



The Fell Hound of Adversity

Parker T. Geissel

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Pulp Fiction Parable! Outrageous Noir Fantasy! Two-Fisted Romance!

An enthusiastic mashup of Bogart films, comic books and line cooks.

A down-and-out line cook gets mixed up with a beautiful federal agent and a sinister plot to destroy the city in the run-down, hard-luck town of Adversity, battling criminal thugs, crooked politicians, and something even worse that stalks the violent streets.

WARNING: Does not adhere to rigorously defined standards of genre. Readers unfamiliar with multiple genres may experience some disorientation due to mixing of tropes.

Paying homage to the brash, brazen prose of the pulps, Parker T. Geissel's debut novel crafts a savage tale of cooks and crooks in a classic noir setting. Rough and tumble line cooks face off against deadly femme fatales in a plot packed with bare-knuckle brawls, vicious turns and wry humor.

There's bad doings in the run-down, hard-luck town of Adversity. Bodies pile up in the streets, rumored to be victims of that fell beast that has hounded the city from its founding. Luckless line cook Rudi Quince gets pulled headlong into the dire dealings. Like most folk in the crumbing metropolis, he can't seem to catch a break. Fired from his fancy job as a salaried sous-chef, he's scraping by, now just a simple sandwich man of meager means.

Rudi's worries pile up faster than he can figure when the deadly and beautiful federal officer Colonel Stavrogin comes to town. The Colonel is on a mission to deliver the city from its corrupt ministers, or failing that, destroy it. Her arrival stirs up a storm of trouble as she and her men get to work with terrible intent. Rudi suffers the mysterious Colonel's ruthless attention, captivated and terrified. On top of it all the city's vicious Princess of Darkness has taken an interest in the hapless line cook for her own reasons.

Rudi faces brutal brawls and savage gun scrapes, pursued by foul folk. Then there's talk of a terrible conspiracy that threatens worse to come. Malicious forces are working to let loose the vengeful creature of local legend upon the city. It's rough times ahead as Rudi tries to make things right before the whole town burns.

The Fell Hound of Adversity Details

Date : Published May 12th 2016

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Author : Parker T. Geissel

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From Reader Review The Fell Hound of Adversity for online ebook

Stuart says

Audience: Those who enjoy a diverse book with plenty of plot lines.

Laugh or Cry: Laugh :)

Buy? Read? Avoid?: Buy if you can, definitely read this by any means!

Summed up in one word: Diverse

First Impression: I know it is uncool to gush over authors you are meant to be reviewing.....but this book was awesome. It had the characters, the setting and the game of thrones type multi-plot line madness that made sure everyone came across everyone else and that made for some great story moments. This author has so much potential and I hope that he will go bigger and better from here on out. I read this on E-Book but may have to get my hands on a physical copy when I get the chance.

Summary Of The Book:

Welcome to Charmed City...or Adversity depending on your social and financial status. This city is run by the politicians, the criminal families and the Princess Of Darkness. These people get away with corruption and murder everyday and the Capital have had enough.

Enter. Colonel Dashenka Ivanovna Stravrogin. The Colonel has come to Charmed City to complete an audit on behalf of the Internal Revenue Service. Along with her two bodyguards and the resources of the Capital, the Colonel must collect unpaid taxes, find those cheating the system and bring the corrupt citizens to their knees.

Rudimental Quince had it all, alongside his best friend Blazing Buck Cortez, he was a highly regarded sous chef of the city's top restaurant. After a nasty fight with Buck, his life took a turn and he ended up in a sandwich shop with little to his name.... Until Rudi and his brother's name flagged up the I.R.S database as suspicious and the Colonel comes to his door.

What follows can only be described as complete mayhem. Bomb plots, assassinations, riots, out right murder and the stirring of a beast so evil that the citizens refuse to even speak his name. The Fell Hound of Adversity lurks in the mist and shadows, taking its prey and stalking those who enter its territory. No one is safe, but fear not, Rudi and his brother are about the change the whole game.

My Review:

This is a well written and mapped out piece of fiction. Just by getting all the many characters and plot lines to work well together and bind it into an exciting and energetic story deserves high marks. The characters stand well on their own but the overall plot quality is what makes this book shine instead of being half decent. On the face of it this is a mystery piece, though that is just one aspect of a very diverse story with humour, graphic violence, thrills and food added to make it extra special.

Characters! So many characters :) Each one as fleshed out and evil and/or good as the next. Main man Rudimental Egbert Quince is determined, hilarious and unreliable at times. His brother Lenient is the comic relief, a street wise pain in the arse. The Colonel and her body guards are the class, the finesse and the strict characters. The Princess Of Darkness adds the more sinister tones, with her presence being tense and unpredictable. Also we have the politicians....corrupt, backstabbing and relentless. And finally there is The Fell Hound of Adversity...a creature of the shadows, brutal, fear inducing and unseen in the shadows. There are many other characters but they are yours to find and enjoy when you leave this review and go and read this book.

The setting here is Charmed City or Adversity. A city split in half and ruled by crime and politics. It is a gritty place where people just get by as the money is funnelled from the community to the politicians pockets. Once a prosperous city, it is a shell of its former self and the perfect playground for all these players to fight over the scraps. There are many themes layered in this book, from alcoholism, poverty and crime to food, friendship and revolution. A well balanced book that will keep you on your toes and laughing a lot too. The Fell Hound of Adversity over shadows this book, lurking in the shadows...the citizens afraid to speak its name for fear of it hearing them and visiting them at night...is it real or just an urban legend?

There are a few odds and ends that I did not fully enjoy or understand with this book. Some events or characters are not fully explained when needed and I did not get the ending that that I wanted...the ending was fine, but with a book with so much character...I thought it would be a grander finale than it was. I am hoping that we have more adventures in Charmed City or at least a new piece with some of these awesome characters. Parker T. Geissel is a master of tension, building it and elevating it whenever it suits him, along with his strong story framework I am excited to see what he comes up with next.

Overall it was an engaging work of fiction that had me going round in circles both laughing and trying to keep up with the intricate goings on of the large cast of characters. The Fell Hound Of Adversity is a perfect blend of genres and a great addition to your library

9/10

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Jay Williams says

This is a wild and crazy story with a cast of unbelievable characters. The names are highly unusual and contribute to the fun nature of the activities despite the somewhat serious tone of the action. The cast is all bigger than life and outrageously entertaining. There is more than enough intrigue and suspense but the duplicity of all involved keep the characters and the reader spellbound as things get sorted out. The descriptions of the environment add to the foreboding feeling as the story progresses. The book is light-hearted and very entertaining. The style of writing is perfect, allowing the zaniness of the action to show itself. Don't read this for enlightenment, read it for a rollicking good time.

Sandie says

I really don't get it - - THE HELL HOUND OF ADVERSITY that is. What exactly has author Parker T. Geissel written? Is it a murder mystery, is it a love story, or is it a tongue in cheek commentary on the sad state of our cities and the corruption of those we elect to high office who use their office for personal interests versus loyalty to others and are then re-elected by an uninformed public. Perhaps it's a bit of each of these.

Geissel has imbued his tome with a cast of characters whose names are almost as outlandish as their speech patterns and whose motivations are constantly in flux. If your taste in fiction runs to narratives featuring eccentric characters caught in unbelievably convoluted situations who speak in stilted sentences that could have come out of a 1930's western you will love this book. If not, move on.

Vicky says

Too many things going on at the same time and the story suffered. Was it a crime novel? Was it fantasy? Not enough world-building to know.

Adara Quick says

Classical in approach while modern in subject matter, The Fell Hound of Adversity is a wonderful debut novel by Parker Geissel. The story opens with Rudi Quince meeting a beautiful IRS agent on the scene of a grisly and mysterious murder. Despite himself, Rudi is pulled in by her blazing eyes and dangerous demeanor. Together, they seek to uncover the foul forces that rule the city, searching from the council room to the back alleyways of the west side. The author is a true lover of the art of language and his cast of anti-heroes and scoundrels will keep you guessing until the last scene. This story unfolds in some very unexpected ways! Highly recommend.

Judy Lesley says

I received an e-ARC of this novel through NetGalley and the author.

This novel is such a mashed, smashed mix-up of genres it was hard to get a firm handle on how the author expected readers to react to it. Was it a spoof of fantasy novels? Was he going for the paranormal unknown menace? Was trying to be a genre bending combination of hard boiled, noir horror? Don't ask me because after reading the book I just know I didn't really like it very much because it just tried too hard.

This book is supposed to be so "different", but the only difference I saw was the use of the IRS, a city mayor, a city auditor and politicians in general cast in the roles of villains. The world building is not done well enough for me to understand - or even care - about why an IRS agent has been sent to Adversity (also called the Charmed City) to do an audit. Yet, instead of doing actual auditing - which was never the point anyway -

she and her henchmen spend the entire novel fighting "things" and people with killings and gore happening right and left. This is how the author describes the mission of Colonel Dashenka Ivanovna Stavrogin: "Colonel Stavrogin was sent by the Capital with special dispensation to mete out fiscal justice with extreme prejudice upon the local government." There is supposed to be a legendary creature in this town. Nobody will speak its name or talk openly about it because it likes to hear itself talked about and will come and kill, hurt, or generally disrupt things wherever you are. So throughout the whole novel we have this thing that can't be talked about but people are trying to kill. Oh, and let's not forget the package which people are beaten up to obtain when they don't even know about any package.

Characters throughout the book are given very odd names with no purpose except to call attention to how odd they are so the reader will chalk up another mark toward how "different" this novel is from others like it. And there is the problem, it tries so hard to be different and yet ends up being like all the others - tough character with henchmen comes to clean up evil, dirty city politicians and in the process forms romantic attachments with local citizens. Do yourself a favor - if you plan to read this book, check out the 'look inside' feature on Amazon.com. If you like what you see there, go for it. I just wish I had followed my own advice.
