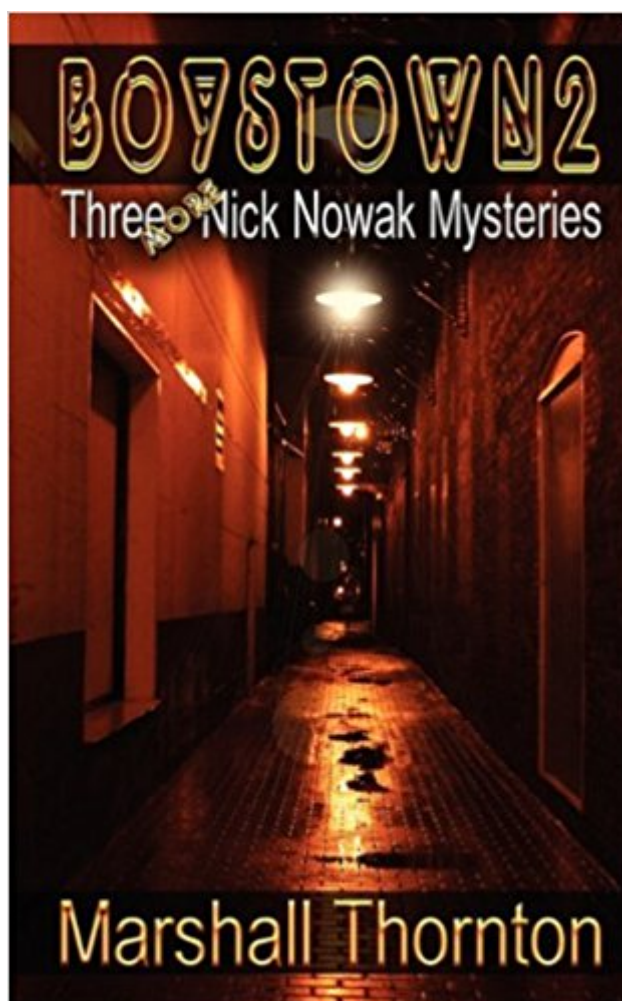


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Boystown 2: Three More Nick Nowak Mysteries



Synopsis

In the second Boystown collection, Chicago private investigator Nick Nowak finds himself involved with a young man who murdered his stepfather but refuses to assist in his own defense. He's hired to find the murderer of a dead porno star, and, in a case that traps him between the two men he loves, searching for a serial killer's only living victim. Set in the second half of 1981, Nick's stories see him juggling his deepening relationship with Detective Bert Harker against the return of his ex, Daniel Lavery. Which man will he choose? And will he be able to make any sort of choice at all? Stories include Little Boy Silent, Little Boy Blond and Little Boy Loved. Marshall Thornton is an award-winning author, playwright and screenwriter living in Long Beach, California. Author of the Boystown detective series, he holds an MFA in screenwriting from UCLA. While there he received the Carl David Memorial Fellowship and was recognized in the Samuel Goldwyn Writing awards.

Book Information

Paperback: 212 pages

Publisher: Torquere Press (June 8, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1610402359

ISBN-13: 978-1610402354

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,710,923 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Mysteries](#) #4726 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Erotica > Mystery](#) #5057 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Erotica > Historical](#)

Customer Reviews

Marshall Thornton is a novelist, playwright and screenwriter living in Long Beach, California. He is best known for the Boystown detective series, which has been short-listed in the Rainbow Awards three times and has twice been a finalist for the Lambda Book Award - Gay Mystery. Other novels include the erotic comedy *The Perils of Praline*, or the *Amorous Adventures of a Southern Gentleman in Hollywood*; *Full Release*; *The Ghost Slept Over* and *My Favorite Uncle*. Marshall has an MFA in screenwriting from UCLA, where he received the Carl David Memorial Fellowship and was recognized in the Samuel Goldwyn Writing awards. He has also had plays produced in Chicago and LA, and stories published in *The James White Review* and *Frontier Magazine*. --This text refers

to an alternate Paperback edition.

I do enjoy the two Boystowns' I've read. Am not quite sure I agree with the reviewer who applauded the "goodly douse of sex". They are well done and erotic. Some add and some detract, or seem to be spaced too closely together. The descriptions and sequencing are too "the same" because the phrasing is identical from one to another. The scene at the closing on Nick and Daniel plays out like all the sex scenes. It loses its emotional punch in that sameness. Have to wonder if Nick, and the series, can survive him going monogamous, and if Thornton can pull it off if Nick does go monogamous. Will it be believable when half the plots are composed around goodly doses of sex. Has Thornton created a strong enough character to stand on his own? Guess I'll read on to find out if Thornton's writing is good enough.

It's a detective novel first, and a gay detective novel second. It matters that Nick Nowak is gay, but it matters as a part of his complete personality. I very much enjoyed the Chicago milieu, though I've never lived there, I love visiting, and the north side, near south side and loop settings bring it to life. Nick is a little bit hard-boiled and a little bit vulnerable. I've continued to read additional books in the series and have enjoyed seeing Nowak grow and change as the series progresses. The developing AIDS epidemic of the 80s figures in these stories as a dark and realistic villain in itself.

Chicago, early 1980's... Nick Nowak is an ex-cop turned private eye. Nick's a guy. He likes grilled ham and cheese sandwiches, jazz and sex. He takes his work seriously and always gets the job done. These stories can stand alone, but are best read in order because the characters/situations from one story spill over into the next. The writing is good, the stories and characters interesting and the sex is hot. This is a great gay-noir series. I'm so glad I gave it a chance. Book 1 is good... book 2 is very good!

Like the first book, Boystown 2 includes three compelling mysteries -- "Little Boy Silent," "Little Boy Blond" and "Little Boy Loved." Of course, what's most compelling about this series is PI Nick Novack himself. Brand Langer is a great choice for a narrator. He sounds like he may have been a smoker at one point -- which is important as Nick is constantly trying to quit smoking -- but his voice isn't so raspy I worry for his personal health.

I rarely write reviews. I do so only when I think the book is terrific and want the author to know how

much I've enjoyed their writing. This was yet another in the series that I just could not put the damn thing down.

I love these mysteries and they keep getting better and better. And i'm reluctantly loving the Nick Nowak character. He's not always easy to like, but he's sensitive even when tough, he's a loyal friend, and he's being himself, unapologetically, which i appreciate. There's humor to lighten the darker places, and a brisk, exciting pace.

I enjoy that it is written about a time I remember the 80's. I am not gay but I still enjoy the detection aspects and the development of the characters

"Boystown 2" picks up where "Boystown 1" left off. In addition to the protagonist, other men that he had various dealings with in the first collection re-appear. Nick, the protagonist, comes across as manly and tough and sexy as well. The story is engaging and I will be reading "Boystown 3" very soon.

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