



Bosstown

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Zesty Meyers is Boston's fastest bike messenger caffeine fueled, wise-cracking and reckless accustomed to hurtling through Boston's kamikaze streets at breakneck speed, always just a bumper or car door away from disaster.

Will Meyers is Zesty's father, Beantown's former backroom poker king and political fixer, who is suffering from Alzheimer's and a growing dread that the Big Dig carving its way through some of Boston's toughest neighborhoods will expose the bodies and secrets he'd assumed were buried forever.

When the heist of an armored truck goes violently wrong, Zesty is forced to navigate Beantown's gritty underworld of gangsters and blood money, desperately trying to outrace his family's criminal past and stay alive in a changing city where death loiters on every corner and the odds of survival have narrowed to pulling a straight flush on the river.

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Bosstown Details

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Author : Adam Abramowitz

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From Reader Review Bosstown for online ebook

Steve says

I happened to be fortunate enough to obtain an ARC from the publisher. I had no knowledge of the writer, but boy am I happy to have had the opportunity to read this fun, hip, and rocking novel.

Nobody compares to Parker, but at times I felt that I was reading a Spenser novel. There is snappy, humorous dialog and cool music. I liked the Boston local because it reminded me of being there a few years ago. There is also Zesty, our hero and protagonist in this cool escapade.

The writer knows his craft and he shares it with us willingly. My hope is that there is another book on its way. Believe me- we will all be better for it.

James Thane says

In the tradition of great Boston crime novels by people like Robert B. Parker, Dennis Lehane, et al., now comes *Bosstown*, the debut novel from Adam Abramowitz. The main protagonist is Zesty Myers who is, by his own admission, Boston's fastest bike messenger. The only thing faster than Zesty's bike is his mouth. He's a major smart-ass, even in circumstances when he should know well enough to stay quiet.

Zesty's father, Will, once ran heavy-duty backroom poker games and was a major behind-the-scenes Boston political fixer. But Will is now old, suffering from Alzheimer's, and in need of constant care. Zesty's brother, Zero, runs a moving service that employs a lot of ex-cons, and their mother, Diane, was a former radical bombmaker, who disappeared years earlier after allegedly helping to rob a bank.

All in all, it's quite the family, and this is quite the story, involving crimes that span two generations. The novel kicks off when Zesty agrees to substitute for another courier and picks up a package from a record producer's office. But as Zesty races to deliver the package, he's blindsided by a Buick. He and his package go flying; the package bursts open, and all of a sudden, \$20,000 in currency is flying through the air.

Passers-by quickly scoop up most of the dough and run off with it, but the cops arrive and it quickly becomes apparent that the remaining money was part of a major bank heist a few days earlier. Zesty soon finds himself in the middle of a huge and dangerous mess, involving sex, drugs, rock and roll, and two major bank robberies that are separated by nearly forty years.

It's a great ride, funny, scary, and compelling, and the reader finds him or herself racing through the pages of this novel at the speed of Zesty's messenger bike, careening through the streets of Beantown. I loved the Zesty Meyers character, and all of the supporting characters are very well drawn and interesting too. Abramowitz has a great voice, and I eagerly await his second novel. 4.5 stars for this one.

Mark says

A lot of good things going for this book, but I also found it bit difficult to follow at times. Zesty Meyers is bike messenger in Boston who picks up a package at a recording studio and gets promptly run down by a car. The package bursts open, scattering money everywhere; money that is apparently from a recent armored car robbery. Homicide detectives are suddenly hot on his trail. Meanwhile, we learn of Zesty's background. His

father Will was a poker shark and political fixer, connected to an assortment of crime bosses back in the day. Zesty's mother was an activist, and set off more than a few bombs back in her day. Will is suffering the effects of Alzheimer's, and his sections of the book are written in italic, to differentiate from the main story. It becomes apparent to the reader that there may be a connection between the recent events and Will's past.

The story is told in a modern, rapid fire style that reminded me of the recent movie Baby Driver. A good strategy by the author, but several times I was a little confused, and felt that certain plot elements needed a little more explanation. The Boston settings are described in great detail and should appeal to anyone that knows the city (although like Lehane's Kenzie-Gennaro novels, Boston is often portrayed as pretty scary and crime-ridden). Overall, this book is worth checking out.

Dale says

Bosstown is the explosion of an extraordinary new talent, a debut novel that rocks the reader in all the right ways. The heart of it is the detailed Boston love letter, like the work of Dennis Lehane, Robert B. Parker, and Ray Daniel, but it's grittier, streetwise, and pumped with the power of rock and roll. It's an adrenaline rush from start to finish, with hard smacks of action and a chemical-fueled undertone. The dialogue and frenetic pace are razor-edged and brilliant, never slowing, like a caffeinated bike messenger delivering a critical package of literature to you, as the one absorbing all of this. Put on your helmet and prepare for a heart-pumping ride you won't forget, and watch for the surprises and twists waiting for you like suddenly-opening parked car doors.

Susan says

Zesty is just trying to live his life as a bike messenger. While he is aware of the history that he carries with him (bank robber mother on the lamb, father who was active in criminal activities, and a brother who runs a questionable moving company) Zesty doesn't let it get in the way of his speedy job and kick back lifestyle. Except this world won't let him lose and when he mistakenly takes a fellow messenger's job, Zesty is thrown into the middle of a bank robbery and history coming back to settle several scores. Sometimes the writing seems scattered, but in the end all the various lines come together to form a compelling story that includes several surprising story lines including Alzheimers and adoption.

A copy of this book was provided by NetGalley and St. Martin's Press in exchange for an honest review.

K says

This book was a bit of a conundrum for me. A great plot, featuring a very engaging protagonist, one Zesty Meyers, who apparently is Boston's fastest bike messenger and world-class wise-ass. He's also got a way of charming female receptionists with whom he regularly interacts in his job. That is, until a package he picks up turns out to be filled with \$25K of ill-gotten gains, and the chaotic and complicated plot accelerates from there.

The problem for me was Abramowitz's writing style. I just found it over the top and difficult to wade through. Sometimes, less is more, and authors who go to extraordinary lengths to describe a scene or person, using 20 words when 3 would suffice, drive me a little nuts. There are times when the author's elaborate way

with words is downright beautiful, and at first, I was excited to read more. But as the pages and story wore on, I began to wear out. It seemed like work getting through some of his descriptions and I felt distracted from the plot.

Also, the alternating POV between Zesty and what's happening to him, and his dementia-disabled dad's memories often caused me some confusion. Perhaps it was just me, but these little time-swaps occasionally clouded, rather than enlightened the storyline.

In all, it's a great plot stuck in good, but not great book. A 3 star rating that could have been higher with, in my opinion, better editing or somewhat different writing style. But, for others, it might be just perfect. If you love Boston or are familiar with it at all, you'll probably have a great ride along with Zesty. Just be sure to wear your bike-helmet.

Truman32 says

"We don't need another hero" Tina Turner warbles over the opening credits of '80's masterpiece **Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome**. And this is obviously true; we really don't necessitate another hero. We just want life beyond Thunderdome. Still, after reading Adam Abramowitz's **Bosstown**, readers will be more than agreeable to his new hero, bike messenger Zesty Meyers.

Now it is well known that bike messengers hold a celebrated and dear place in the American mythos. These dashing young heroes have won the hearts of many young children and single women throughout the years with their feats of bravery, crime-fighting skills, and courteous (yet speedy) courier service. We have Kevin Bacon's stirring turn as former Wall Street broker turned bike messenger Jack Casey saving poor Jami Gertz from a malevolent gang in the stunning motion picture **Quicksilver**. And who can forget the premium rush you had the first time you watched Wilee (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), the disenchanted Columbia law grad battling Chinese loan sharks between quick drop offs in the excellent and aptly titled film **Premium Rush**? The fact that Marky Ramone, Wu Tang's GZA, Henry Miller, and Jenifer Aniston have all performed their civic duty as bike couriers make them even more dear and beloved in our current lexicon. Bike messengers have built this glorious country with their cycling skill, dashing speed and spandex shorts that leave absolutely nothing to the imagination. So it's a no-brainer that one would make a marvelous hero in a mystery novel.

Bosstown is surprisingly not about a neighborhood consisting solely of managers, supervisors, and other leaders performing organizational tasks and strategizing on how to increase the bottom line. Instead Abramowitz's tale revolves around intrepid bike messenger, Zesty Meyers as he navigates through the dangerous and bloody streets of Boston. While performing a special delivery, Zesty is struck by a speeding Buick. As he slumps bleeding and in agony to the hot asphalt, he sees that his delivery package has split open--\$50k in hot cash from a recent Wells Fargo bank heist litters the highway. Zesty will need to drill down to see where this money came from. The cops think he knows more than he's telling, and bizarrely the evidence he uncovers seem to point back to his father's past. Dad was an old-time Boston poker player and political fixer working for notorious mob boss Devlin McKenna (a stand-in for Whitey Bulger) but now struggles with the effects from Alzheimer's. Dangerous types emerge from all shadows and they demand answers. Soon Zesty is speeding downhill without breaks to uncover the truth before he is forced to take a two-wheeled trip to the graveyard!

There is a lot to like in this debut. It takes place in Boston. The characters are engaging and the incessant action is gripping. The backstory is absorbing and the mystery difficult to crack. Abramowitz is a strong writer, and while it is apparent he loves bending words and performing fancy tricks with his grammar, his

wordplay gymnastics only occasionally take away from the drama of the story.

Yes, maybe Tina Turner, the Queen of Rock, doesn't need another hero, though let's be honest—those dystopian feral kids definitely needed another hero to defeat Master Blaster in the gladiatorial cage of Thunderdome and help them escape the clutches of crooked Aunty Entity from Bartertown, but I digress. Anyone who relishes a compelling and dramatic story will welcome **Bosstown** and it's hero Zesty Meyers.

Fayola says

Finally, a Boston crime novel that captures the city in all its rock and roll glory! Zesty Meyers is Boston's fastest bike messenger, wired to the gills on coffee and weed, a trash-talking noir tinged slacker trying to survive in a city that's as alive as any other character in this fast-paced thriller. This book offers a different view of Boston, blurred by speed, danger and beating with a rock and roll heart. Abramowitz gets it! I already ordered a copy of the sequel "A Town Called Malice" (and I'm hoping somebody makes Bosstown into a show sooner rather than later).

Kaye says

Extremely hip urban noir with fast pace and electric dialogue. Alternative music presence so strong it was like a full character. Kept asking myself as I read: Is this a 21st-century, east-coast heir to Elmore Leonard? By the end, though, I missed the heart that always populated Leonard's books. This is glib, facile and ultra-ironic with a glittery surface and no depth. (I was provided a free reader's copy in exchange for a candid review.)

Ed says

In Boston's "Big Dig" era, Zesty Meyers bills himself as the fastest bike messenger in the city. He's also an incredibly entertaining protagonist who rides the city armed with a sarcastic wit investigating who ran him down with a Buick and why. This is a very funny and very literate debut mystery by a seriously talented author who has recreated a time in Boston's somewhat shady history before the "Big Dig" urban renewal made the city safe for wealthy Yuppie arrivals. Interestingly, the urban renewal Zesty battles has actually been so successful that traffic now, in and around Boston, is worse than before the 14 billion dollar public works project was completed in the 1990's. Unfortunately, Boston now sports Los Angeles style gridlock and out of sight rents, parking, cocktails, etc. but I digress. This book is notable for its plot complexity, characters that leap off the pages and razor sharp dialogue. I hope I have just read the future of crime fiction while I wait patiently for the next book by Mr. Abramowitz who is so talented that, if he recopies the phone book, I'm buying it!

Blake Voss says

I was lucky to get my hands on an advance copy of this fun and fast thriller that brings to mind some other great Boston crime writers like Dennis Lehane and Robert Parker. If you've ever spent any time in Boston or

been a fan of the great local music that came out of the Boston scene in the last four decades, this story will bring you right back to the heart of it. It's fast paced, funny, and you can practically hear the music. Sly, humorous, with sharp dialogue and colorful descriptions, this book rocks.

Kathleen Gray says

This is a page turning thriller with a good "hero" in Zesty, who is more than you expect. The Boston setting is fun and the alternative music scene added quite a bit to what could have been a fairly conventional caper novel. Abramowitz is talented with dialogue (snappy!). and his plotting is precise; this one doesn't wander. Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC. Try this for a different take on a kid dealing with his father's messes, up to and including organized crime and politicians.

Kim says

Life for Boston bike messenger Zesty Meyer is a long line of deliveries and witty one-liners fueled alternately by copious amounts of caffeine and pot. When he agrees to pick up a delivery at another messenger's account, he doesn't realize the mess he is getting himself into. A simple pick up and a bit of flirtation with the vanilla vampire at Black Vinyl Records turns into a collision with a gold Buick, a cascade of twenty-dollar bills on Boylston Street, and numerous lacerations and contusions. Next thing he knows, he is in the hospital being quizzed by a couple of Boston homicide detectives about an armored car heist, a dead guard, and his brother's moving company. Zesty knows his brother Zero is no Boy Scout, but he draws the line at murder. When the detectives ask about his long-missing mother and former fixer father, Zesty knows there is much more to their investigation than they are saying. In typical Zesty fashion, he checks himself out of the hospital, collects his second-best bike, and sets out to learn what a record label, drug dealers, and old news Boston mobsters have to do with his father, who doesn't remember much thanks to the Alzheimer's eating away at his brain, and his mother, who disappeared when Zesty was just a boy. Bosstown is the debut novel by Adam Abramowitz, and a fast-paced ride through Boston's most interesting neighborhoods filled with flamboyant characters, colorful language reminiscent of Robert B. Parker and Dennis Lehane.

Don Gorman says

(2 1/2). How can you not be immediately drawn in by a book where the protagonist's name is Zesty? This book is about as hip and cool as the name. With a wonderful Boston background this story is a little bit all over the place and deals with past, present and future, but keeps you turning pages all the way. A couple of mildly confusing situations keep you trying to figure things out but the interaction of a whole raft of crazy characters really makes this one spin. A nice read.

Terry Pearson says

I was fortunate enough to receive an arc from the publisher in exchange for my home nest review.

This is my first Adam Abramowitz novel. I hear he has others.

This book is loaded with:

Humor

Great selection of music

Scenic Boston (descriptive, which was nice considering I've never been to Boston)

What more day you need?

Unlike any other thriller I've read, this one isn't all bang 'em up and shoot 'em dead. And, that's refreshing. Who says thrillers shouldn't contain bits of humor?

I know this is short but it's after midnight. Will add to it later.

I gave it 3.8 stars
