



# Boca Knights

*Steven M. Forman*

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## **Boca Knights** Steven M. Forman

In a debut novel sure to both excite passions and elicit laughter, a different kind of hero emerges in that most unlikely criminal hotbed: Boca Raton.

Eddie Perlmutter is capable of fighting with fearless frenzy, but only does so to defend the defenseless. Eddie's career as a much-honored Boston cop has come to an end. At sixty, he's still energetic and virile, but decades of harsh New England winters and collaring the pug-uglies of Boston's underworld have taken their toll—especially on his knees. So what does a lonely, retired cop with arthritic knees do? Head to sunny Florida, of course.

Country-club politics and early-bird specials are a far cry from the street toughs, scuffles, and arrests of his former life. But some things never change. Instead of enjoying a relaxed, laid-back retirement, Eddie quickly discovers the darker side of Boca Raton's endless sun and palm trees, where hate crimes, counterfeiting, and worse lurk beneath the deceptively calm surface of cushy retirement communities.

With his no-nonsense crime-fighting skills and roll-with-the punches attitude, Eddie hits Boca Raton like of a Nor'easter from Hell, fast, fresh, and unstoppable. A compulsively readable comic thriller with an egalitarian message that will inspire readers of all ages, *Boca Knights* will have readers in stitches and keep them on the edge of their seats.

## **Boca Knights Details**

Date : Published February 3rd 2009 by Forge Books (first published January 26th 2009)

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Author : Steven M. Forman

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## From Reader Review Boca Knights for online ebook

### Vicki says

The hero of this book, Eddie Perlmutter grew up in Boston's North Side as a Jew in a sea of Italian Catholics. He became a cop who cared. He used his experience in the Golden Gloves to teach youngsters to box. After years of honorable services late fifties Eddie retired due to arthritis. He leaves the cold New England climate for the heart of Boca Raton assuming that the warmth will be good for his sore bones.

However, Boca may be an elixir physically, but mentally he feels out of place. As his retirement lengthens, and he becomes bored, he gets involved in local criminal matters so to avoid legal trouble he gets a private investigator license. Excited by the sudden change in venue, Eddie gets involved with the Russian Mafia, the homicide of a golf pro, neo-Nazis and a lovely nurse earning him the title "Boca Knight" at least for his encounters with the first three contacts.

Over the top with a zany offbeat humor, BOCA KNIGHTS is a delightful satirical crime caper that enhances the already capital of quirkiness, the South Florida private investigative world. The story line contains several suspenseful subplots that are fun to follow although at times can be humorously campy. With a strong cast of eccentric and dangerous individuals causing havoc, readers will enjoy this fast-paced tale; superbly held together by Eddie, who finds his niche stirring up seemingly anyone who resides along the I-95 corridor south of the Palms and north of Lauderdale after he failed miserably at retirement 101.

This book gives Baby Boomers a senior citizen super man who could leap tall condos in a single bound (joking). Eddie Perlmutter, the social security super star is an imperfect baby boomer Batman. He's 60 years old, virile, tough and incredibly fair. He does what every senior wishes he could still do. He's an inspiration and he reminds the people around him that "Anyone can be a Boca Knight," which he describes as "anyone willing to fight and die for everyone's right to live in peace." He advocates tolerance, with the strength to enforce it. He also tells the reader that "Boca Knights is not a place. It's a state of mind."

I was fortunate to receive an advance copy of this book, and can't wait for more...Move over Carl Haaissen!!!

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### Craig Pittman says

This may be the most cockeyed private eye novel I've ever read. Where most private eyes are terse, the main character of "Boca Knights," retired Boston cop Eddie Perlmutter, is garrulous in the extreme. Where most are concerned only with solving the murder that they've been hired to investigate, the murder mystery in this book is almost an afterthought. Where most such stories climax with the solution of the mystery, this one keeps going for several chapters -- and then ends abruptly without fully resolving the other case that Eddie has been working on.

And, as a bonus, Eddie carries on a running dialogue with his penis. No I am not making that up. He calls it "Mr. Johnson."

This is the author's first novel, and it shows. Too bad he didn't have anyone to edit it. Before we even meet 60-year-old Eddie, there's a lengthy prologue about his grandfather's adventures in Russia that doesn't really tell you anything. Then we get introduced to Eddie's circle in Boston, and everybody's got both a name and a

nickname, and then he retires and moves to Boca Raton and there's even more description. Along the way we also get a long discourse about what went wrong with Boston's busing program and even a history of political corruption and revolt in Haiti, neither of which have anything to do with the story. We even get a tour of the Boca Raton police station, for no apparent reason.

Still, the author delivers some sharp observations about the retirees who fill Florida communities like the one Eddie moves into, and how they fill their otherwise empty days and nights. There's also a scene involving a cemetery that promises more laughs than it ends up delivering.

Eddie himself is an engaging character, a tough guy and a fast-talker who doesn't shy away from tackling the Russian mob, neo-Nazis and pushy country club golfers. Despite his lack of height, he's apparently catnip to the ladies, too, so we're presented with Eddie (and Mr. Johnson) having sex with a lovely retiree near his age and a Haitian-American nurse who meets and treats Eddie when he gets shot (and rapidly bounces back).

Eddie doesn't become a private eye until about halfway through the book, and unlike most PIs who are constantly in conflict with the cops, Eddie gets his license with help from the police chief. Then he makes short work of the one mystery he's hired to solve. Instead, he spends a lot more time fighting the neo-Nazi goons who vandalize the cemetery. hilariously, Eddie identifies the worst of them as "goths." Every time that term popped up, all I could think of was Inigo Montoya in "The Princess Bride," telling his Sicilian boss, "I do not think that word means what you think it means."

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## **Kay says**

In a debut novel sure to both excite passions and elicit laughter, a different kind of hero emerges in that most unlikely criminal hotbed: Boca Raton.

Like his grandfather, Eddie Perlmutter is capable of fighting with fearless frenzy, but only does so to defend the defenseless, fighting for the little guy. Eddie's career as a much-honored Boston cop has come to an end. At sixty, he's still energetic and virile, but decades of harsh New England winters and collaring the pug-uglies of Boston's underworld have taken their toll--especially on his knees. His wife, the love of his life, died twenty years ago, and he has no close ties to Boston. So what does a lonely, retired cop with arthritic knees do? Head to sunny Florida, of course.

Country-club politics and early-bird specials are a far cry from the street toughs, scuffles, and arrests of his former life. Some things never change, though. Instead of enjoying a relaxed, laid-back retirement, Eddie quickly discovers the darker side of Boca Raton's endless sun and palm trees, where hate crimes, counterfeiting, and worse lurk beneath the deceptively calm surface of cushy retirement communities.

With his no-nonsense crime-fighting skills and roll-with-the punches attitude, Eddie hits Boca Raton like of a Nor'easter from Hell, fast, fresh, and unstoppable. A compulsively readable comic thriller with an egalitarian message that will inspire readers of all ages, Boca Knights will have readers in stitches and keep them on the edge of their seats.

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## **Ramona says**

### **Slow start**

It took me a while to get momentum, but when I did, it was a good read. The Boca Knight is a hero. He's a main character to be proud of. ( you will need to overlook his references to Mr. Johnson, yes his penis). I like the way this ended. BTW, the Knight can take a punch!

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## **Connie says**

BOCA KNIGHTS by Steven M Forman is 331 pages in paperback form. It is #1 in the Eddie Perlmutter series.

### **Brief Description:**

Eddie Perlmutter is capable of fighting with fearless frenzy, but only does so to defend the defenseless. Eddie's career as a much-honored Boston cop has come to an end. At sixty, he's still energetic and virile, but decades of harsh New England winters and collaring the pug-uglies of Boston's underworld have taken their toll--especially on his knees. So what does a lonely, retired cop with arthritic knees do? Head to sunny Florida, of course.

Country-club politics and early-bird specials are a far cry from the street toughs, scuffles, and arrests of his former life. But some things never change. Instead of enjoying a relaxed, laid-back retirement, Eddie quickly discovers the darker side of Boca Raton's endless sun and palm trees, where hate crimes, counterfeiting, and worse lurk beneath the deceptively calm surface of cushy retirement communities.

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This was a very interesting book. It was witty. It started in Russia with Eddie's Grandfather and gave a little history about how Eddie became the way he was. At first I thought what is this book, but it really pulled me in and I was fully engaged in the story of Eddie.

I never knew there were so many names for a penis. There was one whole paragraph devoted to the different names it could be called. I probably could have lived without that, but still that did not detract from the book. He does have conversations with his penis though.

I could see where this book could be made into a movie. It had all the personalities for a good movie and I am sure there are many actors out there that could play Eddie and friends. The ending was really Hollywood style, but still brought a tear to my eye.

There really isn't so much a mystery as a retired policeman taking care of things that he sees have gone wrong. Eddie is very thorough and doesn't care about the way he gets things done. He just wants to right the wrongs in the world. I loved Eddie from the minute I met him. He has a lot of good qualities that go with the

bad ones that people perceive that he has.

I am giving this 5 out of 5 stars because for a first book, it was hard to find fault with anything. I found it to be very well written even with the paragraphs with like things in it.

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## **Maddy says**

PROTAGONIST: Eddie Perlmutter

SETTING: Boca Raton, Florida

SERIES: Debut

RATING: 1.5

Eddie Perlmutter has been a cop in Boston for over 30 years, but the cold weather in New England is killing him. As a nod to his arthritic knees, he decides to take an early retirement and move to Boca Raton, Florida. Initially, he works as a security guard for a golf course. However, "once a cop, always a cop" really does apply to him. He can't seem to help stumbling across crimes. He runs up against a counterfeiting ring that is also involved with ecstasy and is run by the Russian mafia. His investigation uncovers the group, and he is lauded by the media for unveiling the ring. They dub him the "Boca Knight", and soon he finds himself doing private detective work. His first job is to find out who killed one of the country club elites, Robert Goldenblatt. While investigating, Eddie himself becomes a target of the Aryan Army.

Descended from a hot-headed renegade from Russia, Eddie often struggles to control his own temper. The warning sign is that he sees red spots—and he sees more red spots than a ward full of measles patients. But despite his flaws, he manages to single-handedly resolve situations that the entire police department has not been able to manage. Boca Raton could have saved itself a lot of money by just hiring Eddie to become the police force; it seemed as if he were the only one who had the courage and brains to deal with the criminal element in the city.

Putting aside my doubts about Eddie in the role of Super Cop, I had a more fundamental issue with the book and that was the fact that Perlmutter's penis had a leading role in the story. Early in his life, Eddie nicknamed his penis "Mr. Johnson". Mr. Johnson appears on almost every page of the book. We either see his reaction to any females who happen to cross Eddie's path or are subjected to Eddie and Mr. Johnson talking to one another. I'm assuming that Forman meant this to be amusing; instead, I found it downright distasteful. Mr. Johnson is very active while in Boca Raton, which was a turn-off to me.

As far as the actual narrative, I felt that Forman didn't know what kind of book he wanted Boca Knights to be. It starts out seriously and then turns into a vaudeville act full of one-liners when Eddie goes to Florida. From there, it makes another turn into private investigation. All along the way, Forman sprinkles factoids about the various settings. Some of that was interesting, but in many cases, it felt like the author had done research and wanted to make sure that it got included in the book. The one thing that I did feel was well done was a crime simulation that helped uncover the truth of a puzzling situation.

In general, I tend to cut new authors a bit of a break and focus on the potential that they exhibit. Unfortunately, there were too many things that did not work for me to be able to do that with Boca Knights. I had a lot of problems with the fact that the tone of the book wavered wildly and that the main character was

so improbably talented, both as a Super Cop and a Stud Muffin. Although I finished the book, I also pulled down the shade on any further adventures with the "Boca Knight".

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### **Tom says**

I gave it 5 stars because it was a nice change of pace from what I've been reading. This is light weight, funny, and the good guys win in the end. An easy read and entertaining. If you've just finished a long Russian novel and need a breather, this could be it, though it's no great work of art.

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### **Deirdre says**

I found this a fun read.

There is one reviewer who has voiced her dislike of the references to penis, and Mr. Johnson in particular. I will state here that this is a male author who has written a masculine book. Anyone with any experience in their lives, male or female, knows that this particular appendage is on most men's minds almost 90% of their day, every day. I doubt this reader would spend much time with Joseph Wambaugh's or Norman Mailer's books. Probably has never even opened anything by Erskine Caldwell. God forbid she should try to read "Portnoy's Complaint". Too bad. She's missed out on some good writing and a few rip roaring stories. I will advise her to stick to cozy mysteries taking place in small villages. Sorry for my rant, but I get very tired of non-writers telling writers how they should write. Okay, enough. Back to this book.

Steven Forman made me believe he truly is an ex-cop, as he writes this in first person. I found many of his characters endearing. I enjoyed his Wise Guy sense of humor (even when Mr. Johnson gets involved), and I am getting a clearer picture of what retirement villages are like in Boca Raton, and perhaps other parts of Florida. The gathering of the Boca Knights at the end to rally behind their friend against the nasty Aryans are feel-good pages that will make you smile. Maybe a bit over the top, but, hey, so are a lot of classics. So are a lot of characters, like Mr. Deeds and Apple Annie.

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### **Erik Dewey says**

I always wanted to know where the story would go next, but it took a windy path to completion. A lot of the passages looked like a history paper or some cool research that the author wanted to get into the book.

The climax of the book was satisfactory but with so many different threads weaving through the book, it was just another plot line to be tied up, albeit in a fairly dramatic fashion.

I enjoyed the story and many of the characters overall, I just felt that the plotting could use a lot of tightening up and less info dumps.

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### **Patricia says**

Great fun read. Really liked this quirky narrator and the fast-paced banter. loved the historical background and the Boston references as well as the hilarious take on Boca Raton. This narrator is very self-effacing and has an on-going conversation with his privates :) My only criticism is of the ending, which I thought was wrapped up too quickly. I was ready for more conflict, more angst and a tougher road, but overall I loved this as a fun summer romp.

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### **George Riggs says**

I usually don't read this style, but it had some adventure. I liked the main character, "Boca Knight". Somewhat of a super hero. Kinda of strange talking to his prick? I don't ever remember talking to mine? hmmm?

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### **Kayeb says**

This was a laugh out loud fun read. Eddie Purlmutter, the main character who "retires" to Fl is full of quirkiness and becomes the "darling" of his community after he catches bad guys and blunders into a variety of situations.

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### **Bill says**

The story moves quickly from Russia to Boston and three generations of Permutters. Eddie is a fearless retired Boston cop who moves to Boca Raton for the warm weather. His Jewishness--and the zillion of retired Jews in Florida--are an intergral part of the story. The plot is ok but the one-liners from Eddie and others are priceless. An enjoyable read.

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### **Janet says**

A patron suggested this new-to-me series, and I have to admit the only reason I picked it up is she casually mentioned Eddie has a certain body part that talks to him. It turned out to be a good read, and I look forward to continuing it. My only complaint is with the ending, which was just a little too warm-fuzzy for my liking.

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### **Donald Grant says**

if you are looking for a refreshing, funny, page turner, this is the book. Unlike so many formula thrillers this author treats the vigilante theme with a new approach. Having had the pleasure of meeting Steve Forman in person and listening to his humorous slant on life, I was pleased to find his characters mirroring the author's. A good read!!



