

A Long Line of Dead Men: A Matthew Scudder Mystery

By Lawrence Block



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The winner of multiple Edgar, Shamus, and Maltese Falcon Awards, Mystery Writers of America Grand Master Lawrence Block has elevated the detective novel to high art--combining grit with intelligence, suspense with stunning emotional complexity and power. And in unlicensed private investigator Matthew Scudder, he has created a character whose depth and stark humanity is unrivalled in contemporary fiction.

An ancient brotherhood meets annually in the back room of a swank Manhattan restaurant--a fraternity created in secret to celebrate life by celebrating its dead. But the past three decades have not been kind to the Club of 31. Matthew Scudder--ex-cop, ex-boozer--has known death in all its guises. Which is why he has been asked to investigate a baffling, thirty-year run of suicides and suspiciously random accidents that has thinned the ranks of this very select group of gentlemen. But Scudder has mortality problems of his own. For this is a city that feeds mercilessly on the unsuspecting--and even thepowerful and those who serve them are easy prey. There are too many secrets here--and too many places for a maddeningly patient serial killer to hide...and wait...and strike.

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A Long Line of Dead Men: A Matthew Scudder Mystery By Lawrence Block Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The newest Matt Scudder novel by the blessedly prolific Block is right up to his usual standards. It takes a while to set up the situation (someone in an exclusive male dinner club that meets once a year is killing off the members at an alarming rate), but once it's established, Matt gets his man by his usual patient attention to detail and sheer doggedness. He almost misses him, however (giving rise to a matchless last line), and the punishment meted out to the villain is a highly unusual variant on the kind Scudder thinks up when the law, as sometimes happens, is helpless to act. His ex-call girl companion, Elaine, is her usual comforting self, and there's a brilliant portrait of an offbeat New York lawyer, obviously modeled on William Kunstler, who specializes in representing the underdog. The scene where the lawyer and suspicious ex-cop Scudder get to know and like each other is alone worth the price of the book. Those who become impatient with Scudder's determined pursuit of AA meetings--and it's possible to do so--should note his publisher's assertion that he now has a strong following not only among mystery buffs but also in "the recovery community." Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

In Block's first novel since he was named the Mystery Writers of America's 1994 Grand Master, detective Matthew Scudder investigates murder at a private men's club.

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From Booklist

Lawrence Block is having a career year. His Bernie Rhodenbarr series returned to wide acclaim after a 10-year hiatus (*The Burglar Who Traded Ted Williams*), he was named the 1994 Mystery Writers of America Grand Master, and now the thirteenth entry in his long-running and much-loved Matthew Scudder series has arrived. Fans will be pleased to know it's one of the most entertaining of the lot. Scudder is summoned to investigate the curious run of deaths that seem to be afflicting the members of a private club. Not just any private club, mind you, but one whose raison d'{^}etre, in a sense, is death. Thirty men gather once a year to celebrate, well . . . not having died yet. When they do die, eventually, the last survivor appoints 30 new members to keep the flame burning. The current batch, though, are dropping at an abnormally fast pace. Enter Scudder. Block takes this absolutely wonderful premise and makes the most of it. Like all the best hard-boiled writers in the post-Chandler era, Block knows that character and ambience are the heart and soul of crime fiction, but unlike so many of his brethren, he also maintains a healthy respect for plot. When you read a lot of mysteries, you come to feel a numbing inevitability about literary murder: there are only so many motives and so many ways to kill somebody, and we've seen them all. Hence the pleasure of encountering a new Block novel and realizing again the joys of a fresh premise. Perhaps that's a topic for discussion at the next meeting of the Not Dead Yet Club. *Bill Ott*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Stacee Stern:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV,

or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity here is look different you can read the book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the entire day to reading a e-book. The book A Long Line of Dead Men: A Matthew Scudder Mystery it is rather good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book has high quality.

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