



A Shoot in Cleveland

Les Roberts

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Cleveland P.I. Milan Jacovich is back on his own turf and recovering from the death of his best friend and partner. Hoping a new assignment will take his mind off his troubles, he accepts an "easy" job baby-sitting the up-and-coming star of a Hollywood film that is being shot in Cleveland. A wild box-office hunk, Darren Anderson has a reputation for scandalous behavior, and the producer of the movie is depending on Milan to see to it that he doesn't get into any trouble. When Darren seduces the underage daughter of the film's major investor right under Milan's nose, the actor faces possible police charges and the angry father pulls his investment. Milan - disgusted with the actor's reprehensible behavior - quits his job in a fury. The next day Darren is found murdered, and Milan unwillingly finds himself in the spotlight as he becomes both suspect and P.I. on the case in an attempt to clear his name and relieve his guilty conscience.

A Shoot in Cleveland Details

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Bill says

Are there books like this in every city?

It's a decent gumshoe novel, borrowing heavily from Mike Hammer and Spenser in places and the story is good enough. Milan Jacovich is the detective mixed up in a murder, which, of course, he feels a moral obligation to investigate for the cost of \$1.00. Jacovich lives in Cleveland Heights and the book, like all (or most?) of the author's stories are set in Cleveland. This would be fine, except the author goes into needless and annoying detail, constantly, about Cleveland. He goes so far as to name the Deli on Green Road that's about half a mile from my house (Jack's Deli, by the way). The Velvet Tango Room, Bialy's, I-480, Cedar Road, Nighttown, etc. At one point he describes how the sun is in his eyes as he drives from the east side to the west side, and how long it took him to get to Avon Lake. Living here, it was just unnecessary, doing nothing to move the story forward, and distracting. If you lived elsewhere, you'd probably give up on the book out of sheer confusion. I can see, however, that if you grew up here but lived elsewhere, you might get a small thrill out of it.

But I really want to know: are there books like this in Seattle? Houston? Memphis?

As to the story, it's OK but a bit disjointed in some places but overall decent. Every once in a while there was a good turn of phrase to keep me interested. Most of the main characters just peter out toward the end of the book; those that I half-expected to be the killer were just never mentioned again after some point. A couple-three hours to read, so no big investment, and distracting enough.

Scott Rhee says

Lovers of murder mysteries, good writing, and Cleveland, take heed: Les Robert's Cleveland detective series, starring his hard-boiled blue-collar Slovenian-American Cleveland-born private dick Milan Jacovich (pronounced "'My-lin Yock-o-vitch'") is one of the best detective series being published. Roberts knows how to tell a good story and tell it well. If you're into authors like Robert Parker and Harlan Coben, check out Roberts. The first book in the series is "'Pepper Pike'". This one, "A Shoot in Cleveland" is the ninth in the series. You probably don't need to read them all in order as each book stands alone as its own story, but he does often refer to events and characters in previous books.

Cheryl says

Still reeling from The Cleveland Local, I had trepidations about reading this one, but am happy to say, aside from the shared sorrow with main character, Milan Jacovich, it was mostly pain-free. (You can't help but get emotionally attached to the intense characters written into these books.) Milan gets nudged back into working and socializing after his time of mourning the death of his best friend. Accepting the job of, basically, a babysitter to a hot shot movie star who winds up murdered takes Milan into a cast of who-could-haves and a new lady interest. I have to admit worry when he started to get along so well with her, but

Roberts has allowed Milan some R&R (Redemption & Romance) and all ends well in number #9. Of course there are a couple murders, bodily bludgeoning, and mob tie-ins.. but that's what makes this series so comfortable to read. And dang if they don't just keep getting better. I hope this new woman (Connie) sticks around. I like their rapport and her family. Snarky and savvy, Milan Jacovich is one Helluva man.

Casey Hickman says

Good novel. Kinda knew who committed the murder in the middle of the book. Wasn't much mystery on that. Expected the big bear wrestling match as well. Eventually this old guy is not going to be able to fight, smoke cigarettes and drink beer. That doesn't happen in the real world. LOL. Not too mention getting a smoking hot chick every year too.

Keep them coming Mylan. ;-)

Katharine Ott says

"A Shoot in Cleveland" - written by Les Roberts and published in 1999 by Thomas Dunne Books. One of the better Milan Jacovich novels.

Maddy says

RATING: 4.25

Jerry B says

We're growing ever more fond of Les Roberts' Cleveland-based PI Milan Jacovich series, which we're reading in order, with "Shoot" being #9 in a currently 19-book set, which may have ended with the last published in 2016 (?). Milan now has an actual office in a building he essentially inherited; he is using a relatively new PC a little more and has now actually acquired a cellphone. And unlike some reviewers that complain about his numerous references to Cleveland suburbs and highways, Sue Grafton conditioned us for at least that much "unnecessary" detail – so who cares!

In this latest adventure, Milan is hired to "babysit" young movie heartthrob Darren Anderson during a two-week filming in Cleveland. Darren chases just about anything in skirts, but when it appears he has seduced an underage daughter of a local VIP, Milan quits his gig. But then the star is murdered (not a spoiler – it's in the book blurb) and Milan now feels he owes the guy to find the culprit. What follows is a fairly routine but sufficiently suspenseful and entertaining PI procedural.

We have no doubt we'll read this entire set, even though several of the books are now a little difficult to procure – if necessary, we'll resort to shopping that popular auction site! {3.5}

April Helms says

I thought I had read all of the Milan Jacovich novels to date, but I recently discovered I missed a couple. Finishing this one starts my remedy of that. The fact that I can include it for my Book Riot challenge- for a novel set within 100 miles of where I live- is icing on the cake. This book follows The Cleveland Local, which has an ending that was life-altering for Milan. Milan is still trying to find his bearings when he is asked to take on what looks to be a fairly easy job: make sure a young star doesn't get into too much trouble when the movie he is headlining in works at various locations in the Cleveland area. Naturally this winds up being harder than Milan bargains for, and the young star, Darren Anderson, winds up dead. The dialogue, as always, is fantastic. It's comical watching Milan, who does not suffer fools and is not easily intimidated, try to put up with the Hollywood glitterati. Another thing about this novel (this series has a lot of continuity; I strongly suggest reading them in order) is that the reader really sees Milan's typically black and white view of things get shaken, particularly where Victor Gaimari, the nephew and heir apparent of the local mob, is concerned. I see in this installment a lot of the beginnings of Milan's subtle changes later on.

Chad Malkamaki says

This is a one concussion read, with Milan going toe to toe with a big, bad, tattooed guy hired by one of the people Milan's investigating for the murder of Hollywood star Darren Anderson. At first, Milan's hired as a bodyguard to watch over the movie star playboy, but when the star ends up dead, the Slovenian Magnum is on the case to help clear his conscious.

This one's pretty straight forward, mixing Hollywood with Cleveland, before we started having films in the city. Milan has a new love interest, and the beat down is two sided, with our man getting his good licks in and coming out the victor.
