



Providence Noir

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Peter Farrelly's story "The Saturday Night Before Easter Sunday" has been nominated for an Edgar Award for Best Short Story!

Named a Favorite Book of 2015 by Scott MacKay at **Rhode Island Public Radio**

"Even Providence's signature public art has a dark side in *Providence Noir* (Akashic), which includes a story called 'WaterFire's Smell Tonight' by Pablo Rodriguez. Each tale in this anthology edited by Ann Hood is set in a different part of the city. Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout's story takes place at Trinity Repertory Company. Thomas Cobb, whose novel *Crazy Heart* was made into a movie with Jeff Bridges, tees up at Triggs Memorial Golf Course, and *Dumb and Dumber* co-writer and co-director Peter Farrelly, a graduate of Providence College, sets his story in the Elmhurst neighborhood, near his old college stomping grounds."

-- *Boston Globe*

"Providence, of course, has a history of crime, the mob, corruption and other goodies. In this collection of 15 stories...we are given a darkly hued tour of the city in all its nooks and crannies by such excellent writers as Hood herself, John Searles, Bruce DeSilva, Peter Farrelly, Elizabeth Strout, Hester Kaplan and others, each with their own style, tone and sly approach that will keep you reading, waiting for the sudden murder, the end of troubled relationships, the discovery of bones....[A] wonderful collection."

-- *Providence Journal*

Akashic Books continues its groundbreaking series of original noir anthologies, launched in 2004 with *Brooklyn Noir*. Each story is set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the city of the book.

Featuring brand-new stories by: John Searles, Elizabeth Strout, Taylor M. Polites, Hester Kaplan, Robert Leuci, Amity Gaige, Peter Farrelly, Pablo Rodriguez, Bruce DeSilva, Marie Myung-Ok Lee, Luanne Rice, Dawn Raffel, Thomas Cobb, LaShonda Katrice Barnett, and Ann Hood.

Anyone who has spent time in Providence, Rhode Island, knows that lurking in the shadows are many sinister noir elements and characters. The city is ripe for this volume, and Akashic is proud to have recruited the amazing Ann Hood as editor. The impressive contributor list conveys the caliber of *Providence Noir*, which joins *Cape Cod Noir*, *Boston Noir*, and *Boston Noir 2: The Classics* in sketching a dark and alternative portrait of these New England locales.

From the introduction by **Ann Hood**:

"Providence was founded in 1636 by a rogue named Roger Williams. Williams escaped here when Massachusetts was ready to deport him back to England. In the almost four hundred years since, we've become infamous for all sorts of crimes and misdemeanors, including serving as home base for the Patriarca crime family for decades. My very own Uncle Eddie--I can hear Mama Rose screaming at me: 'He wasn't a

blood relative! He was related through marriage!''--was gunned down in the Silver Lake section of town in 1964, just a year after he drove me in his white Cadillac convertible in a parade as the newly crowned Little Miss Natick. The writer Geoffrey Wolff told me that once he went to a barber in Princeton, New Jersey and the barber asked him where he was from. 'Providence,' Wolff told him. The barber put down his scissors, raised his hands in the air, and said, 'Providence? Don't shoot!'

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Providence Noir Details

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From Reader Review Providence Noir for online ebook

Beverly says

My first of the Noir City Series and I really enjoyed it. Several authors that I'm familiar with wrote for this collection: Ann Hood, John Searles, Luanne Rice and Elizabeth Strout. Looking through the list of prior cities included in this list promises more great short stories by more great authors. "Noir is about sex and money and sometimes about revenge," Otto Penzler, the owner of the Mysterious Bookshop in Manhattan, told the New Yorker in 2010. In noir, he said, there are no heroes and no happy endings. This was certainly true. Each story is set in a different part of Providence, using the appropriate atmosphere. One story is even set on the Triggs Memorial Golf Course and another at the city's train station. I thought this was a great selection of short fiction and I'm planning to read more of this noir series.

Stacy Cook says

I first discovered the publisher Akashic when I won The Cocaine Chronicles in another giveaway. I went on to read The Heroin Chronicles, The Marijuana Chronicles & The Speed Chronicles. All of which were over the top as far as the quality of the writing and how sucked in you became with every new story. You never wanted the stories to end (or God forbid, the book)!

Working in a library allowed me to pursue other books by Akashic publishing and that is how I came across the Noir series. I checked out Prison Noir and was hooked for life! My goal is to read (& collect) the entire series. When Providence Noir came up for grabs on Early Reviewers I knew it wouldn't matter that I had never been to Providence, nor would it matter that I hadn't heard of some of the authors, I was going to enjoy it & enjoy it I did!

While I often read mysteries I admit I'm not very good at figuring out who done it before the author reveals it. That's what I love about mysteries and there were a lot of surprises for me in this anthology. I also admit to being a slow reader (sorry Akashic), but I confess some of my slowness in reading this book was the ever engaging stories with their twist and turn endings. I did indeed string these stories out as long as I could so the book would never end.

One of the well known authors of this book was Luann Rice and working in a library I know just how popular she is. I have never picked up one of her books before, but if Gold Leaf is any indication of her caliber of work, I will soon be checking her books out. I enjoyed every story in this anthology for different reasons, though some more than others. But I will say all had great plots and even better writing. There was something for everyone.

Andrea says

I won this book from a Goodreads First-Reads giveaway.

This is a good, solid noir collection. I am not familiar with Providence but I love these Akashic anthologies. Definitely worth reading.

Darcia Helle says

I was initially drawn to this book because of the setting. I'm from Massachusetts, and spent a lot of time in the Providence, RI area. That, coupled with the fact that I love the noir genre, got me to open the book. What kept me reading was the immense talent of the contributing authors.

While all of these stories share genre and the city setting, they vary widely in content and writing style. We have sorrow, fear, grief, some humor, and, of course, crime.

Several stories were standouts for me, an easy 5-star rating. A few didn't hold the same appeal, though that was more a matter of personal taste than anything to do with the writing. They are all masterfully written, with characters that feel real and suck you right into their world.

Being familiar with Providence, Rhode Island is absolutely not a prerequisite to enjoying this collection of stories. The authors paint their portraits of this place with such beautiful brush strokes that you will easily see it through their eyes.

Tosca says

The stories are hit or miss. Some are excellent, others, not so much. I did like that all were set in Providence - it gives you a good feel for the city's history and different neighborhoods.

Michael Clark says

This collection of Noir reads as if it was the final product of a Writer's Workshop for depressed Poe devotees and travel agents who have never left the city of Providence. Full of Providence fan-service and insider nods, it establishes a bleak outlook for the town. Not an edgy, twisted yet somehow magnetic draw, but a repulsion for a town writ blackened, tortured and twisted. Could potentially be re-branded as a Lonely Planet Guide for Sociopaths.

If neo-Noir is your cup of hemlock, it's true to format, readable and diverse enough that there are bits and pieces for most fans. If you like homicidal, deviant, sociopath tales- you will love this book.

I received this as a Free Reads copy from goodreads.com, and I'm glad to have received it that way. If I had purchased it, I would probably have returned it. And I will make absolutely sure I detour away from Providence if I ever find myself headed that direction.

Jason says

A few gems, but most of the stories didn't have a chance to develop and get off the ground before they needed to conclude. That and how many references to The Coffee Exchange need to be in one collection...

Sam Sattler says

I have been reading the Akashic “Noir Series” since 2010 and, at this point, I’ve lost track of exactly how many of the short story collections I’ve read. A quick search of Book Chase does come up with several reviews of the Akashic books and one or two other more general posts regarding them, but I’m never sure just how well the search function of Blogger works, so the results might be incomplete. In any case, I have enjoyed all the ones I’ve read, and Providence Noir is no exception.

As is always the case with this series, Providence Noir is a collection of dark crime stories set in the specific geographic region named in the book’s title. In this case all of them take place in a single city, but some of the other books group the stories by specific state (Lone Star Noir, for example) or even by whole country (such as Haiti Noir). Interestingly, eight of the fifteen stories in this volume were written by women and seven of them by men, something (that at the risk of sounding chauvinistic for saying it) strikes me as unusual for a collection of crime stories this dark.

Ann Hood, who edited Providence Noir, uses Otto Penzler’s definition of “noir” in her introduction both to define the term for readers and to tell them what to expect from the stories, “Noir is about sex and money and sometimes about revenge...in noir there are no heroes and no happy endings.” And that is what makes reading the Akashic books such great fun.

There are stories here of mobsters with a strange honor code all their own, scams gone bad, cases of mistaken identity, friends killing friends to hide the truth about themselves, dreams foretelling tragic events, sociopathic children, people not sure whether they have murdered or not - and my favorite one, the book-themed story by Peter Farrelly that closes out the collection.

Farrelly’s story, “The Saturday Night Before Easter Sunday,” starts out rather innocently with a thirty-eight-year-old trying to impress a young coed by telling her that he is a novelist whose first book is soon to be published. She is duly impressed, but their short-lived affair disappoints both of them and they soon go their separate ways. But when our pretend-author is faced with the chance to steal the work of a young British writer, he jumps at it and, almost before he knows it, he is a published author whose publisher is hailing him as a major discovery.

But remember Otto Penzler’s definition of noir that I quoted earlier? There are “no happy endings” in noir fiction according to Mr. Penzler. I suspect that, in this case, that would largely depend on which of the story’s main characters you asked because one of them is very, very happy with the rather Hitchcockian ending of the story.

Tuxlie says

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From...

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--*Providence Journal*

"John Searles's 'The Pig' combines a touching examination of pathos and mystery. Robert Leuci's 'The Vengeance Taker' is a powerful and ultimately creepy story of earned revenge. LaShonda Katrice Barnett's 'Waltz Me Once Again' is a compelling story of violence and tragedy. Thomas Cobb performs the remarkable feat of making a simple round of golf into a surprisingly suspenseful tale, '\$1,000 Nassau.' And Peter Farrelly's 'The Saturday Night Before Easter Sunday' closes out the volume with a superb--and hilarious--inside look at the world of novelists, phonies, publishers, and schemers."

--*Publishers Weekly*

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M M Shah says

Collection starts with promise and then fades, progressively and precipitously.

Karen says

A fun read!

Ted Zarek says

Great mix of interesting stories, unsettling stories, and - unfortunately - just plain terrible ones. Thankfully, there aren't many of those, and the good ones definitely outweigh the bad. It's also of course fun to read about streets, places, and neighborhoods I know and can walk to on a daily basis.

Judith says

Providence Noir edited by Ann Hood offers 15 dark stories by 15 authors, including Thomas Cobb, Peter Farelly, Elizabeth Strout and John Searles. Each story is set in a different location in the city where crime, whether petty or Patriarca, lurks in dark corners.

Suzi says

Mystery, a dash of humor, and some jaw-dropping shivers, stylishly written short stories set in Providence, RI. All the authors had some RI/ Providence connection which made the settings more than a device. A couple of the stories weren't that great to me, and one centered on golf, was lucky to get the skim treatment. Otherwise an entertaining noir-ish read.

Susan says

Enjoyed most of these short stories.
Especially loved The Pig by John Searles.

Some of the stories reminded me of Twilight Zone Episodes in the way they were written and especially the conclusions.
