



Voodoo, Ltd.

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The master of the crime thriller (New York Times Book Review) brings back the infamous team of Artie Wu and Quincy Durant in a fast-paced novel of murder, duplicity, and double-cross. Not exactly a private investigation agency, Wudu, Ltd.--or Voodoo, as the German entrepreneur Enno Glimm insists on calling it--is Wu's company which handles problems and renders services for those with the means. But soon Wudu, Ltd., might just need some protection itself.

Voodoo, Ltd. Details

Date : Published October 1st 1992 by Mysterious Press

ISBN : 9780892964512

Author : Ross Thomas

Format : Hardcover 282 pages

Genre : Fiction, Mystery, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

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From Reader Review Voodoo, Ltd. for online ebook

Stuart says

Classic Ross Thomas--crew of interesting, smart weirdos solving an amorphous problem with wit, violence and a certain disregard for the law. I will probably read every Ross Thomas book this year.

Sam Reaves says

Ross Thomas wrote political thrillers, but that term doesn't quite capture what his books were about; he wrote about spies, he wrote about corrupt politicians, he wrote about con men and gamblers and reporters and other adventurers. What he really wrote about was disillusionment, the shock of ideals meeting the real and sordid world of money and power. A Ross Thomas novel is all about intrigue and betrayal. This one, set in 1991 as the first Iraq war unfolds, features the ensemble characters who appear in several of his books, the troubleshooting partnership of Artie Wu and Quincy Durant (Wudu, Ltd.) along with sidekicks Otherguy Overby (when the cops come calling, it was always the Other Guy who did it), Georgia Blue (ex-Secret Service agent turned professional femme fatale) and Brook Stallings (the retired terrorism consultant who may be the closest thing to a self-portrait Thomas produced). Wudu Ltd. (its mispronunciation by a German client gives the book its title) is in the business of getting rich people out of jams while keeping them out of the newspapers. They have their work cut out for them in this one, as Ione Gamble, the Hollywood star, is about to go on trial for killing Billy Rice, the billionaire fiance who jilted her. Even she doesn't know if she's guilty, as she was in an alcoholic blackout on the fatal night; a blackmailer claims to have evidence that will send her to the gas chamber. Brought in by her lawyer to make it all go away, Wu and Durant go to work and soon find that nobody is to be trusted, perhaps including individuals on their payroll. It all plays out in Malibu and similarly atmospheric L.A. settings, and there are twists, angles, deals and corpses galore. The humor is dry, the dialogue crisp, the logic implacable. Nobody did intrigue better than Ross Thomas.

Xenophon Hendrix says

I'm sad that Ross Thomas was only able to write three books about Wu, Durant, and friends.

Tina Myers says

A quick, slick read with the snap that likens it to Soderbergh's Ocean's 11, and just enough cynical political commentary to know that Mr. Thomas spent his fair share of time in Washington. Thomas is an author for those who like questionable heroes who drink their whisky with a little bit of water, and rarely feel conflicted about a double-cross.

Scilla says

This book was fun, but very unrealistic and a little difficult to follow. Artie Wu and his partner Quincy Durant take on a possible blackmail situation in Los Angeles involving an actress/director accused of murdering her wealthy ex fiance. Other characters include a female ex FBI agent who has just been released from jail in the Philippines. There are lots of deaths and fast action. It wasn't really clear to me why the German financier was funding the entire episode, but thousands of dollars are bouncing back and forth.

R. Rasmussen says

I'm now reading this book a second time. About 14 years ago, I read four of Ross Thomas's novels and liked them all. They're very intelligent, complex thrillers with well-rounded characters and fascinating plot twists. They're also set in Southern California, not far from where I live, so the familiar settings make them even more enjoyable to me.

Peter says

One of the greats. Thomas could put a story together and keep you reading until the sun comes up. He created mood, great characters, and told it the way it is. It's almost like a handbook for the real world and it's wicked ways. No wonder he was the head honcho for the Mystery Writer's of America. He could weave a yarn.

VeganMedusa says

I only read about 40 pages and was just confused and bored. Now I see it's the 3rd in a series, so that makes sense.

Tracey says

Why hasn't anyone made a movie of these books? Artie Wu and Quincy Durant come to the rescue of Ione Gamble, actress, director and murder suspect. Of course they assemble a team that includes Georgia Blue and Otherguy Overby. I think I have to get a cat just so I can name it Otherguy Overby.

This book was slender, like That F'ng Durant and did not disappoint. It was less complicated than Out on the Rim, but nuclear physics is less complicated than the Rim. The only sad part of Voodoo Ltd. is that it's the last I'll ever read of Artie, wise, benevolent Buddha of larceny that he is. Although I've been looking for a real life tall, dark and mysterious Durant all my life, it's probably best for everyone's safety that I've yet to meet him. Would it hurt me to read it again? I'll let you know.

Michael says

A fine offering from a unique writer

Dave Wallace says

Should be a 4.5 star but I don't know how to do that. Nobody beats Thomas for tight prose. Solid mystery story and the only things I disliked about it was it was set in the 90's and there was no McCorkle/Padillo banter; not that it lacked sarcasm. From any other author I may have gone with 5 stars.

Al says

The inimitable Ross Thomas--murky situations, great characters, and snappy dialogue. Artie Wu and his merry band of mercenary friends try to sort out a blackmail attempt in Los Angeles. It's all a bit over the top, but who cares? It's fun.

Mike Jensen says

As with the other Ross Thomas books I have begun and failed to finish, I am impressed by his technical skill as a storyteller, but have no interest in his characters or in the story Thomas tells. I lasted in this one for more than a third of the way, but giving up was a relief.

Karenbike Patterson says

A witty mystery involving 5 interesting characters who have worked together many times. The blackmailer was easy to spot but the original murderer was a mystery until the end. An easy summer read.

Benjamin Plume says

As usual, Thomas's humor works on a number of levels, providing everything from tiny smiles to side-splitting laughter. The thing I love about his books is that they work as a quick read, because you can follow the plot and get some of the humor, but they also work as a slower read because there's so much subtlety in the plot and the comedy. Thomas sometimes even makes his punctuation funny.
