



Good Junk

Ed Kovacs

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Cliff St. James returns to a Post-Katrina New Orleans to take on another case in Ed Kovacs' *Good Junk*, this wonderful action-packed follow-up to *Storm Damage*

While wrestling with guilt over having accidentally killed a mixed martial arts opponent in a sparring session, private detective Cliff St. James returns to New Orleans and finds himself assisting the police in an investigation of the murder of a U.S. government "black projects" engineer. St. James quickly uncovers "The Buyers Club," a murky network of seedy arms dealers and foreign intelligence agents purchasing state-of-the-art weaponry and high technology, perhaps abetted by elements of the U.S. government. As members of the Buyers Club start turning up dead, St. James fights for his life and sanity as he struggles to solve the murders and undermine a treacherous espionage conspiracy.

Good Junk Details

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Author : Ed Kovacs

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From Reader Review Good Junk for online ebook

Jayw says

Police consultant Cliff St James breaks all the rules but gets results when he is called in to investigate the murder of 2 black project arms dealers in post hurricane New Orleans.

Ron Gilmette says

Good potboiler. Nice action packed read.

Charles says

A really fascinating novel, with a lot of genuine narrative elements that capture the chaos of crime and policing in New Orleans. I wish I had taken care to read Storm Damage before this one, the second novel in the series. But Kovacs does a great job in keeping the reader filled in on what preceded, and why certain recurring characters continue to be important.

Ed Kovacs says

A good, fast, fun read with lots of twists. It got a rave review from Publisher's Weekly. But, yes, I am biased!

Del says

Another good read by Kovacs.

Jason says

I thought, as a whole, this book definitely qualifies as a GOODREAD! I'll admit my expectations weren't high. The premise of the novel was interesting. But, having never read any of Kovacs material; I was not expecting to become attached to the story so easily. A few of the characters names I found sort of goofy. Which isn't a deal breaker, but does effect how you visualize them. Honestly, Cliff (the protagonist) is a slightly messed-up man; he's smart, tough, a bit unorthodox, into gadgets, and down right likeable! Him and Decon made the book. The story is fun, witty, laid-back and clever. So, ask me if I'd recommend this particular book...and, without a doubt, I'd say YES!

Harry Lane says

Got this book as a Goodreads First Read. Hard boiled and noir, and set in post-Katrina New Orleans, this is about as gritty as it gets. We have murder, mayhem, espionage, DARPA level weaponry, gadgets out the kazoo...and, oh yes, a little romance sprinkled on the icing on the cake. Worth reading.

Gloria Feit says

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina [usually just referred to as The Storm in New Orleans, Louisiana], Cliff St. James had become the most sought-after private investigator in the city. He has an extensive c.v.: Formerly with the police department, from which he had resigned, he has most recently been running a dojo in the Lower Garden District where he teaches mixed martial arts. As the book opens, it is one year after The Storm. Cliff's life has been totally upended when he accidentally killed a 20-year-old man in a sparring session in his fight-cage ring.

He is pulled out of his quagmire of self-imposed isolation and back into the real world when a NOPD homicide detective improbably named Honey Baybee, with whom he has a long and so-far platonic relationship, asks for his help in her investigation of what appears to be a murder/suicide, with the blessing of the NOPD, as an unpaid consultant attached to the Homicide Section. What they uncover is a rather bizarre mix of arms smuggling, possible espionage, several additional murders [including a close call for our hero], with a cast of characters that comes to include several members of several branches of State and Federal law enforcement, almost too many for this reader to follow.

The author knows whereof he speaks, on several different levels: He worked for many years as a private security contractor, including in New Orleans after The Storm, and is a member of the Association for Intelligence Officers. He paints a graphic portrait of the area: ". . . the ravaged city suffering from fractured infrastructure, decades of corrupt neglect, and the mostly laissez-faire attitude of a citizenry that tolerated it all." His most indelible portrait, however, is of a man both mysterious and enigmatic and, possibly, a charlatan, who goes by the name, among others, of "Decon." The complexities of the plot were a bit much at times, but the book comes to an exciting conclusion, and in the end I came under the spell of Cliff St. James. Recommended.

Esther Somorai says

Advance Reading Copy

I won this book through Goodreads, first-reads giveaway. Thank you.

The story was interesting, exciting and kept me reading and turning pages in some places. There are other parts of the story that didn't really grab and hold my interest so much. I did like the subject of which this story is based. I found no fault with the characters--they are what they are. A plus, minimal use of profanity. I'm sure you can relate to some of the things happening within this story.

Krystin says

I won book this in a goodreads giveaway.

Ok. First im wondering if I should have read the book Storm Damage first, because I had no idea this was not the first book in the series. I may have to go back, read that one and maybe it will change my opinion on this book.

While this book in noway was bad, it lacked that "something" that kept me interested. It was edgy and bit dark and I like that in a book. I liked Cliff, but that was all it was. The book was very middle ground for me. Nothing stood out but nothing was awful. Hard to review really.

Otherwise, good writing and I like the Post-Katrina setting.

Tatiana says

I liked the first in the series, a lot. The second has a slower beginning with a hard to believe super hero who spends time explaining all his gadgets instead of using them, but it picked up by the middle.

Michael Phillips says

The follow-up to Storm Damage is good, not great. Cliff St. James returns, getting thrown into a an arms-dealing murder mess. Like before, there are many people in the shadows, all with their own motives and reasons for Cliff to be involved.

But where Storm Damage was fresh, Good Junk feels a little bit of a retread. It's enjoyable but plodding at times. Decon comes to be a very rewarding character and one that could have been explored a bit more. The ending provides some satisfaction and a few twists. Worth reading if you liked Storm Damage.

Theresa says

Set in post Katrina New Orleans private detective Cliff St. James is a consultant with NOPD on a murder case that may or may not involve illegal arms dealing. The story is a road map of New Orleans as the action takes place all over the city, St. James use of spy gadgets would make 007 proud. St James goes after the bad guys while dealing with his own personal problem and finds a enough variety of spies from around the world to make a gumbo. Their are more murders and more government involvement than St. James thought possible as he goes after the answers. Good mystery.
