



Shadows In The Fog

Greg Messel

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The story begins on a stormy morning in February of 1959. The front page of the morning paper is dominated by news of the plane crash which killed rock 'n roll stars Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper and Richie Valens.

Private Eye Sam Slater is hired to perform what he thinks is a routine two-day job as a favor for a friend. However, it all goes terribly wrong when a young San Francisco policeman is gunned down while sitting in a parked car with Sam.

The murder sets off a chain of events which will pull Sam and his wife and partner, Amelia, into a dangerous web of intrigue in the dark, shadowy alleys and back rooms of San Francisco's Chinatown.

In the winter of 1959, Amelia resigns as a TWA stewardess and is now Sam's full time partner in the private eye business.

Sam and Amelia inadvertently come in conflict with the San Francisco mob boss after helping a crusading newspaper reporter who is working to expose corruption in Chinatown. Now a mysterious dark car follows the Slaters every where they go. Sam and Amelia discover a hidden world of corrupt cops, gambling parlors, brothels and human trafficking exists right under their noses.

At the same time, a rising California politician hires Sam and Amelia to find his daughter who disappeared without a trace three years earlier. The search is prompted by the sudden appearance of a letter from the woman, who was presumed dead.

As Sam and Amelia pursue these cases, they discover that all the clues lead them back to Chinatown. The Slaters want to avoid taking on the San Francisco crime lords head-on. However, when Amelia is kidnapped in an alley during the Chinese New Year's celebration, Sam plunges himself into danger desperately searching Chinatown to find her before it's too late.

The reader will be drawn into fast moving events which culminate in a harrowing conclusion as Sam Slater races against the clock on a foggy night in Chinatown.

Shadows In The Fog is the fifth book in the the award winning Sam Slater Mysteries Series but is a stand-alone thriller in the tradition of great whodunits.

Shadows In The Fog Details

Date : Published October 14th 2014 by Sunbreaks Publishing

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Author : Greg Messel

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From Reader Review Shadows In The Fog for online ebook

Kathleen Kelly says

I love the Sam Slater Mysteries, each one just gets better than the previous one. This installment has Sam and Amelia Slater battling with the mob in San Francisco in the late 50's. Amelia has now retired from being an airline stewardess, which at the time was a very prestigious job. The only problem for Sam and Amelia, is that a stewardess can not be married. Amelia comes to work with Sam at the his PI office. She gets her PI license and is ready to go.

They are tasked with investigating the murder of a cop and the disappearance of a young woman, daughter of wealthy politician. As they further investigate each case, they discover that they are both related. Sam doesn't like to do cases where he is asked to follow a spouse and see if there is any cheating going on. But as a favor to a cop friend of his, he takes on the case. A young cop thinks his wife is cheating on him. He agrees to meet the young cop in a park, while sitting in the car the policeman is shot and killed. Now Sam needs to find out why.

An up and coming politician in San Franciscan politics has hired Sam and Amelia with trying to find out where their daughter is, she disappeared three years previous. They feared she was dead but when they received a letter from her stating that she is alive and well, they want to find her. Unbeknownst to either of them, the two cases are closely related. Further into their investigation, Amelia is kidnapped she and Sam threatened with bodily harm if they continue into the investigation of the police officer. Of course they don't stop the investigation because they were hired to do a job and do that job they will.

I love the characters in this series, Sam and Amelia are so in love and it comes through in the author's writing. The author not only talks about San Francisco and its surroundings but includes pictures of the areas he is describing. I was born in the early 50's and I enjoyed looking at the pictures and picturing in my mind what it was like at a time when there were no cellphones or computers. Very descriptive.

Not only do Sam and Amelia get involved with the San Franciscan crime boss but with the dangerous elements in Chinatown, that puts them both in serious danger. A thrilling ride for sure. Like I said before, I love this series and look forward to reading the sixth book in the series.

Victor Gentile says

Greg Messel in his new book, "Shadows In The Fog" Book Five in the Sam Slater Mysteries series published by the author gives us another adventure with Sam Slater and Amelia Ryan.

From the back cover: Private Eye Sam Slater is hired to perform what he thinks is a routine two-day job as a favor for a friend. However, it all goes terribly wrong when a young San Francisco policeman is gunned down while sitting in a parked car with Sam.

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The fog heightens sound and limits visibility while shadows distort reality. So all total a walk in the fog can be a frightening experience. It was just a routine case nothing to it then there was a murder and a crime lord was involved. Sam and Amelia are hunting all over Chinatown to find out what is going on. Amelia is kidnapped and Sam is desperate to get her back. There are drugs, prostitution and human trafficking involved and we haven't even begin to talk about the three year old missing person case they signed up for. Greg Messel uses all of this and more in this fifth outing for Sam and Amelia to give us an adventure that really gets our pulses beating. "Shadows In The Fog" is a wild ride that will keep you guessing every step of the way. I am glad I found this talented author and am so looking forward to the next book in this series.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Pump Up Your Book. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Quinn Barrett says

Wise Bear Media Reviews Shadows in the Fog by Greg Messel -- 4.5 Paws!

I've been a fan of Greg Messel and his Sam Slater mystery series since the beginning. "Shadows in the Fog" is another fine installment in the niche mystery noir genre. It's rare to find nostalgic stories of this type anymore. As I've read each novel, I feel as though I'm watching a classic black and white movie which reminds me of my grandparents and their love of the 50s era crime movies. All I need is a knitted afghan blanket, fuzzy slippers, some rice crispy treats, and a tall glass of milk to be ready for my trip down memory lane.

As I get into the novel, I notice that Messel's writing style has grown significantly. Not that I didn't think he was better than most independent authors already, but this book has a particular fluidity—a sophisticated style which shows in the growth of his lead characters as well.

Sam Slater is still the quintessential private eye: smart, tall, strong, tough, and handsome. His new young, beautiful, blonde bride, Amelia, has finally given up her high flying job as a stewardess to become his full time partner in solving crimes. All seems well and good for the couple with everything, but again they're thrown into a topsy turvey world of underworld crime rings which are pervasive throughout San Francisco's Chinatown district.

As they work to ferret out the corruption, they are also employed by a local politician to investigate the whereabouts and circumstances surrounding his missing daughter. Double duty is taking its toll on the dynamic duo as Amelia once again becomes the pawn used by the bad guys to threaten and ultimately punish the meddlesome private detectives.

The usual cast of characters is also present for supportive sleuthing duties. As for new twists, I particularly like the inclusion of the carnival psychic "Madame Cassandra" who helps guides the couple personally and professionally.

My only miff with the story is that poor Amelia is constantly subjected to physical as well as emotional abuse as the plot moves to its inevitable climax and conclusion. This poor young woman needs a break. I'd rather see her joining her husband and saving whatever friend, client, or innocent bystander they're enlisted/motivated to protect. Amelia has as much of a heroic personality and demeanor as her egalitarian husband. I'd like to read a follow-up story where she isn't metaphorically being tied to the railroad tracks. Maybe she could take karate or kung fu lessons after her trials in Chinatown. To me, she is the most powerful character in the series and while I love Sam, his character doesn't work without the divine and ballsy, Amelia.

Melinda says

This was my first Sam Slater mystery and I was quite impressed. Messel's writing is proficient, rich in atmospheric details of both surroundings and era. Hailing from San Francisco I appreciated the extra mile Messel took to cite historical references of both San Francisco and the era of 1950's. Dispersed throughout the book are wonderful photographs aiding in immersing the reader into the narrative. The name dropping of known personalities and events during the time was another plus Messel provided. The 1950's was well depicted.

I enjoyed the connection between Sam and Amelia. Both leaving successful careers behind to venture off on a new aspiration as a partnership. Their love for one another is obvious and added a certain charm to the story, makes for an interesting trial in their new life as partnered investigators. All the characters involved were well developed.

The plot was soft, more story than hard boiled mystery. It was truly an old school whodunit with enough suspense, and mystery to keep the reader focused. The characters and plot work hand in hand to create the entire story, neither dominated.

Very well done, with extra effort in details from the author creating a delightful reading experience. Messel

certainly piqued my interest to explore other books past and future in the series.

Peggy says

Holy crap!!! I can't even think of how to put this review into words! When you read the title, you get a sense that the book will be one way, but once you start reading, this book takes you in a complete different direction. It's fast paced. Easy to follow and will keep you up all night reading! Don't try to guess at anything, you will never get it right!

Received for an honest review

MaryKaye says

What I found interesting in this book was the history and pictures of San Francisco in the late 50's. What I did not like is the storyline of Amelia and Sam. It just seemed a bit unrealistic. I also felt the detailed repeat of certain conflicts and dangers was a bit overdone. What happened to Eddie Whittaker? I was waiting for him to somehow show up later in the book, which he did not. I was confused why a whole chapter was devoted to this mysterious man?

I received this book free from Goodreads for a honest review.

Diane Coto says

Some may remember; some are too young. The Day the Music Died is part of the lyrics in "American Pie" by Don McLean. It refers to the plane crash on February 3, 1959 killing rock and roll musicians Buddy Holly; Ritchie Valens; and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson. That is the day this story begins although this novel is not about the plane crash. Sam became eerily close to the shooting of San Francisco policeman, Charlie (Chick) Young. Charlie suspected his wife was cheating and had asked Sam to investigate. While they were sitting in Charlie's car discussing Sam's conclusion, a car pulled up next to them and opened fire. Sam remained unharmed thanks to a now dented silver cigarette case in his vest pocket.

Sam's wife, Amelia, retires from her job as a stewardess for TWA to begin working with and assisting Sam in his PI business full time. Other than investigating Charlie Young's murder, they are also called upon to investigate the disappearance of California Assemblyman's daughter three years prior. It's a cold case assuming she had died, but now Christopher and Julie Michaelis have received a letter from their daughter, Melissa. Things turn dangerous ... Sam and Amelia remind each other to be more cautious ... then, Amelia is kidnapped.

It is the 5th Sam Slater Mystery, but was easily read as a standalone. Using the plane crash as a backdrop for this novel gives the reader a feel for the time period and adds more realism. The story takes place in San Francisco. It's a traditional 'whodunit' before all of the technology we have today. It starts out fast and continues with quite a bit of action and suspense. Between chapters, the author added authentic pictures of the area from the 1950's – That was a very cool thing to do. Amelia was beautiful; I get that. However, I don't think I needed to read about her beauty over and over ... and over again. I rated Shadows in the Fog at

Kari says

After reading the fifth book in this series, I still had the feeling that I was visiting with old friends. Amelia and Sam seem like a couple you would definitely want to hang out with. In *Shadows in the Fog*, Amelia is finally free from the airline and has become a partner in the detective agency with Sam. A routine case involving spying on a spouse turns dangerous when Sam is almost killed and Amelia kidnapped.

The last couple of books have been pretty intense and this one is no different. I liked the mystery and suspense. I was happy to see Amelia finally grounded and home with Sam. There are two mysteries going on at the same time, so that was fun to try to figure out. This author has a good knack for doling out information as the readers need it without giving too much away too soon. The great thing about this series is that it is a mixture. It has the fun and easy banter found in the old Nick and Nora movies mixed in with the darkness and suspense of a film noir movie. I can't wait to see where Sam and Amelia end up next!

Mary Robinson says

THIS WAS A FANTASTIC STORY SET IN THE 1950'S. PRIVATE EYE SAM SLATER AND HIS WIFE BECOME INVOLVED WHEN A YOUNG POLICE OFFICER IS GUNNED DOWN WHILE SITTING IN A PARKED CAR WITH SAM. FROM THERE THE STORY TAKES YOU ON A NON STOP THRILL RIDE WHILE SAM AND AMELIA HAVE TO SOLVE THE MURDER. THEY FIND THEMSELVES THREATENED BY A MOB BOSS AFTER THEY HELP A NEWSPAPER REPORTER WHO IS WRITING ARTICLES IN HIS NEWSPAPER EXPOSING CORRUPTION IN SAN FRANCISCO'S CHINATOWN. AMELIA IS KIDNAPPED BY THE MOB AND SAM MUST FIND AND RESCUE HER. IN ADDITION TO THIS VERY EXCITING STORY THERE ARE MANY INTERESTING PHOTOS OF SAN FRANCISCO FROM THAT TIME PERIOD. THE AUTHOR HAS ALSO INCLUDED SEVERAL WEBSITES INCLUDING CLASSIC 1950'S COMMERCIALS, A VIDEO OF PLATLAND WHERE A LOT OF THE ACTION OF THIS STORY TAKES PLACE. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS BOOK TO EVERYONE!
