



Thicker Than Water

G.M. Ford

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For years Leo Waterman eked out a meager living as a PI in Seattle. He survived run-ins with murderers, drug dealers, and jealous wives, but when Rebecca, the love of his life, dumped him to marry someone else... that was a different story.

After Leo's trust fund finally kicks in, he takes his broken heart and slips gratefully into retirement - until the day he learns that Rebecca has vanished and no one, not even her overbearing mother, can locate her.

Together with his motley crew of homeless drunks and reprobates, Leo sets out to find Rebecca, following her twisted trail from the rain-swept streets of Seattle to the murky depths of the great North Woods. The stink of it all emanates from none other than Rebecca's new husband, whose lies cast Leo into the path of a ruthless gang that will stop at nothing - not even murder - to protect what's theirs.

Thicker Than Water Details

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From Reader Review Thicker Than Water for online ebook

International Cat Lady says

I bought this book because it was on sale super cheap on Kindle, and it sounded like it wouldn't be too bad. Also the author's name (pen name?) is G.M. Ford, which I found amusing. I expected it would be okay. It was more than okay. This was a fast-paced mystery, set in Seattle, starring snarky, sarcastic, and punny (as in puns; that's not a typo) Detective Leo Waterman and the bizarre characters of his acquaintance. Will this book win any awards for being a literary masterpiece? Probably not. Was it incredibly entertaining and hard to put down? Yes. If you like fast-paced, escapist mystery novels, give it a read. I'm definitely going to be checking out Ford's other books now!

Sandy Hall says

I actually read this book, it wasn't an audible edition. I love G.M. Ford's writing style and while Leo Waterman isn't my favorite character of his, Leo's stories are still great whodunnits! I'm partial to any novels set in Seattle and G.M. Ford does a fantastic job of describing the area and making it come alive around his characters.

Jennie says

It was nice to be re-introduced to Leo Waterman after all these years (12 years since the last book!), but I missed the humor of the earlier books. I'm definitely going to read the rest of this series, but I hope the next ones find that goofiness again. Leave the darkness to Frank Corso, please!

Rhonda says

Every one of these Leo Waterman episodes has been terrific. Ford's writing is phenomenal in descriptions and dialogue. I am right there in Seattle riding down familiar streets, passing much-acquainted territory, and smiling, laughing out loud, or cringing as Leo takes everything to the limit.

Darcey Tomasino says

Not the best one

Like other reviewers, I was puzzled by the changes in Leo's character. Never carried a pocket knife, let alone a gun? He carried two guns and a sap in book four. I did skip books five and six because I didn't want to buy them, so perhaps I missed something big, like selective amnesia.

Rhod says

At first I thought the author was trying for a Robert B Parker tone - wisecracking detective, 40'ish, big and strong. As the book progressed, I began to enjoy Leo Waterman. The story wasn't bad at all, and I did have to give it three stars. Maybe author Ford is not Parker - yet - but there is promise,

Donna Davis says

Lord, Mister Ford, what have you done? And more to the point, where the hell have you been?

There are a number of masters of the mystery genre that I read faithfully. There are about a dozen, if we count those no longer among us (such as Ed McBain, Donald Westlake, and Tony Hillerman) whose novels I would read simply on the basis of their authorship.

GM Ford is among my dozen. In fact, he's toward the top of the heap. I can't objectively say whether the latter is because he sets his mysteries here in my own stomping grounds--so that while James Lee Burke can give me a really great travelogue, when Ford hooks a left on Madison and heads to Madison Park, I am looking out the front of the car windshield with him, since we're less than twenty minutes from my home.

But the one thing I can say with objective certainty is that he is one fine writer. He can take a premise that is as old as the hills and in the hands of a lesser writer would cause me to moan, "Oh, come ON, not THIS again!" and give it a twist to turn it into something else, so NOT really 'this again', and then write it with such amazing deftness, word-smithery, pacing, and wry humor that I almost can't put it down.

But I do. I put it down at bedtime, because I'm going to read SOMETHING after I take my sleeping aid for the night, and whatever it is, I may not remember it very well. My very favorite reading material only gets read while my brain is in fully active mode. I doled this out to myself in bits and pieces, like Mary Ingalls hoarding her Christmas candy. Ohhh, don't let it be over yet!

But I don't delay gratification all that well, and as the weekend hazes to a close, the last page of the book terminated, and now I must wait for the one that will be out in a few months.

I had half a dozen sticky-noted quotes to toss your way, poignant moments with "the boys", as the first-person protagonist fondly refers to his late father's crowd, some of whom are truly as down-and-out as people can be, living beneath freeways, in doorways, and under trees in city parks. His trenchant observation that "the line between middle class and out on your ass is thinner than a piece of Denny's bacon" is most painfully clear in pricey metropolises such as Seattle, where the annual take-home pay of a waitress or clerical worker would not even pay the rent for an studio apartment in the city, let alone allow for other costs of daily living like food, transportation, medical premiums, and clothing.

And for me, this recognition is one of the key grooves that turns my mental tumblers into place and permits me to feel empathy toward an author. It's a hard world out there, and even in a glorious place like Seattle, poverty's knife edge is closer to most of us than we care to even acknowledge.

Leo Waterman, our intrepid detective, has inherited enough to live off of, having come of age at a middling forty-five, but life has already taught him what down-and-out looks like. He feels the bumps on the head and

the shock that strikes his skeleton when he climbs a fence and jumps to the concrete on the other side, but if there's a good enough reason, he does it anyway. He doesn't have a death wish, but he has the character and integrity to go out and butt heads with bad people when the city's cops settle in more comfortably behind their desks and wait for retirement to edge ever closer. Leo's an easy hero to bond with.

As for the rest of the little bookmarks and sticky notes I have reluctantly pulled from my still-new book's pages...why ruin it for you? It doesn't get much better than this. Find the quotes for yourself. You can order that book and it will be at your gates inside the week. But you can't have my copy. It's been claimed by another family member, even as I typed this review.

Bri Neal says

This was ok. Decent plot I guess. but It reminds me of one that would have been turned into an early 90's action flick.

Harvey says

Very glad Mr. Ford decided to continue this series after a large gap. This one was hard to find via library so I finally broke down and bought a used paperback.

Reconnecting with a (slightly) more mature Leo was fun and the gang is still there. Leo puts them in some tough spots but the good guys prevail.

Will definitely look for the next one.

David says

Really good to see Leo Waterman again, but saddened by one major retcon: Since when does Leo not use a gun?

Sam Bright says

Sometimes you want to read Dostoevsky and sometimes you want to read a 2-star detective novel. I wanted to read a 2-star detective novel. And it was a 5-star 2-star detective novel if that makes any sense. :)

Chad says

Was very interesting, took things in a different direction. But there is definitely a different voice behind the writing. Things were pretty still there; but there were missing elements, or changed elements all together. If you can look past some of the inaccuracies or change in certain scenes, its a good read. You might notice it

right off the bat, especially since the chapters are extremely long.

Brenda Mengeling says

Even though this is the seventh in the series, it is the first Leo Waterman mystery I'd read. That I hadn't read numbers 1-6 didn't seem to matter in the least. This was a fast-paced mystery that I read in just a couple of sittings. It focused on the characters and the action, and it didn't use any expository filler to make it longer. I think most mysteries, especially the more hard-boiled varieties, benefit from brevity, and I was very pleased with this book.

Leo was a very enjoyable character to get to know, and I look forward to reading more of this series.

Joan says

Ford is a new author to me. I thoroughly enjoyed his vocabulary and clever turn of phrase.

Janice says

Rebecca moved on and married another man, but now she's missing and her mother wants Leo to find her. A good plot, moves at a good pace, but not as much character interaction as some of his other books.
