



The Man Who Couldn't Miss: A Stewart Hoag Mystery

David Handler

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The tenth addition to the Edgar Award-winning Stewart Hoag mystery series presents an old Hollywood murder mystery with a quirky twist.

The Man Who Couldn't Miss, the tenth novel in David Handler's beloved Edgar-winning series, finds celebrity ghostwriter Stewart "Hoagy" Hoag in Connecticut, where his ex-wife, Oscar-winning actress Merilee Nash, is directing a stage production to benefit a local theatre. But when one among the starry cast is found murdered, it's up to Hoagy—accompanied by his faithful and cowardly basset hound Lulu—to unmask the killer.

The Man Who Couldn't Miss: A Stewart Hoag Mystery Details

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From Reader Review The Man Who Couldn't Miss: A Stewart Hoag Mystery for online ebook

Joan says

Hollywood ghostwriter Steward “Hoagy” Hoag finds himself in Connecticut with Lulu the basset hound at his side, bunking in his ex-wife Merilee’s guest house while he works on his next novel. Optimistic and inspired, he hopes that perhaps the future holds a reconciliation for the two of them.

It’s the summer of 1993 and actress Merilee Nash has rounded up Dini Hawes, Greg Farber, and Marty Miller, three of her Yale classmates . . . all famous, award-winning performers . . . for a gala one-night-only theater presentation of “Private Lives.” The production is to benefit the dilapidated Sherbourne Playhouse where Katherine Hepburn, Marlon Brando, and many others, including Merilee, made their professional stage debuts.

But a phone call from the local police leads to the discovery of a dark secret from Merilee’s past, one involving another Yale classmate.

And then murder claims the life of one of the cast members . . .

Following “The Girl with Kaleidoscope Eyes,” debonair ghostwriter Stuart Hoag and his timid basset hound, Lulu, return for a tenth outing in the mystery series. And, once again, Hoagy brings his unique perspective to the investigation of a murder.

Peppered throughout the narrative, the names of well-known film and theater people likely to be contemporaries of Merilee, Marty, Greg, and Dini, infuse the tale with a strong sense of credibility. The clever plot unfolds with unexpected twists, surprises, and comedic moments, keeping the pages turning as readers follow Hoagy’s inspired investigation. Although this book is a perfect addition to the series, it also works well as a stand-alone. New readers and fans alike will find much to appreciate in this quirky mystery tale.

Highly recommended.

Bertha says

It's been a while since I've read a good old fashion mystery. No blood, guts, or bad language. I just finished David Handler's new book, The Man Who Couldn't Miss. The book is part of his Stewart Hoag mystery series. It doesn't matter if you haven't read any of the other books in the series. The author does an excellent job introducing his characters.

The story was engaging, with well developed characters and a great story. If you're looking for a good well-written mystery I recommend this book.

Linda says

It's the nineties, and author Hoagy is staying with his ex, actress Merilee, on her Connecticut farm while she directs a performance of Noel Coward's *Private Lives* to try and save a classic playhouse. I was interested in reading this novel when a review of the series proclaimed it "for fans of Hiaasen and Evanovich." I don't think they have anything to worry about—I am a fan of both of these authors, and I did not detect any similarity here. Shallow, unlikable characters and excessive name-dropping made me realize that I did not care to read any more books in this series.

Susan says

Once famous novelist Hoag (Stewart, not Stewary, as GR would have it) is working on a new book at his ex-wife's farm, where she's busy directing an all-star production to raise money to save a decrepit summer theater with an illustrious past. Hoagy must do two things: Free ex-wife Merilee from a blackmailing ex-boyfriend who's now a drugged-out felon, and find out who murdered one of the cast during the intermission of the first, and only, performance. Four of the five people in the cast went to Yale Drama school together, and have a long, complex history. This episode gives full play to Hoagy's fascination with luxury brands and his adoration of basset hound Lulu.

Vickie says

Overall I liked this book. A mystery that was a look into the life of a man who is a writer and his ex-wife who is a famous actress. It is set in the 90s and the writer does quite a bit of letting you know that it's set in the 90s. Many references to that fact. It could very well have been my imagination that had me noticing the references. I liked the smartass humor, the characters, especially the main character/voice of the novel, Hoagy. I liked his dog, Lulu. Hoagy's ex-wife is pretty spiffy too.

The mystery was two-fold or there were two mysteries, not sure how to phrase it. It was really well done and I had no idea whodunit until the end and it made sense, no eye-rolling for me. That is key for my enjoyment. I hate to roll my eyes.

I believe I will look for more books in this series, Stewart Hoag Mystery. I enjoyed myself and I'd like to visit more often with this group.

Nann says

It's such fun to have Hoagy and Lulu back!

Joe Meyers says

<https://blog.ctnews.com/meyers/2018/0...>

Kathy says

I have not read any of the books in this series that showcase Stewart Hoag and his Bassett Hound, LuLu. In this book, Hoagie and Lulu are staying with his ex-wife, Merilee. She is directing a play at an old historic playhouse in Connecticut that is falling into ruin.

The play is an effort to save the playhouse by inviting VIPs to watch and famous actors to perform.

The cast are all members of a Yale University Drama class that produced very talented performers many years ago.

The years have not erased all the memories of class member interactions and some have festered and never healed.

Of course there is a murder. There is also a blackmail attempt, a side plot, that intersects with the cast and crew of the play.

Hoagie solves it all as he has done in nine previous books.

Beautiful setting, well written with good characterization.

An old fashioned, comfortable book.

Read as an ARC from LibraryThing.

Lesa says

Fans of Stewart "Hoagy" Hoag will be delighted that he's in a good place in David Handler's latest mystery, *The Man Who Couldn't Miss*. And, theater fans will enjoy the homage to the greats of the past because it's time to save a historic theater. "Hey, let's put on a show!"

In the summer of 1993, Hoagy is living in his ex-wife's guest cottage on her Connecticut farm, writing away. He's had writer's block for ten years, and he's finally writing something he's happy with. And, of course, he and Lulu, the basset hound, are close to Merilee.

Merilee is directing a one-night only production of Noel Coward's "Private Lives". She's brought in some of her award-winning former classmates from Yale School of Drama for a fundraiser. They hope to save and restore the dilapidated Sherbourne Playhouse, where Katherine Hepburn first performed. Hoagy says it was an "uncommonly gifted class". The former classmates all admit that Robert John Romero, R.J., was once the most gifted of all of them, "the man who couldn't miss". But, R.J. is now blackmailing others, including Merilee.

Nothing goes right before opening night, but the stars all show up, including Katherine Hepburn, to support the show. And, it's a stellar performance, until the curtain has to go down in Act II, when one of the performers is found dead. Now, Hoagy and Lily are on the case, with Hoagy's witty comments and Lulu's noise as weapons.

Fans of the series will welcome Hoagy's wit and his dapper choice in clothing. There's always a great deal of humor in these books, thanks to Hoagy. And, the grand reveal is pulled off with the assistance of the police, not by the sleuth alone.

The Man Who Couldn't Miss is definitely a period piece, featuring celebrities of the early '90s and timely

connections that can't be revealed without spoiling the plot. It's Hoagy, Lulu, theater, and The Man Who Couldn't Miss.

Dan says

I found an oversized envelope waiting for me on my porch. Inside I found a book titled The Man who couldn't miss by David Handler. It was an uncorrected proof. There was not a letter stating who sent this book, but I presumed it was sent by the publisher.

I read the story and I liked it a lot. The author is from Old Lyme, in Connecticut, my home state.

After finishing the book, I have a new favorite author, and now I have to find other books written by him. If you are into mysteries, then you must read this series. 4 stars
