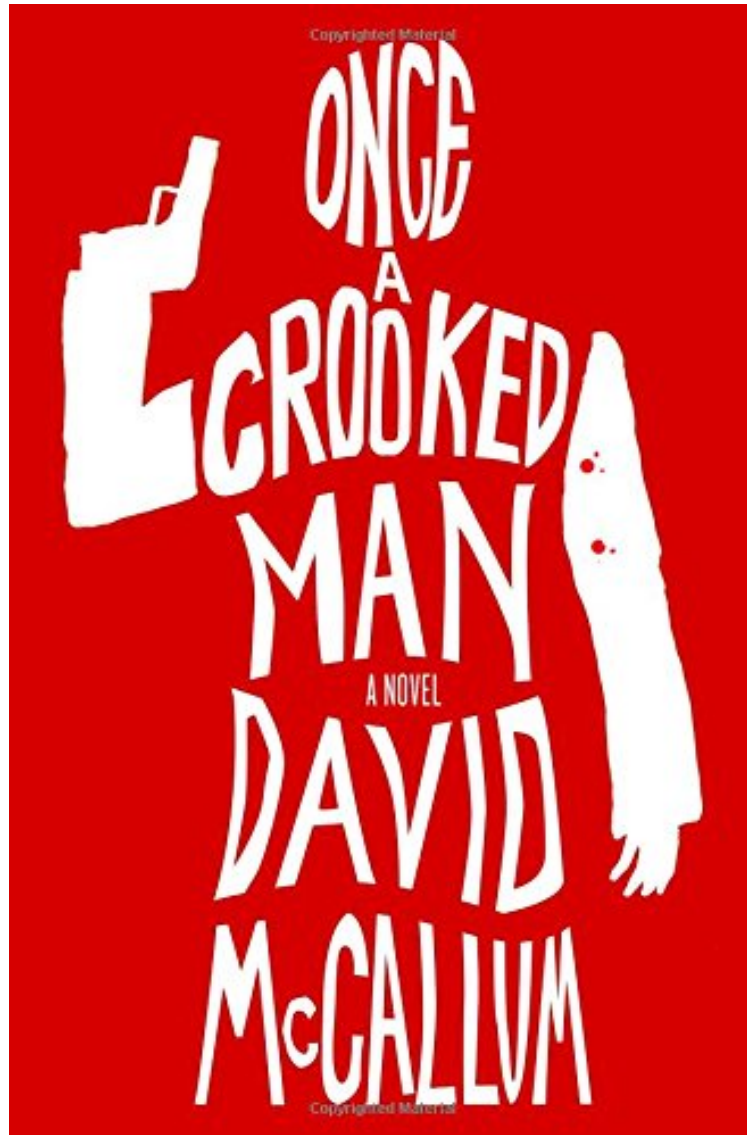


(Library ebook) Once a Crooked Man: A Novel

Once a Crooked Man: A Novel

David McCallum

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David McCallum : Once a Crooked Man: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Once a Crooked Man: A Novel:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not so good By john martin This is a book I wished I had never read. It sullies the warm feeling of nostalgia I have for David McCullum who played in The Man from U.N.C.L.E. all those years ago. This debut novel might have been better kept in his bottom drawer. I found it to be badly in need of an editor -- not just for some disconcerting typos I didn't expect in a high-profile novel such as this -- but also to cut out

the frequent flabbiness of the writing and to point out where characters and storylines stretched credibility. McCallum is no great shakes as a wordsmith, he is a decent storyteller (albeit stuck in the 1970s), I liked the cover on the download site, the blurb hooked me, the opening was promising but it went downhill for me. Three stars. Just.26 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Exciting, entertaining and engrossing.By P. WhitneyPicked this up last night and could not put it down--a classic page turner. It's easy to root for main character Harry Murphy as he unwittingly finds himself at the center of an international crime web. Full of fun characters and familiar locales in New York and London.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Harry and the BruschettsBy BritLit teacherSparkly writing. Fizzy with a bit of a bite. Any story that begins with a visit to Starbucks in the first two lines has my attention. (No I don't work for Starbucks, but I am addicted to vanilla lattes and I do live in Seattle!)I loved that the protagonist was an actor...and all the details that I'm assuming come from David McCallum's experience (I had such a crush on him in The Man From UNCLE).I always cast novels...and I could just see that funny guy from Wings and Sideways as Harry. And Danny DeVito as one of the Bruschetts anyway. Right?I loved his details...and how all the characters..well, most of them anyway...were appealing. I really cared what was going to happen to them...it's just that after 3/4 of the book...I begin to say (as I so often do nowadays)..GET ON WITH IT!!So I skimmed on through to the very satisfying conclusion.If McCallum puts down his scapel (after he carves a grin onto Mark Harmon's stone face in NCIS)and picks up his pen (well...stylus, maybe) again...I'll buy it!

A deliciously quirky crime novel from David McCallum, the beloved actor known for his portrayal of Ilya Kuryakin on The Man From U.N.C.L.E. and Dr. Donald "Ducky" Mallard on NCIS. Crime pays. And pays well.Sal, Max and Enzo Bruschetti have proved this over a lifetime of nefarious activity that they have kept hidden from law enforcement. Nowhere in any file, on any computer is there a record of anything illegal from which they have profited. But Max has a problem. His body is getting old and his doctor has told him to take it easy. Max has decided that the time has come for the family to retire.But when young actor Harry Murphy overhears the Bruschetti brothers planning changes to their organization, including the murder of a man in London who knows too much, the Bruschetti's plans begin to unravel. After Harry makes the well-intentioned if egregious mistake of trying to warn the Bruchetti's intended victim he finds himself alone in a foreign country, on the wrong side of the law, with a suitcase full of cash and a dangerous man on his trail. And while his good looks, charm and cheerful persistence may prove assets in the turbulent events that follow, none of Harry's past roles have prepared him for what happens next.At turns tense and funny, Once a Crooked Man is infused with the infectious charm that has made David McCallum one of television's longest running, most-beloved stars.

“Highly entertaining... McCallum respects the genres' tenets, supplying the right amount of intrigue, violence and sex for a well-plotted, action-packed tale. While occasional bits of humor add levity to the plot, McCallum keeps a near hard-boiled edge to the story. It seems McCallum had a lot of fun writing ‘Once a Crooked Man,’ as will his readers devouring his energetic novel.” ?Associated Press “It’s pretty danged good...McCallum isn’t writing a noirish tale of deceit, vengeance and the hard hustle. This is crime as light comedy, with a broad cast of characters...here are guns, a fetching detective and bags of money. It’s a three-card monte as to who winds up where with what and whom.” ?Washington Post“Darkly comedic ... Hijinks ensue ? including a shootout, car chases and mistaken identity. Plus, of course, a sexy British agent.” ?New York Post“Mr. McCallum is great fun and it is obvious why he is so engaging in the television thriller in which he plays a forensic expert. His sense of humor would fit the work of a man who digs into dead bodies.” ?Washington Times“Crackling, darkly comic...” ?Parade“The author displays his versatility in ‘Once a Crooked Man’ ? an auspicious debut, an exercise in literate escapism and, most importantly, a bloody good read.” ?Richmond Times-Dispatch“This debut novel by actor McCallum (NCIS, The Man from U.N.C.L.E.) suggests the author has spent time enjoying the crime-and-espionage farces of Donald E. Westlake and the master of the genre, Ross Thomas.... He has a farceur's taste for seeing how many complications he can bring to any situation. This good-natured debut gives the reader as good a time as it has plainly afforded its author.” ?Kirkus s"Adding some ambiguity to the usual formula... this quirky novel will appeal to readers who like a bit of subtext with their thrillers." ?Booklist "An entertaining mystery.... Reminiscent of darkly comedic works in which heroes spiral continuously downward, this zany tale is oddly humorous at several junctures." ?Library Journal"Once a Crooked Man is a spellbinding thriller that has tension, momentum and certainly an actor’s skewed eye of the world. A very strong debut." ?crimesquad.com"Written with an enthusiastic and good natured style, one cannot but picture McCallum himself as Harry Murphy, with a tip of the hat to the caper novels and films of the past.... The writing style makes one query why McCallum hadn’t penned a crime novel before, for like The Man from U.N.C.L.E character Ilya Kuryakin, he is as resourceful as a writer, as he is an actor." ?Shots (UK)About the AuthorDavid McCallum is a Scottish-born actor and musician. He is best known for his television roles including Russian secret agent Ilya Kuryakin on The Man from U.N.C.L.E. and his current role as medical examiner Dr. Donald "Ducky" Mallard on NCIS.