



Booktaker

Bill Pronzini , Nick Sullivan (Narrator)

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The Nameless Detective is called upon to find out how rare books and maps are being stolen from an antiquarian bookshop with a faultless alarm system. He goes undercover in the store, only to be foiled when a theft occurs right under his nose. Then, as he ponders the case (while on a date with the lovely Kerry), he's violently struck from behind by a car that seems bent on driving him off the road. Will Nameless survive this attempt on his life and solve the case?

Murder anonymous: solve another case with the Nameless Detective.

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Booktaker Details

Date : Published June 1st 2011 by AudioGO (first published January 1st 1982)

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Author : Bill Pronzini , Nick Sullivan (Narrator)

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From Reader Review Booktaker for online ebook

Sharon Tyler says

The Booktaker written by Bill Pronzini, and read by Nick Sullivan is a mystery starring the Nameless Detective. I have not read or listened to anything by Pronzini before, so this was my first introduction to this Nameless Detective. In this story, he is hired to figure out how rare books and maps are being stolen from an antiquarian bookshop with a seamless security system. He goes undercover as an employee, but on his second day a theft occurs right under his nose. As he ponders the case (while on a date), he's violently struck from behind by a car that seems bent on driving him off the road. Will Nameless and Kerry survive this attempt on his life and solve the case?

When exploring a new author or series via audiobook the narrator is just as important as the quality of the writing. I have to say that Sullivan's tone and inflections were a perfect match to the hard boiled detective feel of The Booktaker. I loved the atmosphere and description of our detective, his world, and his love interest (Kerry). I really liked that while Kerry did play a part in the story, the relationship di

d not overpower the puzzle offered by the mystery that needed solving. I listened to the story while in my car, and often found myself treating the entire story like a puzzle- something I needed to study closely somehow knowing it would be a detail that would be easily overlooked that would trigger the solution. I am glad to say that that was quite true, and that I had a different answer than our detective- so the final conclusion was a surprise. The combination of deep thought and tense action felt just about perfect to me.

The Booktaker is a great example of a hard-boiled detective story that will inspire mystery fans to get lost in the mystery. Readers that like to solve puzzles and actually have to work a bit to find the answer will enjoy the story. On the other hand, readers that really like to know a character might be bothered that we do not get too incredibly deep into who our detective is- but I think we do learn enough about him to make him a viable person. He is not flat, despite the lack of detail about his life.

Ian says

This is one of Bill Pronzini's 'Nameless Detective' mystery short stories.

The main character (the Nameless Detective), is not a youngster, but a man in the prime of his life at 53. He reminds me of the modern-day version of Mike Hammer.

This short story is about a thief who is managing to get into a locked room and steal books and later maps from an antiquarian book shop.

I found it an entertaining, well written and plotted mystery. Leaving you wanting to read more of the Nameless Detective novels.

Very well narrated by Nick Sullivan.

I have listened to this novella twice since I downloaded it, and enjoyed it both times.

This was, and still is a 'Freebie' on Amazon and Audible. So why not give it a try?

If you like the review and would like to read my other reviews on books I have read, visit my blog at www.finalchapterreadersgroup.wordpress..... like, comment and follow.

Phil says

I Thoroughly Enjoyed Listening To This Audio Book, It Kept My Interest The Whole Time. I Highly Recommend This Book To Anyone Who Enjoys Books About Books And Or Mysteries!

Char says

This was a cute crime noir type of mystery. The narrator's voice was a perfect match for this type of story and I enjoyed it immensely.

Natira says

Vorweg:

Ich habe bislang keine klassischen hardboiled-Krimis gelesen und kann daher nicht sagen, wie "nahe" Bill Prozini ihnen mit seiner Serie um den namenlosen Detektiv kommt. Und von Bill Prozini hatte ich vor Download dieses audible-free-books auch noch nichts gehört. ;)

Der Protagonist und Ich-Erzähler ist ein namenloser Privatermittler. Er hat zu Beginn der Story ein neues Büro, liebt pulp, also hardboiled-detective-stories, und ist heilfroh, dass ein Antiquar (also keine blonde mysteriöse Frau) ihm einen Job anträgt. So muss unser PI wenigstens nicht die Wände anstarren und sich langweilen, bis er seine Freundin, die in ihrem Schreibjob Überstunden machen muss, wiedersehen kann. Aus dem riesigen Buchladen seines neuen Kunden wurden wertvolle Bücher und Drucke gestohlen trotz diverser Sicherungsmaßnahmen. Also wird der PI als weitere Hilfe eingestellt und nimmt seine Ermittlungen auf.

We bereits gesagt, weiß ich nicht, ob sie klassischen Mustern von hardboiled-detective-stories entspricht (ich habe nur vage Vorstellungen von letzteren, musste aber wegen der Stimmung in der Story und den dort auftauchenden Namen und Referenzen immer wieder an diese Art Detektivgeschichten denken) oder ob die Reihe um den namenlosen PI insofern "eigenständig" ist. An den Sprecher Nick Sullivan und sein breites amerikanisches Englisch musste ich mich erst gewöhnen; er variiert stimmlich und im Dialekt, um seine Freundin und der übrigen Beteiligten zu interpretieren, was für mich recht gut funktionierte - okay, es ist selten überzeugend, wenn ein männlicher Sprecher versucht, einen weiblichen Charakter durch Anhebung der Stimme etc. darzustellen. ;) Ich fand die Story jedenfalls ganz unterhaltsam und den namenlosen Detektiv, ja, sympathisch.

ps

Wie ich im Internet gerade recherchiert habe, hatte Bill Prozini bis 2013 in dieser Serie 42 Romane geschrieben (neben anderen Romanen, Kurzgeschichten etc.). "The Booktaker" war in der Wiki nicht separat gelistet, es dürfte sich also um eine Kurzgeschichte handeln, die in einer Sammlung erschienen ist.

Matthew Vincent says

Great read! this is a fun old school detective story, no sex or violence. A true film noir on paper

Kevin says

Does it bug anyone else when you listen to an audiobook and get credit for reading only 2 pages? :)

USS says

Read this on a recommendation from a friend. A first rate "locked room mystery" with some really campy moments. This author should be more known, I thoroughly enjoyed every page. Found in the Locked Room Puzzles anthology edited by Martin H. Greenberg and Bill Pronzini, ISBN: 0-89733-225-3. Recommended to me, and now recommending it to other readers and enthusiasts of the locked room mystery genre.

Kevin says

I loved this short audio book

The narrator's efforts made this totally realistic and believable

Worthy of 5*

Col says

Synopsis/blurb.....

The Nameless Detective is called upon to find out how rare books and maps are being stolen from an antiquarian bookshop with a faultless alarm system. He goes undercover in the store, only to be foiled when a theft occurs right under his nose. Then, as he ponders the case (while on a date with the lovely Kerry), he's violently struck from behind by a car that seems bent on driving him off the road. Will Nameless survive this attempt on his life and solve the case?

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My take.....

My first audio-book ever and a bit of spooky synchronicity. I was doing a chore or two around the house and it would have been impractical, nay on impossible to complete with a book in one hand, so having spotted this earlier in the month as a free audible download on Amazon, it was a case of kill two birds with the one

stone.

By good fortune events in Booktaker take place several weeks after Nameless' last case Hoodwink, which I only read a fortnight ago. (Booktaker in print is part of the Casefile collection of short stories which was the 11th or 12th release in the series, so something I'll be seeing again in a few month's time!)

A new experience for me then and an enjoyable one as the narration is quite smooth and soothing. Nick Sullivan is the voice. I can't say that the face or name or even the voice is immediately familiar, but looking at his website – he has added his dulcet tones to many a recognisable book.

Anyway back to the case at hand and Nameless is engaged by antiquarian book seller in order to discover who among his staff is responsible for the recent glut of theft of valuable maps from his store. Nameless, bored and alone as new-found love Kerry is working out of town for a few days, takes the case and starts work in the store as a new clerk.

With a staff of four, Nameless tries to get close to all of the employees with limited success. When another map goes missing, this time when Kerry is in store book browsing, the owner's patience is severely tested. An employee quits in disgust at being requested to submit to a body-search and the rest of the staff aren't carrying the map on their person.

A frustrated Nameless is on his way to dinner with Kerry an hour or two later, when a chance remark from her sets his brain cogs turning and the solution is at hand. Before its revealed our love-struck pair are nearly run of the road by a motorist. More than coincidence, as our book thief has realised the mistake he's made and is endeavouring to take murderous retribution before he's exposed.

127 minutes long and an enjoyable encounter.

4 from 5

Audible freebie from Amazon UK.

Listened to in August, 2015

<http://col2910.blogspot.co.uk/2015/09...>

Libby says

Short story about a nameless detective who investigates a bookstore where valuable maps and prints have been stolen. This is old school detective fiction, beginning, "It was a Thursday afternoon in late May and it was gloomy and raining outside." I'm interested in bibliomysteries, mainly because I learn about rare books and bookselling. This one fell a little short in that regard, but was a fun read.

Michael says

Very pleasing freebie audio download featuring Bill Pronzini's Nameless detective. It runs for about 90

minutes and is ably narrated by Nick Sullivan who really nails Nameless's personality. Being a short story the character introduces himself more thoroughly than he does in his full length appearances. I'm sure many people discover great series by a chance encounters with stories like this. He compares himself to actor Richard Boone, which was probably a more useful comparison when this story first saw print in the early 80s. He admits to being a bit of a slob. 'To hell with health clubs and to hell with my belly.' he says... or words to that effect.

For fans of the series the continuity places Booktaker a short time after Hoodwink. Nameless is in the happy period of his relationship with Kerry Wade, some time before Scattershot blew all the happiness to the wind. The story revolves around some mystery thefts at a store dealing in rare books. Nameless is hired by the baffled owner to discover the thief. It's just great to be in the company of one of my favourite private eyes doing everything that he loves best; solving puzzling crimes, reading his beloved pulp mags, eating, drinking cold beer and snuggling with Kerry in front of a roaring fire.

Faelynn says

this was a good book just not as long as I would have liked it to be.

Susan says

Strange how the *old fashioned* way of living pre-cellphones, pre-google, pre-everything online seems so, so, so, jarringly odd! In this short detective story, our hero - who shall remain nameless - takes notes on paper, files them into manila folders, has to go to the room in his flat where the telephone is in order to take a call, has to ask his buddy at the police station to "run a background check" and calls another buddy at a real estate leasing office to pull the suspects' credit files. And then he has to wait hours until they get back to him with the results.

Oh, and the telephone that's in the other room, came from the Phone Company and is a garish yellow color! I HAVE that phone - don't use it, has a rotary dial, but it's garish yellow and came from the phone company. (Note to self, must clean up clutter and get rid of misc. junk).

So I had the uncanny feeling of listening to some *old* story that just didn't really ... I don't know... weird. But. Aside from that!

It was a diverting mystery, and the narration was superb - Audiobook format - I may be tempted to seek out other volumes of the series this is from, but I can't give the overall book/audiobook more than 3 stars. I liked it, loved the narration, but it was just enough jarringly odd in the anachronistic features to throw me off. (Better if he had been time travelling to the 70's, then it would have been way cool).

Trisha says

This are fun novellas, looking forward to more!
