



The Fourth Deadly Sin

Lawrence Sanders

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Lawrence Sanders's masterpieces, *The First Deadly Sin*, *The Second Deadly Sin*, and *The Third Deadly Sin* set a standard for today's novels of psychological suspense. Now, Sanders's hero, Captain Edward X. Delaney, returns to play mind games with a killer, and uncover the most shocking sin yet.

Author Biography: Lawrence Sanders, one of America's most popular novelists, was the author of more than twenty-two bestsellers.

The Fourth Deadly Sin Details

Date : Published February 12th 2013 by Open Road Media (first published 1985)

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Author : Lawrence Sanders

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From Reader Review The Fourth Deadly Sin for online ebook

J.C. Clark says

This older crime novel, published in 1985, still has it! Lawrence Sanders' writing, in particular the dialogue, is detailed, revealing and eloquent with a believable plot and resolution, which some of the more current crime writers lack. His seasoned detective, Edward X. Delaney, is well crafted and likable, down to his personal habits and love of sandwiches. It's also interesting to read how crimes were solved without all the current forensics, DNA and computer technology.

Dale says

A formula book with some redeeming features.

First things first. Lawrence Sanders wrote formulaic murder mysteries. *The Fourth Deadly Sin* one was also formulaic, but better than most of his stuff.

A New York psychologist gets murdered with a ball peen hammer in his own office and a dark and stormy night. A retired detective is pressed back into duty to lead an interesting team of detectives that is sorting through some of his patients, friends, employees and wife to try to figure out who did this dastardly crime...

Read more at: <http://dwdsreviews.blogspot.com/2010/...>

Janis Mills says

I liked his book but I do agree that it does not survive the passage of time. Mr Delaney's wife does not work. Hard for many to relate to that in this day and age. I also think that the author was fixated on sandwiches. I did find I was motivated to try a couple of the sandwiches and did not have the same dietary likes but again by the end of the story I was dying for a good sandwich from an authentic New York Deli -- not the pretend delis we have in Phoenix.

Dharia Scarab says

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more, But if I find another book by the

author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It had earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

Sue Coletta says

This is the 2nd book I've read (not the same author) that dragged endlessly. If I can't give a book at least 3 stars, I don't review. The storyline was good, the characters I enjoyed, but the book could have easily been cut by 100 pages and still made sense. For this reason, I rate it 3 stars.

Tim says

The fourth, and last, in the "Deadly Sin" series, "starring" Edward X. Delaney, now retired /Chief of Detectives (first introduced in "The Anderson Tapes"). These are fun whodunits, with the protagonist having the sobriquet "Iron Balls" for his dogged tenacity and brusque manner. He's been married to Monica, widow of a shooting victim Delaney investigated in the "First Deadly Sin," for some years now. She's his confidant and helpmate in solving these mysteries. We also have, from previous books, Ivor Thorsen, former boss, now Chief and enmeshed in a political nightmare; Jonas T. Jonas (Jonas Two), African-American Police sergeant and up for Detective; and Abner Boone, whom Delaney dragged up from an alcoholic lifestyle, now a detective. Familiar folks all.

So this book entails the brutal murder of a beloved psychiatrist (ball peen hammer), perhaps by one of his patients. His wife, a psychologist, as well as a close family friend, the head of the local psychiatric society, help Delaney and his merry crew pare down the list of possible suspects (those with some potential for violence, based on history) to six. The remainder of the book describes painstaking interview, observation and background checking of these patients and their relationships to the deceased psychiatrist, and the gradual unfolding of who is cleared, and who remains suspect. So we have a pretty diverse range of personalities and problems (a Vietnam vet, a recluse, a wife-beater, a family-beater, etc.), and it's also interesting to see the relationships between the Police workers and the suspects, some of them going beyond the professional.

While the book itself is fun and the ending is somewhat of a surprise (Oh, no, I'm not a-gonna give it away!), there were several issues I found disturbing as a psychologist; The above mentioned blurring of boundaries between Police and suspects was also intimated in the investigation of the psychiatrist and patients/colleagues/students, which is a continuing issue in "risk-management" seminars us therapist types attend on an annual basis. Equally disturbing, however, is the process described in this book of opening up patient files and backgrounds, and interrogating them, thereby violating all kinds of confidentiality strictures. Nonetheless, it's a murder investigation, so what's the greater good? Interesting ethical dilemmas.

Anyway, I'd certainly recommend this book, but I'd recommend reading the books in order, to get a fuller perspective on the main characters and their personalities and relationships.

Teresa Jones says

engaging read; great character development, sound story line

Carla says

Like many, I read this many years ago and remember thoroughly enjoying it. It was better than his others in the series imo and kept my attention until the end trying to figure out the killer. I don't think I got it right until close to the end, so that made it even a better read. I'd have to read it again, to see if my viewpoint is altered by progression of time, but I'd give it at least 3 stars even with a dated" feel to it.

Luis Minski says

Nos encontramos con una excelente novela policial, muy bien escrita, y con una notable caracterización de los personajes.

Cuando un afamado y adinerado psiquiatra es asesinado, ante la repercusión que tiene el caso, la policía recurre al antiguo jefe de detectives Edward Delaney – ya retirado - para que se haga cargo de la investigación.

Con un equipo de detectives especialmente designado, y en medio de presiones, e internas policíacas, lleva a cabo una minuciosa investigación sobre los hechos, y, sobre todo, sobre las personalidades de cada uno de los involucrados y posibles autores del crimen, atendiendo a que muchos de ellos eran pacientes de la víctima.

De esta forma, vamos recorriendo las páginas de este relato atrapante, escrito con magistral prosa, donde, a la sucesión de hechos y a la rutina del procedimiento policial, le agregamos una profunda descripción de los personajes, - tanto los investigadores como los investigados -, a los que vemos interactuar unos con otros, tanto en los interrogatorios como en sus relaciones personales y familiares; y, aunque se cae en ciertos estereotipos, los protagonistas se nos hacen creíbles, y muchos de ellos, queribles.

Recomiendo, entonces, la lectura de esta muy buena novela.

Don McCormick says

Very entertaining, filled with old fashion verbiage. A good mystery

Linda says

I haven't read Sanders for awhile but a client pushed this on me so I polished it off over the weekend. How things have changed. Sanders puts quotes around "task force" like it's a unique idea - and back then it was. And in the 80's, forensic science was in its infancy so the crime lab did not solve every murder. The best thing about this book is that it reminds readers of the hard work required to solve crimes; the questioning of

witnesses or suspects, the confirmation of every detail and the problem with assumptions. That effort is still often necessary today and, for that reason, I recommend the book.

Samah Rifla says

If you think you know who did it when you are in the middle of the book, well you're wrong! But once you reach the last pages, you will think that you were so stupid to know who killed the doctor. It was so obvious, yet it never occurred to me.

Everyone should read at least a book by Lawrence Sanders in their life. The guy's writing is like a melody to my eyes!

Mary says

Edward X. Delaney is a retired cop drawn into one last case: a New York psychiatrist is brutally murdered and there are six suspects - the psychiatrist's six patients. I have to say that I enjoyed this book. I used to read a lot of Lawrence Sanders but got out of the habit. Now, I'm back in the habit again and looking forward to reading more soon. I give it an A!

Benjamin Thomas says

Captain Edward X. Delaney, now retired NYPD Chief of Detectives, is asked by the current Chief to investigate a high-profile murder of a well-loved psychiatrist. That serves Delaney's purpose as well, which is to keep his mind engaged in such thought-requiring endeavors.

For the uninitiated, this series really puts the "procedural" in "police procedural". Capt Delaney is all about pounding the pavement, knocking on doors, double-checking alibis, interviewing and re-interviewing anybody and everybody who might have even the smallest tidbit of information to help him fill in the pieces of the puzzle. But due to the volume of work that all entails, in this novel, he knows he can't do it alone. And because he is retired and no longer carries a badge, he asks for assistance in the form of two active cops/detectives that have worked with him before. The trail leads to a narrowed-down list of six patients of the murdered psychiatrist and so six more cops get assigned to the task force, each one to concentrate specifically on a single patient. That ends up being a lot of characters to juggle in one novel but Sanders pulls it off admirably. It helps that Delaney, at several points in the book, writes summaries of the facts so far and the remaining open questions he has, which of course leads to further action for his task force.

I've never been a cop but I suspect many major crimes are solved in the same way these books suggest. Rarely is it the genius of the sleuth that deduces the method of the crime and the identity of the criminal(s) by out-thinking the criminal's attempts to get away with the perfect crime. Rather it is the relentless pursuit of every detail that yields results. And often, even then, there are no prosecutable results. Big city police departments never seem to have enough resources to spend so much time investigating a single murder so the author's choice to have his sleuth retired and able to spend all his time on the case works well.

The ending of this novel was bittersweet, not just because of the nature of the resolution of the case but for

the realization that this is the final novel in the series. I shall not only miss Capt Delaney's workmanlike approach to crime solving but also his penchant for creating mouthwatering sandwiches for himself and for his philosophical discussions with his wife on the nature of human behavior. Captain Edward X. Delaney remains one of my favorite literary characters.

Errol Mortland says

The Best Bubble Gum Ever!

If you're tired of streaming or cleaning for the moment and need to pass some time, you won't go wrong with the four Deadly Sins series from Lawrence Sanders. I zip through all of them every other year, in sequence. They're great reads, and I've always pictured George C. Scott as Edward X. Delaney (Frank Sinatra in the movie version of the First in pretty insipid, but apparently he owned the rights).

The Fourth is the murder is Dr Simon Ellerbee, you get the usual palette of suspects, and retired Chief of Detectives gets his crew and does his stuff. If Hemingway wrote crime suspense set in NYC, it'd be like this. I love short descriptive sentences. Not sure I recall seeing "ears like slabs of veal" in this one. If you love New York, Mr Sanders captures its essence like a great musical conductor. The "Sins" series is the best, followed by the "Commandments." The Arch McNally stuff which followed that is okay, even though they kept the series going after Mr Sanders died in 1998. I just find that disrespectful. I only regret there wasn't a Fifth Deadly Sin.
