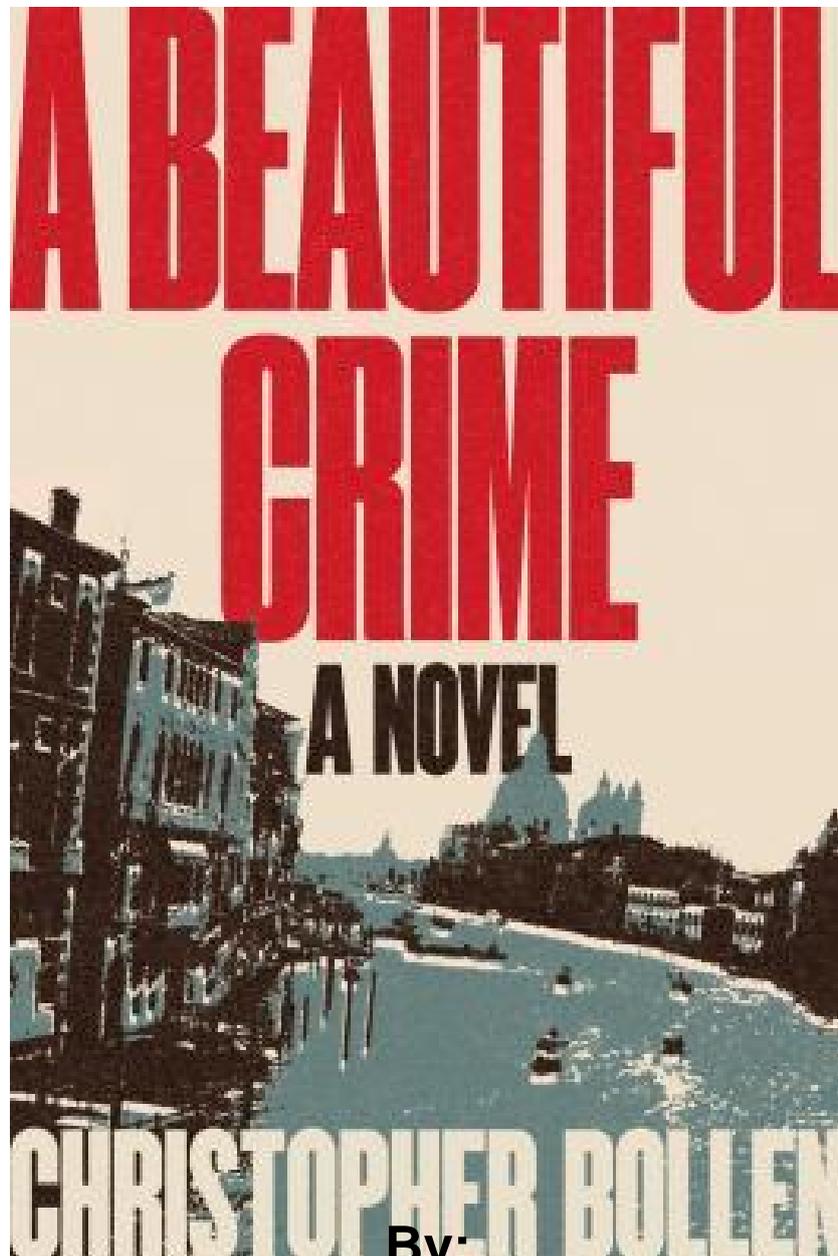


A Beautiful Crime Book PDF Download



By:
Christopher Bollen

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What people Say:

Dennis

First things first, if you're interested in a thriller, but are squeamish or get scared easily, this book is for you. It's not scary nor is it gruesome, but it

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is my first read by author Christopher Bollen, but now I am totally a fan. The story centers around con-artist couple, Nick Brink and Clay Guillory, and their journey to Venice. In Venice, the duo plan to sell Clay's ex-boyfriend's fake silver at an exponential cost. Clay's boyfriend came from one of the

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This synopsis brief that I just provided did not give this book any justice, so I guess just read the plot synopsis provided.

is not only a thriller, but it also is a great character study; infused with love, romance, and deception. This may be the first time ever that I've fallen in love with

the characters. Everyone was so multifaceted and deepâ€”it was hard to hate on anybody! I loved Nick and Clay, and I loved their relationship. I loved Clay's history with his ex-boyfriend. I thought Mr. West (the millionaire) was hilarious and goofy at just the best moments. Daniela's honesty was refreshing and a good break from the dark-centric drama. Everyone had a role and it was portrayed perfectly.

I loved that

Anna Luce

4.25 stars

is a tantalisingly suspenseful part thriller part romance, one that brilliantly captures the landscape, aesthetics, and politics of Venice.

The opening of the novel has a terrific hook. We know that someone at some point is going to die. But who? And how?

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but starring two much more sympathetic, and empathetic, protagonists,

follows a tense cat-and-mouse game in which readers are never sure who is deceiving who.

Jill

Take Patricia Highsmiths Mr. Ripley and mix well with John Berendts City of Fallen Angels and you have a taste of what awaits you with Christopher Bollens latest novel.

At its heart, its a heartfelt ode to Venice: the scandal, skullduggery and seductiveness of this one-of-a-kind city. Into this location of crumbling palazzos and shaky morality enters antiquarian assistant Nick Blake, a handsome aw shucks type of guy and his debt-ridden boyfriend, Clay Guillory. Theyve cooked up a fantastical

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unsuspecting American. It all seems foolproof. But as the two begin to discover, separating a billionaire from his money may not be as easy as it appears.

The proposed swindle provides the framework for the plot but what keeps the novel fresh is a close look at queer culture from different perspectives – Nick is white and unencumbered, Clay is black and living by a different set of rules. Then there’s Ari (Nick’s former boyfriend and benefactor) and Freddy (the flamboyant man Clay lived with and is suspected of murdering) and Daniella, Clay’s friend who now lives freely and unapologetically as a woman. Love, social class, race and sexuality all play out in Europe’s ultimate playground where tourists far outnumber residents.

The intrigue and twists would have been enough to carry the book, but Christopher Bollen is given to stage-directing: his characters sneer and whimper and spit and growl and balk and mutter. The book would have been stronger had Mr. Bollen trusted his readers to intuit his characters’ reactions and state of mind. His encyclopedic knowledge of Venice and the art world – he was himself a Peggy Guggenheim art intern in Venice – can sometimes feel overplayed. Having noted these issues, the book still deserves kudos for its original and atmospheric development. Rating: 3.5 stars, rounded up.

My thanks to #HarperCollins for providing me with an advance copy in exchange for an honest review.

John

This book really grabbed my attention & held on from start to finish. I wanted to give it 5 stars but there were two plot holes that just bagged at me though its still a really good read.

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switterbug (Betsey)

What attracts me to Christopher Bollen is his tensile literary thrillers. THE DESTROYERS and LIGHTNING PEOPLE were standouts of dramatic and suspenseful plots with prose to match them, and kept me fascinated until the exciting finales. Like DESTROYERS, Bollen selected an exotic backdrop; not Greece this time, but Venice, Italy, for his story of intrigue and grift in his latest boiler, A BEAUTIFUL CRIME. Venice, to me, was like a character in the book—the unique pedestrian city of canals and

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Two fairly new lovers, Nick and Clay, come to Venice from NYC with an agenda to rip off a wealthy American, Richard West, who lives in a historic palazzo, a walled half once shared with a former Dutch scion of NYC, Freddy Van der Haar, who lost his wealth to his flamboyant lifestyle and drugs, and recently died of AIDS. He left it to Clay, a true platonic friend. West lives in the other half of the house.

West was an enemy to Freddy, and Clay has his reasons, also. The plan is to sell to West Freddy’s ancestral family’s (now) counterfeit silver, enough to pay off debts and start a new life together, away from their sorrows in NYC. It’s an elaborate but simple plan, but develops into even more entangled grift as their rip-off scheme becomes less risk averse and more perilous. I’ll leave it to the reader to watch the plot amplify.

Bollen did an adept job of bringing Clay and Nick to life—less so on some of the secondary characters. Although the brutal plot was believable, and I felt each footfall along the Venetian Lagoon, the middle section of the story lost some tempo, as it lulled me with a stretched out narrative—until a knotty jam shook Nick to the core. It added another layer of suspense, but all this treachery had less effect on Clay and Nick’s relationship than I would have imagined. For me, it wasn’t Bollen’s best, but it possessed an acrid charm. 3.5 rounded up

Thank you to Harper for sending me an ARC for review