serve to highlight Trike's strengths and flaws. You can sense a mixture of acceptance and exasperation in their interactions with the verbose PI, and Lola's matching of Trike's smart aleckiness produces many amusing exchanges. Despite this being his first novel, Cook takes some major creative risks with writing style, and they pay off. Trike's dialogue, which often takes the form of lengthy monologues, does much to help us understand just how intelligent he is. But Cook hammers home Trike's defining characteristic by giving us unorthodox views into his mind. A couple of chapters are laid out as streams of consciousness while others are organized as matrices, demonstrating the ways his mind makes sense of evidence. These chapters are not easy to read (don't worry, there aren't many), but they masterfully reveal the psyche of a complex yet entertaining character. An Exaggerated Murder is no ordinary detective novel. You might do well to brush up on your James Joyce or Edgar Allan Poe as prep for this novel. But even if you don't catch every literary reference, you're still certain to enjoy this fast-paced, intellectually challenging, and frequently hilarious mystery. Note: There's a major irony in posting a review of this book on . After all, Cook is a bookseller at independent store Porter Square Books. What's more, his blog In Order of Importance frequently criticizes for business practices that harm independent publishers and retailers as well as local economies. So, I encourage you to read Josh's take on here: <http://inorderofimportance.blogspot.com/2012/03/my-entirely-too-long-incredibly-wonkish.html> and to order your copy of the book here: <http://www.portersquarebooks.com/book/9781612194271>.

How can you solve a murder when the clues are so dumb? Private investigator Trike Augustine may be a brainiac with deductive skills to rival Sherlock Holmes, but they're not doing him any good at solving the case of a missing gazzillionaire because the clues are so stupefyingly—well, stupid. Meanwhile, his sidekicks—Max the former FBI agent and Lola the artist—don't quite rise to the level of Dr. Watson, either. For example, when a large, dead pig turns up on Trike's floor in the middle of the night, none of them can figure out what it means. Meanwhile, the clock is ticking as the astronomical reward being offered diminishes drastically every day. That, plus the increasing reality that their own lives are in danger, lift this astonishing debut beyond its hilarious premise—a smart man befuddled by the idiotic—and turns it into something more than just a smart homage to Sherlock (with maybe a touch of early Jonathan Lethem thrown in). It becomes a compelling and compulsive thriller . . . with the added bonus that the prose is often as breathtaking as the tale.

A Boston Globe Pick of the Week "[A] rollicking debut novel."—Boston Magazine, Must-Sees for March 2015 "A comedic mystery, filled with the sorts of digressions and lunacy that will entertain readers wondering what an episode of Benedict Cumberbatch's 'Sherlock' series might be like if it were written by Quentin Tarantino."—The Plain Dealer (Cleveland) "One of the most high-minded detective stories in years... Meticulously planned and content-rich, this sophisticated, variegated study...ranks with the best upmarket mysteries by Iain Pears and Umberto Eco."—Bookslut "What sets this book apart are stylized passages that illustrate how Trike thinks, and it creates a reading experience unlike any other book I have come across... A delightful novel for book lovers looking for something different."—Waterloo Region Record (Canada) "A beautifully written postmodern novel of deduction that merrily, wittily blows up its genre's conventions while at the same time re-energizing possibilities for the 21st-century detective story."—Kirkus s, starred review "Bookseller and debut novelist Cook's humorous take on various whodunit and noir tropes is...spot-on."—Library Journal "An engrossing, dizzyingly smart plot; flawless comic timing; some of the grittiest sentences this side of Hammett—one of the most entertaining books I've read in years."—Christopher Boucher, author of How to Keep Your Volkswagen Alive About the Author JOSH COOK is a bookseller at Porter Square Books in Somerville, Massachusetts. His fiction, criticism, and poetry have appeared in numerous leading literary publications, including The Rumpus, The Millions, and Bookslut, and he is the blogger for Porter Square

Books' blog. This is his first novel.