



One Red Bastard

Ed Lin

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In *One Red Bastard*, Ed Lin's thrilling sequel to the highly acclaimed *Snakes Can't Run*, is reminiscent of Elmore Leonard's Compulsively readable (Don Lee), it's the fall of 1976. New York's Chinatown is in turmoil over news that Mao's daughter is seeking asylum in the U.S. The series hero Robert Chow is a neighborhood detective in training, and he is thrilled when his girlfriend Lonnie scores an interview with the Chinese representative of Mao's daughter. But hours after the interview, the man is found dead. Lonnie, the last person to see him alive, is the main suspect.

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As Lonnie is subjected to increasing amounts of intimidation from his fellow policemen, who want to close the case, Robert is tempted to reach into his own bag of dirty tricks. Will he stay on the right side of the law, or will his loyalty to Lonnie get the better of him? Find out in this exciting and fast-paced mystery set in one of New York's most fascinating neighborhoods.

One Red Bastard Details

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Author : Ed Lin

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From Reader Review One Red Bastard for online ebook

Joan says

This is the first book I've read in this series and it took me a while to get interested in the story. The setting is a time and culture very different from my own. Chow's style of detecting was quite different from what I am used to.

By the time I had finished the book, however, I was really glad I had read it. I was introduced to the Chinatown culture of New York City, including the languages and the regions from which people had immigrated. I also learned much about the history of the tension between China and Taiwan and how that affected Asians living in the U.S. I found the characters and cultural setting very interesting. Chow's investigation of the murder was methodical and more character driven than action driven.

I recommend this novel to those interested in a mystery set in a turbulent time and place in the U.S. While I didn't consider the book a page-turner nor the action full of suspense, the characters and plot did hold my interest through the twist at the end. I'll be looking for more from this author.

I received a complimentary egalley of this book through Partners in Crime Virtual Book Tours. My comments are an independent and honest review.

Nancy says

This book takes place in Chinatown, and therefore, offers some unique situations and settings. This is a novel I did not want to put down. Not only because of the action, but also because of the historical and cultural insight into the world of Robert and Lonnie. I always enjoy learning something new when I read.

Robert has quite a struggle trying to investigate a murder which his girlfriend is suspected of committing. It's especially difficult since he's been ordered to stay away from the case. It keeps him on his toes.

I've enjoyed being introduced to the many facets of Robert Chow. Now I'm going to have to make a library run so that I can become more immersed in this character.

Thank you, Mr. Lin, for broadening my literary experiences. How soon can I expect the next Robert Chow book?

Book provided without charge by Partners in Crime Tours.

Lisa says

I learned a lot about the political landscape with China and Taiwan from this book. It inspired me to learn more, which is always a good thing.

The mystery was so-so. The dialogue was reminiscent of Raymond Chandler.

Kathleen Gray says

This is, oddly, a historical mystery because it's set in the 1970s. For those who are unfamiliar with all the upheaval in China during the time frame this will be highly educational because it is a procedural where the victim was representing Mao's daughter, who was seeking to defect to the US. US - China relations are only part of the problems faced by Robert Chow whose girlfriend Lonnie is a prime suspect. Robert is a unique detective and one worth meeting in this or any other of Lin's novels. I'm happy that this atmospheric (the neighborhood is a rich stew) has been reissued- it's completely stood the test of time. Thanks to Edelweiss for the ARC.

Richard says

For some reason setting is a huge part of whether I'll like a mystery/crime book or not. The 1970s NYC Chinatown setting of Ed Lin's Robert Chow series is one of my favorites. There's lots of other great stuff about this series too, but the atmosphere really sticks with me.

Monica says

Robert Chow is a more effective policeman and a happier person since he stopped drinking. He has a girlfriend, a journalist. He is mentoring her younger brother - encouraging him to get into a precollege research project at Columbia.

It's 1976 and the turmoil of post Mao and post cultural Revolution China has echoes in Manhattan's Chinatown. Rival gangs of pro Mao and Pro Kuomintang men are jockeying for power. Mao's daughter is coming to New York to seek asylum, and Lonnie, Chow's girlfriend gets an interview with the daughter's representative. The next morning the man is found murdered in Chinatown and Lonnie was the last person seen with him. They left the Plaza hotel together after her interview the night before, so she becomes the prime suspect, though they do not charge her.

Chow is both warned away from the case (and asked to keep an eye on it) and determined to help prove Lonnie innocent.

The characters in this series - Chow and his African American partner Vandyne (they are both Vietnam vets), Lonnie and her brother Paul, the midget who owns the toy store and others have developed nicely over the series. Chow is tempted to break the rules to help Lonnie, but he resists. He would not have had any second thoughts when he was drinking. The whole portrait of Chinatown in the 70s is fascinating - the politics, the history and the street life are all richly described.

Chow and the series keep getting better - I'm looking forward to the next book.

Dave says

One Red Bastard is the third Robert Chow police mystery set in the midst of NYC's Chinatown in the 1970's as factions supporting Communist China and Nationalist China face off. This series is a taste of the insularity and tight knit community of Chinatown if that era and how it took someone with connections and trust of the locals to solve the murder. This one is a bit slower in pace than the previous ? in the series.

Jessica Bronder says

This story takes place in Chinatown in New York City in the 1976, which I know nothing about. Mao's daughter is seeking asylum in New York. Chow's girlfriend Lonnie is journalist and has the opportunity to interview the daughter's representative. But when he turns up dead Lonnie becomes a suspect since she was the last person seen with him. Chow has been ordered to stay away from this case but he can't idly stand by with his girlfriend as a suspect.

I really enjoyed this book. This is the first book of Ed Lin's that I have a read and I really enjoyed it. I did not realize the political tensions around that time period and I learned a lot just from reading this book. This also adds another dimension to the story because of Chow's heritage, his partner, and so much more. The mystery portion had me guessing until the end with several twists and turns.

If you are looking for a good mystery set in New York in the 1970's look no further. This is a great story and one that any mystery lover will enjoy.

I received One Red Bastard from Partners in Crime Virtual Book Tours for free. This has in no way influenced my opinion of this book.

Tenzin says

Interesting cultural elements woven in, thus the extra star. Not much of mystery fan.

Siobhan says

I find Ed Lin's murder mystery series (this is the third) greatly diverting. The stories are set in NYC's Chinatown in the 1970s, and include interesting history of how that community was divided among immigrants loyal to the Communists and those loyal to the Nationalists, as well as sense of the great diversity of immigrant Chinese within Chinatown. And then there is NYPD detective Robert Chow, who dis-identifies with most of these groups. Chow is sardonic and funny; in this third book he's recovering from alcoholism and living with his girlfriend's younger brother; and the conversations he has with his African-American partner (both are Vietnam vets) are insightful and often hilarious. Lin's writing gets a little more confident with each new book, too--I will watch for the next one, and the next.

Kate says

Good, but I think it dragged a bit.

Donald says

I love the Robert Chow novels!

From Wikipedia:

"His (Ed Lin's) trilogy of crime novels featuring Chinese-American Police Detective Robert Chow set in 1970s Chinatown has also won awards and garnered praise. The series so far comprises *This Is A Bust* (2007) (Members Choice Award, 2008 Asian American Literary Awards, Booklist Starred Review, and Listed in Best American Last Sentences of Books of 2007 in *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2008*, Edited by Dave Eggers), *Snakes Can't Run* (2010) (Publishers Weekly Starred Review), and *One Red Bastard* (2012) (Publishers Weekly Starred Review)."
