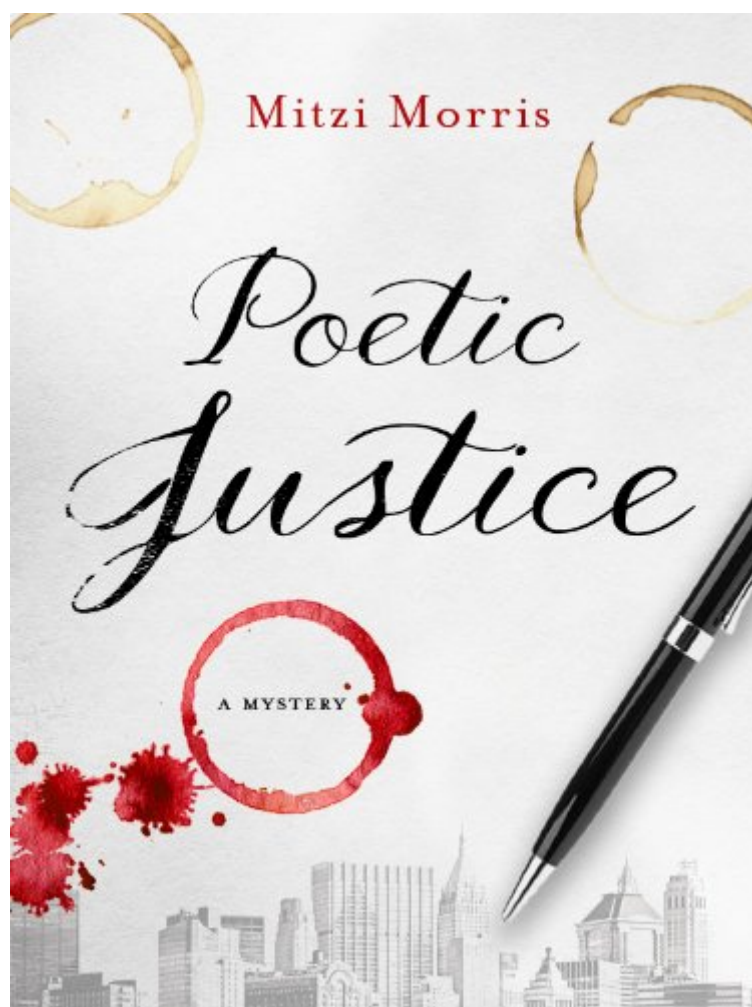


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Poetic Justice



Synopsis

Once you've made it in Manhattan, why would you be caught dead in Staten Island? That's what Jay Alfred, editor-in-chief of Ars Longa Press, can't understand. Jay and his partner Ken live on the best block in Chelsea. They're an attractive pair of opposites. Jay would never stoop to snoop. Ken exercises his right to know every chance he gets. When Sheba Miller, literary agent and downtown doyenne, is found dead in a bar on Staten Island, Ken can't wait to investigate. He hustles Jay onto the Staten Island Ferry and into adventure. Then Sheba's tell-all memoir surfaces. It's a catalog of white nights with hot artists and liquid lunches with idiot publishers. Jay's the idiot-in-chief, but he's not alone. It's a good thing that Sheba's dead, because half of literary New York is ready to kill her. That's not the only book in town and Ken's not the only amateur detective. Sheba's old friends and lovers and the junior members of Ars Longa are all ready and willing to explore New York City and beyond in search of authors, books, killers, and a killer martini.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Poetic Justice is a satire, mystery, and New York story rolled into one. Starting with the New York.

This book has a fantastic sense of place. I know New York, and so reading along I was following along on my mental map. Morris really nails the feel of the city, from stuffy uptown French restaurants to downtown book readings to that perpetual real New Yorkers' conundrum: walk, cab, train, or bus? (Or to that particular appreciation of the smelly streets of Manhattan when you get back from out of town...) On the mystery: at its core, this is a whodunnit, and the characters slowly chipping away at the mystery keeps the pages turning. No spoilers here, but there is enough action, danger, and uncertainty to keep you up past your bedtime. On city scene: this book is set mainly in the publishing world, with forays into the art world and a wide range of New York restaurants (from high-end to hole in the wall). If you've lived in New York, you will match this up with parties you've been at, people you're sure you know, and satirical one-liners you wish you had uttered. If you're not from New York, well, this is the next best thing to visiting town and staying with a friend who gets around to interesting places. It's the eye for detail and ear for humor that made this book for me. I would recommend this book to three types of readers: those who like mysteries or whodunnits; those who know or would like to what New York is like; or those who enjoy smart, satirical writing.

you'll love Poetic Justice. A fun read that keeps you guessing as it gives you an insider's view of a slice of lower Manhattan. An excellent debut novel.

Sorry, but I had high hopes for what I thought would be a contemporary, gay spin on the 'Thin Man' concept. Unfortunately, four chapters in, I had to pull up the description to figure out who the protagonists were, because of the shifting points of view and fairly indistinguishable secondary characters (who I first mistook for primary characters, as the book opened from one of their viewpoints). Martinis and wisecracks are few and far between, in contrast to distracting attention to detail, such as the paragraph describing how a waiter doled out ground pepper in a completely unremarkable way. And the amateur sleuths aren't motivated because the victim didn't deserve it, or a friend was accused of murder, or the victim's family wanted to see justice--they're just nosy busybodies. That being said, feel free to download a sample first (which, in retrospect, I should have done) and perhaps you'll be drawn in.

I am a sucker for the genre, and though that this first novel was a great addition to my collection. Well worth it!

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