



A Good Bunch of Men: A Dickie Floyd Detective Novel

Danny R. Smith

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Dead prostitutes can seem like part of the landscape in South Los Angeles.

What, then, could render two veteran homicide detectives speechless as they stand over their latest victim?

Tightly-wound Dickie Jones and his smart and cocky partner, Matt “Pretty Boy Floyd” Tyler, find themselves entangled with gang members and a sexy drug dealer as they uncover a nefarious plot rife with greed, sex, and betrayal.

Can law enforcement’s “odd couple” survive fights, shootouts, and a sniper who wants them dead? What about their wives, and their captain, all of whom have had it with them both?

A Good Bunch of Men will have you laughing, gasping, and craving the next in the Dickie Floyd Detective series.

“Finally, someone wrote it the way it should be written and added a few twists along the way. Real page turner.” – J. Sheehy

“I was totally blown away. Unable to put the book down. Anyone with law enforcement experience MUST read this book.” – JZ

“There's nothing like authenticity to set a book apart.” – Jackson

“This work of fiction will take you into the heart of a homicide investigation, with its many twists and turns. Excellent character development and the story is a page-turner.” – A. Argott

“If you want to know how murders are truly investigated and solved, and how homicide detectives think, walk, and talk, then A Good Bunch of Men is for you.” – J. Knight

“This book gets you behind the yellow tape of a murder scene and investigation. You will feel as though you're living the life of a homicide investigator.” – Cliff Yates

“I've read a lot of law enforcement type stories, and this is probably the best one yet. The author obviously writes from experience.” – George B.

“But once in a while, an author comes along who has not only been there and done that, but comes to the table with an eye for plotting, dialogue, and intrigue. And when that happens, one can celebrate their literary blessings.” – Dean Scoville, Author of A Gun, A Badge, and An Attitude.

“Dickie Floyd belongs on the bookshelf of every Joseph Wambaugh and Michael Connelly fan. Wambaugh and Connelly write about LAPD. The author has written the quintessential LA County Sheriff's Department novel.” – Phil

“Crime, fights, guns, with laughs and a dash of booze mixed in give us an inside look at the life of homicide detectives.” – Richard Powers

A Good Bunch of Men: A Dickie Floyd Detective Novel Details

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From Reader Review A Good Bunch of Men: A Dickie Floyd Detective Novel for online ebook

Chaplain Stanleigh Chapin says

A good change of pace

I had been alternating between novels of sailing ships wars and world war 2 submarines and decided a change of pace, it was a good one and have now entertained a new interest.

Sharon says

Two rough around the edges detectives use their unique crime solving talents to solve their assigned cases. The author's narrative is descriptive, gruff and while easily offensive to some, seems fitting of the characters, environments and gritty storyline depicted. 3.5 stars

My thanks to goodreads and the book's giveaway sponsors for the opportunity to obtain a copy of this book.

Heather says

Thanks to a #GoodreadsGiveaway, I was able to read this book by a new-to-me author, Danny R Smith.

I love a good detective novel especially one that has such fun and playful banter between the two main characters, Detective Richard "Dickie" Jones and his partner, Detective Matt "Floyd" Tyler. The book follows every move made by the two detectives including a lot of the behind the scenes, not-so-glamorous, side of police work. I'll tell you this - Retired Police Detective and author, Danny Smith, knows his stuff, so as someone who's not in law enforcement, I enjoyed the added details.

Though the beginning felt a little forced, presumably while the author got his writing sea legs, it ended up being a super fast and enjoyable read.

He has a couple more books out which I look forward to reading in the new year.

Bicky says

I hate not being able to give 5*+ to this book because it is so good and so different from other books around.

The author Danny R. Smith is a retired homicide detective and obviously knows the subject. This is a book about cops solving a murder rather than a police procedural. Richard Jones (Dickie) is the narrator. He and his partner Matt Tyler (Floyd) are the protagonists of this book and series to be known as the Dickie Floyd

series.

This is a book where the first person narrative is particularly well suited as it sounds authentic, rough edges and all. The way these two and other cops talk and banter is realistic and hilarious. This is not just an author being witty but as if the characters themselves had the ability and the need for humour.

This a great buddy novel, almost non-existent in the world of detective fiction with both Dickie and Floyd being equally important.

The two detectives are sent to investigate a murder of a black prostitute Susie Q who they discover is a transsexual. Even if Dickie and Floyd are not at times politically correct in their oft expressed opinions about everything, they passionately investigate the murder and a similar murder even while other cops are ready to let go or find a convenient solution. In fact, when they discover that Susie had been beaten by her father because of her getting dolled up and using makeup, they are angry enough to mete out rough justice as if it was just another case of parental abuse.

While conducting their investigation which leads to many plot twists, their spirit and the outrageous way they present themselves is captivating. Thus they are not afraid of entering an apartment complex with gangsters loitering around though it then results in their police car getting torched! Or in Texas to apprehend a suspect, they brazenly pretend to be Texas Rangers.

During the entire narrative they also come up with interesting commentary about cops and life in general. An example: "The job had taken its toll on my first marriage, there was no doubt about that. But that was a long time ago, a time when the job and its inconvenient schedules and long hours made up just part of the problem. The other part of the equation—not unique to cop marriages and subsequent divorces—was that I was young, immature in many ways, and camaraderie with my partners seemed paramount. That meant nightly gatherings at cop bars or parking lots, because drinking with the boys was more important than coming home in those days. We referred to these gatherings as debriefings..."

Or Floyd's reading of Cosmopolitan and his parting of information on Tupperware parties.

Or "...we finished up the morning discussion as to whether or not we truly were nuts or could we maybe be normal after all, or perhaps relatively normal, all things considered. We had concluded there were guys much worse, like... Nate Hollyfield, a former Marine Recon guy who recently took up skydiving from buildings in downtown Los Angeles—at night, since it is completely illegal—because being a cop in L.A. didn't offer enough excitement for him."

The author is not someone who had always wanted to be a writer and finally chose to write about detectives. No, he was a detective who found that he had stories to tell and could do so effectively. It is a fresh voice which should have more readers.

This is one of the most enjoyable books I have read this year. My only problem was with the ending which was reached after an unnecessary diversion and at that not completely satisfactorily.

Bettyboop says

Wow! This really is a 'goodread'! The title 'A Good Bunch of Men' is no indication of the crazy, exciting, and humorous story detective Dickie Floyd is and Dickie is 2 detectives not one. The author, Danny R. Smith, uses knowledge, experience, colorful language and gritty descriptions to create very real characters and storyline. The 2 detectives are polar opposites and have a bond nothing can break. They are relentless in tracking leads to find a killer. That makes the story exciting and their sparing adds the humor. You will keep turning pages. Like detective stories, gotta read this book! It's the best!

Glen says

I won this book in a goodreads drawing.

Buddy cops investigate the murder of a transsexual. Lots of action and shootouts, and plain craziness. Always entertaining, but sometimes nonsensical.

Audrey Moran says

I have recently been able to get advance copies of Danny R. Smith's books. The first one is called A Good Bunch of Men. This book introduces us to Dickie Floyd, an LAPD homicide detective.

Dickie Floyd is actually two detectives. "Dickie" is Richard Jones and Matt "Floyd" Tyler. We get to ride along with them while they hunt down the predators who snuff out the life of innocent people.

Danny is a former LAPD officer so the language in the story reflects that fact.

Danny manages to avoid cliches and tired stereotypes. He also spares us vivid descriptions of violence and sex. For that I thank you.

He kept me engaged in the storyline and wondering who in the world committed this murder. I didn't know who did it although I tried to get the answer right.

Conny says

I was a First Read Winner of this book and I really liked it. I would have liked to get to know Dickie and Floyd a little better but I think they made the perfect team and I liked their banter and how they worked together. The ending felt a bit rushed to me but overall it was very entertaining read.

Katherine A. McClure says

Definitely a five star book!

This is the first of Danny Smith's books that I have read, but it won't be the last! The story was well written and flowed at a nice steady pace. Dickie Floyd is a detective you won't forget any time soon! I loved this book!

Ruth E. Roddick says

Entertaining

Good ending, but Floyd drove me crazy. Not quite ready for a sequel, but will read more soon. Dickie is great.

Sheryl Hansen says

Too much drivil.

I forced myself to finish this book. There is so much inane drivil that I didn't enjoy the book. I won't be reading more books by this author any time soon.

William says

First-time author Danny Smith is a retired L.A. detective, and certainly knows his stuff. This is an admirable first effort, and especially the final 1/4 of the book is very good, with great pacing and a rousing climax.

The first half of the book has good moments, but is a bit uneven as Smith finds his author's voice. His characters "Dickie" and "Floyd" work well as partners, and the daily grind is well-presented. The supporting characters are well-imagined, with some terrific dialogue. The quality of the writing generally improves in the second half of the book, and finishes quite well.

I found the banter between Dickie and Floyd is sometimes brilliant, but is too often forced or harsh. This may be accurate to real life detective partnerships, but it's a bit too much for me.

The book starts with the murder of a transgender girl, and then another. There are red herrings, an early shootout, and Dickie and Floyd lose five cars to various events. Wow!

The mystery is well-constructed, and the climax and solution work well. Even though the first half of the book has flaws, Smith does develop a good style by the end. I will be reading the second book in the series soon.

Some quotes and notes:

Undercover cops blend well into their surroundings, disguised as construction workers, cab drivers, junkies, and bums. Yet their eyes can reveal their presence to the seasoned criminal. A cop tends to study everyone and everything, as does the predator. The two of them, in a crowd of a hundred, will often recognize one another, while the other ninety-eight remain oblivious to the presence—or threat—of either one.

A hard boiled detective's standard ride: the Crown Vic -

Full size image

Not a good look for a detective's Crown Vic -

Full size image

Dickie's Heckler & Koch 9mm -

Full size image

Dickie finds Floyd reading Cosmo magazine:

"What article?"

"The one on cheating spouses."

"Lays it all out, Dickie. Everything right there in black and white. Problem with it is that only women read this stuff—"

"And Floyd."

"—so actually, they learn to be smarter.... Men just keep watching their ballgames, drinking their beers with not a clue this stuff's going on. Also, there's always hot babes in there. Seriously, you've never seen one?"

"You never cease to amaze me," I said.

"Dickie, I amaze myself at times."

The scene with the homeless veteran and "Wayne's World" is truly hilarious and inspired. Also, the "Club Cabo" banter at the holding cells and after is very good.

Remington 700 .308 -

Full size image

A side-plot involves a "suicide by cop" story, which rattles Dickie and Floyd a bit -

I'd like to give a course, maybe even set up a hotline, How to Kill Yourself Without Involving the Cops.

More banter -

*I ignored you last night, and why I'll be ignoring you for the next several days, you and every other a**hole in this place."*

"That's not very Christian-like, Dickie."

"Also," I said, rising out of my chair, "I'm leaving early today, and if anyone tries to stop me, I'll shoot my way to the door."

*"I've seen you shoot, d**khead, I'm not even a little nervous."*

A scene at the city morgue -

What I have never figured out though, as I recalled now on my way out, passing through Receiving, is why the hell they bothered to decorate for Halloween. I thought about the paper skeletons and strings of ghosts that, in the fall, hung across the wall behind the receptionist, a remarkably well-adjusted woman who answered phones and checked in visitors, both temporary and permanent ones. It was as if they thought that maybe, with a few cutouts and cobwebs, they could make the place more ghoulish.

A film camera!

She told him there's another set, says it'll cost him a hundred thou to get those and the negatives.

Cool Note: Danny tells us why:

This book was first written 14 years ago when I retired. The crime lab (at least ours) still used

film, not digital, due to concerns about the ease of which digital could be altered, or just as bad, alleged to have been. My understanding now is that they do in fact use all digital.

More of this throughout the book would be nice. Could use a bit more polish, but this is the right idea -

It became the top story of the southland, this dangerous—if not deadly—phenomenon where water came from above and wetness blanketed the streets, the cars, and the few pedestrians who were so foolish as to venture outdoors during such treacherous conditions. People had been forced to close their sunroofs, put their tops up, and close their windows. Weather warnings were announced throughout the day by reporters clad in yellow or blue plastic raincoats who risked their very lives to report the natural disaster in dramatic fashion.

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Betty Hutchinson says

A good detective story. The book has good action throughout as well as some comedy. this one keeps you guessing. I will be reading more of the Dickie Floyd novels.

Debbie says

Good start to the series. This story has a lot of twists and turns but turned out to be a good story. Tempting me to read the next in the series.

Kyle says

Very good first installment to the series. When you start to read this book, you can tell the author spent a great deal of time in law enforcement as the only people who can truly understand cops are other cops. The dialogue was hilarious at times and always believable. I can't wait to read the rest of the books in the series!
