



## Morons and Madmen

*Earl Emerson*

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## **Morons and Madmen** Earl Emerson

Third in the critically acclaimed and commercially successful Fontana series. When a suspicious fire leaves three firefighters dead, Chief Mac Fontana is called in to investigate nasty rumors that have begun to surface about the sole survivor. The Fontana series has been optioned for TV and film by Stephen J. Cannell.

## **Morons and Madmen Details**

Date : Published July 7th 1994 by Avon Books (first published 1993)

ISBN : 9780380720750

Author : Earl Emerson

Format : Paperback 245 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

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## From Reader Review Morons and Madmen for online ebook

### T says

Found this at Half Price Books, autographed!

Been a long time since I read an E.Emerson, but enjoy them because he is a local author and it's fun to visualize the places he describes.

This is a tale of a fire chief who is doing an independent review of an incident where 3 firemen lost their lives. It's reminiscent of the Pang warehouse fire in Seattle, in terms of geographic location and the loss of lives, but in this case, a female firefighter is being blamed for the deaths of her coworkers in an effort to discredit the role of women firefighters.

Looking forward to reading a couple more that I found at Half Price books the same day, what a treat!

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### LJ says

MORONS and MADMEN - Good  
Emerson, Earl - 3rd in Mac Fontana series

Emerson's third installment of his critically lauded mystery series featuring sleuthing fire fighter Mac Fontana. When a suspicious fire leaves three Seattle fire fighters dead, Chief Mac is called in to investigate the nasty rumors surrounding the sole survivor, Diane Cooper.

It was good, but I still like the Thomas Black series better.

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### Wanda says

Interesting mystery dealing with confusion at a fire scene and the resulting accusations against one firefighter after the report came out. Several other firefighters died and the one left alive was blamed. Eventually it was found out that others were to blame and there was a lot of incompetence involved. To keep the real criminals from being uncovered they started trying to kill off witness and exact revenge for what was perceived as prejudicial actions against them. Lots of inside info on the workings of a firefighter and the fire department.

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### Jeff Dickison says

Good adventure tale concerning a fire in Seattle that leads to three deaths. When investigated by Mac Fontana he finds it involves murder, arson, sexism, racism, terrorism and just general stupidity. Recommended! Good series.

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## **Dale Rosso says**

Good read, makes me want more.

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## **Kay says**

Among my lesser favorites by Emerson; overly wordy and convoluted, a bit too much on the surface--same basic Emerson plot=incompetents cause deaths in a firefight--here the added fillip of prejudice against women and minorities is this book's signature. Still, much more blah than many of better books by him.

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## **aPriL does feral sometimes says**

This is a brilliant series. It's clever, it's literary in my opinion, I got so involved I forgot who I am. Mac, I'll be number 27.

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## **MaryAlice says**

I remember loving Black Hearts and Slow Dancing (the first Mac Montana book) when I read it in the 80's. So I was excited to see this in a used bookstore on a trip to Oregon. For like \$1. The story was fine. And the writing is better than average - but the sexism (women as objects with breasts and legs and not much else) was really hard to stomach. The copyright on this is 1993.....were we really so blind as recently as that? I think I will just remember that I liked Black Hearts and not go back and re-read it to see if I still do.

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## **Ed says**

#3 in the Mac Fontana series. This entry was nominated for the 1994 Anthony award. Mac Fontana is a firefighter from a large Eastern city who has come to Staircase, WA, a small town to the east of Seattle, as firechief. Author Earl Emerson adds authenticity to his tales of firefighting being a long time Lieutenant with the Seattle Fire Department.

Mac Fontana series - Four firefighters--three men and one woman--walked into a suspicious Seattle blaze. Only one walked out. And now she must pay the price ... for surviving. Staircase, Washington, Fire Chief Mac Fontana knows what it's like to live when the other members of your team die in smoke and flames. Which is why he agrees to help clear the name of a female Seattle firefighter accused of cowardice--and end the threats, hostility and harassment that have made her life at the firehouse a daily hell. But Mac's investigation is stirring up much more than just the cold ashes of a suspect downtown conflagration.

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## **Dianna Shimizu says**

A fun mystery with lots of action and humor. I really like the way he writes.

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