



The Man Who Died Laughing

David Handler

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Hoagy and Lulu (his cat food-eating basset hound) find themselves in Hollywood, where Hoagy will be ghosting the memoirs of has-been funnyman Sonny Day. Sonny is the man who put the "ick" into "shtick." Sonny made silver screen history as half of Knight and Day, the comedy team who kept the '50s laughing. Now, Knight and Day are history and volatile Sonny is determined to get back into the limelight. He hopes his fiery, tell-all bio will do the trick, and he's counting on Hoagy for some pithy prose. But out there in La-La Land is someone who wants to kill the book, along with Sonny. And when the murderer finally strikes, the corpse points straight to Hoagy. Suddenly, ghostwriting isn't a living -- it could get Hoagy killed.

The Man Who Died Laughing Details

Date : Published June 26th 2012 by MysteriousPress.com/Open Road (first published 1988)

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Author : David Handler

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From Reader Review The Man Who Died Laughing for online ebook

Kim Gasparini says

I enjoy these. You know who is going to die, but the killer and the reasons are normally a surprise.

Cheryl Winter says

Kind of quirky

It took awhile to get into this book but finally story grabbed me and I liked the book. Easy mystery read.

Monica says

Really was just blah!

Bill says

I read this book years ago and remembered enjoying it and others in the series. Re-reading it now I found that I still enjoyed it (mostly because I love Hollywood and movie history) but found it somewhat predictable and light. But it was fun and I'll likely spend some more time with Hoagy and Lulu when I need a fun quick comfort read.

Randy says

After a very successful first book, author Stewart Hoag is asked to work with an old comedian on a story of his life, including the reason why he and his old partner split up. It turns out that there are many who want to find out what happened, but some who do not want the book to be written. While writing the book, "Hoagy" must also avoid danger and determine who killed Sonny Day.

I've read several other books in the Stewart Hoag series and enjoyed them, so I decided to read his first one. It doesn't have as many humorous parts as in others I read, but it's well written with several twists. I also enjoyed the interviews by Hoagy with Day and others and how Mr. Handler linked Sonny with many other real celebrities of the day.

Jazz says

3.5 STARS | This mystery was a re-read for me, having discovered it when it was first published in 1988. I

enjoyed it as much as the first around, even though I've likely grown as a mystery reader, and Handler has undoubtedly grown as a writer. Hoagy and Lulu, his basset hound, are a likable sleuthing pair. My only quibble was it took almost 3/4 of the book to get to a murder. There is a mystery before that, but it has more to do with threats and why the famous comedy pair of Knight and Day broke up. Much of the story is told in interview format conducted by Hoagy in his role as a ghostwriter, which makes it an easy read, but sometimes I missed a little more description. I look forward to re-reading the others.

Lauren Albert says

I thought this was very well done with the conclusion a surprise but one that made sense.

Mackey St says

RTC

Lynn Sykes says

I love David Handler books. This was a good one. Stewart Hoag, the main character, is delightful.

Natalie says

Enjoyed it enough to move on to book two - but not without some hesitancy - a unique set up that should give the reader a bit more humor but somehow tAkes itself too seriously to be very much fun.

Christine says

First in a series of murder mysteries about long-suffering ghost writer Stewart Hoag and inside story about ghost writers and the celebrities they write for. The characters are believable and the plot moves along at a brisk pace. I will read more in this series.

Kay Hudson says

I missed David Handler's Stewart Hoag mysteries completely when they were published in the 1980s. I picked up the first one, *The Man Who Died Laughing*, when it popped up on an ebook sale email recently (I get far too many of those). How could I resist a mystery starring a one-hit wonder writer conned into trying his hand at ghostwriting? Not to mention the basset hound, Lulu.

In *The Man Who Died Laughing*, Hoagy heads to California to ghostwrite the autobiography of famous comic Sonny Day. Much of Sonny's story comes out in the form of interview tapes, but he's reluctant to

answer the one question everyone asks—what caused the public fistfight which ended his partnership with straight man Gabe Knight. That question seems to be at the heart of a whole string of drastic events: death threats, vandalism, arson, and finally murder. Someone clearly does not want the answer to become public.

The book is set in the early 1980s, and many celebrities of the day wander in and out of the story (perhaps to assure the reader that Day and Knight are not based directly on any real people), lending considerable atmosphere to the setting. There's quite a bit of wry humor, but the mystery is a bit darker than I expected. Nevertheless, I thoroughly enjoyed it, and I have another (*The Woman Who Fell From Grace*) waiting on my Kindle. I'll be watching for others in the series.

RustyShack says

Excellent example of the genre. But...def something worryingly creepy in the way Wanda's story is told.

Conny says

I discovered this series the wrong way around, I read the last book first and liked it so much that I wanted to find out how Hoagy got started, and I am so glad I did. I liked the characters, especially Lulu, and the storyline, I can't wait to read the next book in the series. It had me guessing all the way until the end on who done it. With plenty of action, some romance and murder the book had me reading way passed my bedtime. David Handler has a fan in me for sure. Well written and very entertaining.

Les says

Really liked the plot. Being set in the 80s, the dialog and settings are a little dated, but the characters have depth, the story moves along at a good clip and the ending is really well done.
