



Potshot

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Reporter Jack McMorrow is enlisted by some harmless hippies to do a story on the legalization of marijuana. Instead, he finds himself in a confrontation with dangerous gangsters.

Potshot Details

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Author : Gerry Boyle

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From Reader Review Potshot for online ebook

Carol says

Language. I enjoy the Jack McMorrow series and this one didn't disappoint except the left out one very important character at the end in the wrap up - I'm not giving any hints who it is. I need to know what happens to every important character at the end. Oh well, I'll make up my own fairy tale ending - they lived happily ever after and the person became a famous....

Norma says

(Format : Audiobook)

"No questions, no answers, no nuthin' ."

A meeting at an agricultural show gives Jack McMorrow, freelance journalist, an idea for an article he could probably sell to the Boston Globe. An amiable, fast talking hippie type had approached him hoping that Jack would sign his petition to legalise cannabis in the county. Jack visits the man, Bobby, at his remote home, meeting other like minded people and being served home grown veggies and herbal tea. But when the man's wife phones him to say Bobby and his strange companion, Coyote, have gone missing, his simple story of the pros and cons of legalisation, starts to escalate into something so much more.

Written in the first person, the perspective is that of Jack's entirely, as he writes down his notes on the places and people he meets, trying to formulate his story for the paper, one which he has to constantly revise as the situation changes. It is a clever way to repeat, but still keep fresh, his ideas as the story moves forward. Conversations feel authentic, too, and the main characters are well drawn, giving them a life of their own. Additionally, there is a sub plot as social worker and lover, Roxanne, is involved in a case of two neglected children she is trying to take into care. The case for and against the right to grow a little cannabis legally is given as the story unfolds.

The book evolves with a gentle swiftness, action occurring along the way, until a very impressive and nerve tingling denouement, really cleverly scripted. Then, suddenly, it is over. A conclusion of Jack's article, as he finally submitted it, would have provided a more comprehensive ending, but it was not to be. Instead, the reader is left to assume what finally happens.

An engaging and enjoyable book made all the more pleasurable by the excellent narration of Michael A.Smith. He skilfully assumes the character of Jack McMorrow, another slick talker but sincere and, mostly, honest, who enjoys a teasing repartee with Roxanne. Mr.Smith's ability to give excellent and appropriate voicing to all of the other characters, both female as well as male, is also outstanding and this, combined with just occasional technical effects easily makes this at least a five star performance.

My thanks to the rights holder of Pot Shot, who, at my request, freely gifted me a complimentary copy of the book, via Audiobook Boom. It was a very enjoyable listen and completely stand alone. Recommended for an intriguing yet undemanding read whilst still posing some thought provoking ideas.

Jess says

Maine author...I like that he uses familiar places in his books and describes Lewiston, Portland, and "Prosperity" well. Makes for a quick mystery read.

Cindy White says

As always, Gerry Boyle did not dissappoint! I have read the first three books in his series and they all have been page turners from the very beginning!

LJ says

POTSHOT - VG

Boyle, Gerry - 4th in series

Jack thought he had stumbled into an easy free-lance news story for The Boston Globe. Bobby Mullaney and his wife, Melanie, are strange but amiable hippies running a marijuana legalization movement in rural Maine. Bobby's friend and sidekick Coyote is a disturbing tough-guy and, Jack suspects, a liar, yet the three of them have an interesting argument to make, so Jack begins unfolding their tale. But the story takes an ugly turn when Bobby and Coyote disappear and Melanie, unable to go to the police, turns to Jack for help. He follows a lead that takes him to Bobby's hometown, known for its murderous traffickers in the hard-core drug trade. No one has seen Bobby, but Coyote has, apparently, been asking questions. When Bobby's charred car turns up with a body burned beyond recognition inside, Jack must find out what happened between the two men, and exactly what kind of murder has taken place.

I have really become a fan of Boyle. The Maine setting is a favorite of mine and Boyle has a strong sense of place. Jack is an interesting protagonist with strong secondary characters. the story was well-plotted with good suspense and characters about which I cared.

Susan Emmet says

Good Boyle/Jack McMorrow mystery, as usual set in recognizable places in Maine.

The marijuana debate that's still fulminating...the choke of drugs and crime in rural and urban places...the strong characterization and sense of place and dialog...all good Boyle.

However, the end was too swift and convenient(and yet gripping) and a page or two was left out in the last two pages.

Thought alot about the role of good reporters and social workers. Alot.

Sherry says

Maine Reads book discussion group-Maine mystery writers and social issues- here the legalization of

marijuana, drugs vs alcohol, child neglect and abuse

Portland, Unity west of Farmington and North Into woods of Somerset County

4th of Jack McMurrow series

Girlfriend/social worker Roxanne

Ex marine Clair and Mary

Bobby and Melanie and her son Stephan

Coyote/Bernard Begosian

Jayne Elizabeth says

A town's personality is often important in the outcome of characters. I liked the discussion of tea drinks versus coffee drinks.. Will look at author's website. Plan to re-read book.
