



Cool for Cats

Andrew Ordovery

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Jordan Greenblatt deals with life the way he deals with music—as a supporting player. Jordan is the bass guitar in the band of life—steady, solid, able to keep his cool, emotionally detached. Even as a private investigator, Jordan keeps a low profile. He takes pictures of adulterous husbands and helps local lawyers with medical malpractice cases, but he rarely breaks a sweat. He lives a quiet life with his wife and his jazz musician friends in suburban Atlanta. Nothing about him says “private eye,” even his name. And then, one steamy summer day, Jordan agrees to look into an old hit-and-run accident that took the life of a girl he knew in high school—a case in which he has a personal stake, for once in his life. The more he looks into the story, the more he is forced to question everyone’s assumptions. Bit by bit, he is dragged deeper and deeper into a mystery that he is not prepared to handle—a mystery that threatens to uncover many closely-guarded and long-protected secrets—including his own.

Cool for Cats Details

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Author : Andrew Ordover

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From Reader Review Cool for Cats for online ebook

Andrea Price says

I usually have a difficult time reading mysteries and usually jump to the end just to find out "who did it". This was my first noir style mystery and I was drawn into the characters' life. Jordan Greenblatt, bass player / private investigator, is the perfect protagonist: hard working and persistent.

Laurie says

I really enjoyed this book, which I read thanks to Heather Ordovery's enthusiastic endorsement. I'm a long-time fan of mysteries but haven't read one in awhile. I found myself completely captivated by the characters and the story and look forward to reading more about Jordan's exploits. He is a highly sympathetic and believable character. Mr. Ordovery did a great job of peppering the story with humor, surprises and suspense.

Maxine Bruce says

I have set this aside for a bit, it just wasn't speaking to me. Perhaps I will pick it up again soon.

Heather Ordovery says

I'm a fan of a good murder mystery, but particularly a fan of Raymond Chandler, and that brand of good noir is hard to find. This book nods its head at noir and expects you to know what the nod is about. The characters are folks you're likely to want to sit down and have a beer with--I expect Oticha will be a fave of most readers--and that's not always true for me in books these days. I AM biased, in that I've read a few drafts of this along the way and share a last name (and home, and kids) with the author, but not so biased that I'd come here and write a b.s. review. If you love modern mysteries that understand their roots in Chandler and Hammet's flawed heroes then you'll love "Cool for Cats."

Julie Davis says

UPDATED

Listening to the audio version which is an incentive for subscribers to CraftLit. Author Andrew Ordovery narrates the book and does an excellent job. He brings the characters to life in a way that makes the book even better.

ORIGINAL REVIEW

And I didn't want to rely on Internet archives. First of all, our local paper is crap, and it keeps crap archives online. But more importantly, when they do archive stories, they do what

everyone else does--they reformat them into a computer-friendly layout. Well, I didn't want that. I wanted to see the paper, the way the paper looked back then. I wanted the articles, sure, but I also wanted the short items, the calendar listings, the classified ads--the whole newsprint enchilada. As a professional snoop, I've found that not everything of importance comes with a byline, or over the fold.

Jordan Greenblatt is a small-time detective. He drifted into detective work the way he drifted into playing bass with a local jazz combo. He does both ok, but he's never going to hit the bigtime with an attitude like that. And that's ok with Jordan. He doesn't mind being a supporting player.

Then his phone rings with a request to look into an old hit-and-run case ... and Jordan realizes that he knows the victim. He had a big crush on Giselle Palmer and never even knew she was also in Atlanta. So he takes the case, even though it is completely unlike his usual work trailing cheating husbands. What Jordan uncovers is not only a murder but the key to his own future.

I liked this book a lot. Andrew Ordovery gives readers a slacker detective who just needed the right motivation to stand up and move in a new direction. We follow Jordan as he figures out how to look at more than one clue, how to think like a real detective, and how to put together the puzzle pieces of an important case that is getting attention from the authorities.

This is Ordovery's first book but it only shows in the lack of layers (for want of a better term). Part of the lack of complexity is due to Jordan's slacker personality, part may be because until Jordan deals with his own past he can't move forward. Also, I wished for more depth from Jordan's wife, Susannah. She objects when threats arise after Jordan's digging gets him close to the heart of the mystery. However, those objections do not seem fierce enough and she forgives extremely easily. Or perhaps that is how Susannah is wired. I never felt that I got enough about her to know one way or the other. However, that is a small point overall.

Quibbles aside, Cool for Cats is a solid, entertaining mystery from this new author. It is one that left me hoping there would be a sequel.

(Full disclosure - I am email pals with Ordovery's wife Heather who is the podcaster at CraftLit ... and who provided me with a review copy. I'd have liked it anyway.)

Danielle says

This book is like reading a modern day film noir. I really enjoyed it. Our detective is fairly complex in that he's the type of guy it seems most people like--I liked him. However, he constantly barrages himself for mistakes, his past, his present, etc. The mystery is solid and the methods of solving it are plausible (at least to me). And I really like his wife.

I'm looking forward to his next book.

Paula says

Few things thrill me more than genre fiction that transcends its genre. This is not only a detective yarn, but,

like Lethem's *Motherless Brooklyn* or Jen Banbury's *Like a Hole in the Head*, also a character study, featuring a plot that unravels organically (no contrived twists and turns), with insightful things to say about ethics, jazz, justice, race matters, and the limits of privilege. Looking forward to the next installment in the "Cats" series.

T Crockett says

After going through a Sherlock Holmes phase in middle school, I haven't read any mysteries in at least 20 years. I picked up this one (well, downloaded the audio version from <http://crafting-a-life.com/shop/>) because I love the podcast Ordovery's wife Heather puts out. I figured if she was behind the book, it was worth giving it a try.

I loved it. The narrator is flawed and human; no super sleuth here. The characters he's surrounded by are fully rounded people, many of whom I'd love to spend an evening on the porch with. This mystery is much more about story and character than whodunnit, and that's why I enjoyed every minute of it.

If you get the audio version, you have the added bonus of the author reading the text, and he does a fabulous job.

David Kinne says

Great story, well fleshed out characters. A smooth read, like good jazz.

CarolineFromConcord says

I really enjoyed this mystery in spite of the fact that it had an implausible, weak plot. I guess I liked the characters. It takes place in Atlanta. Jordan is a bit of a loser because of a bad thing he did as a youth that weighs on his conscience. He has a loving wife, though, and good friends who play in a casual band. Another friend is a police officer. Jordan is a private detective who works to solve a 3-year-old hit-and-run, first for a client, then for himself -- and finds himself along the way. It was just a nice story.

Lise says

I'd say the book is much more of a 'detective story' than a murder mystery. It hits a great many of the tropes of both genres (including some humdingers of a Jessica Fletcher stripe), but what it really does is to let you connect emotionally with the protagonist.

Looking forward to the sequel.

Andrew Ordover says

I'm biased.

Barbara Kluver says

I really enjoyed this book. The main character, Jordan is very likable - and the reader understands from the outset that there is more to this man than meets the eye. The mystery is well-developed and keeps you interested until the end. I am hoping that we will see more of Jordan in future books!

Shelby says

From my Amazon.com review of this book:

I'll be honest...I'm not a mystery reader. Nor do I tend to like first person POV pieces of fiction. So I was pleasantly surprised to be completely addicted to this book that is A: a mystery and B: written in first person. I started at 11:30 PM thinking I'd only read a few chapters and didn't go to bed until 3:45 AM until I was done.

As far as the mystery goes, it is kind of refreshing that this wasn't an obvious who-dun-it. I kept "clicking" the pages forward on my Kindle desperately trying to find a clue, an obvious foreshadowing that would lead me to find the killer before our hero did, but alas, there was no "AHA" moment. Mr. Ordover is too good of an author for that. His pacing is brilliant and the story unfolds to the reader right along with the protagonist and "author" of the pages we are reading, aka: Jordan Greenblatt. The first person POV is successful because this character has a reliable, witty, soulful voice that can deliver exposition organically without being tedious. Jordan's wife is a hoot and seriously, I want his friends...his dad, not so much.

This novel serves as a very strong introduction to interesting and complex characters who are not of the cookie cutter variety. One expects bad guys to act badly but Ordover gives even his hero a few flaws that may surprise you. Jordan cares deeply for the victim he is investigating and by the end of the book, I did too. That is a testament to Ordover's skill at fleshing out characters and really making the reader invested in them. I look forward to future novels in this series and to get to know these characters even better.

PS: In case you didn't get how much I liked this book, I didn't even cheat and read the last chapter first. Yes, I am one of THOSE people...sue me. Well this time I didn't do it. Tip of the hat to Mr. Ordover for a fabulous debut novel.
