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Transgressions: Death's Betrayal: Two Novellas From Transgressions



Synopsis

Novellas from Transgressions by Jeffery Deaver and Sharyn McCrumb
"Forever" by Jeffery Deaver: Talbot Simms is an unusual cop—a statistician with the Westbrook County Sheriff Department. When two wealthy couples commit suicide one right after the other, he suspects it isn't suicide, but murder. He must find who was behind it, and how they did it.
"The Resurrection Man" by Sharyn McCrumb: During America's first century, doctors used any means necessary to advance their craft—including dissecting corpses. Sharyn McCrumb brings the pre-Civil War South to life in this story of a man who is assigned to dig up bodies to help those that are still alive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The late McBain had a great idea when he got together 10 top crime writers to produce new novellas for a fat anthology called Transgressions, and the folks at Audio Renaissance have been equally smart at choosing some of the book's best stories for listening pleasure. This production does justice to two very different pieces. In Deaver's "Forever," the reliable Fass brings to life Talbot Sims, a detail-obsessed suburban cop whose love of statistics helps solve an apparent murder/suicide. Fass is less successful at catching the tougher homicide detectives, but his Sims is such an interesting, persnickety character that listeners will hope for a full-length adventure about him. In McCrumb's "The Resurrection Man," MacDuffie does a superb, well-rounded job at recreating a nineteenth century South Carolina community of men and women with distinctive

"gullah" accents whose lives revolve around death and healing. These novellas are ideal for listeners who might not want to get involved in a complete novel, but still need a little crime in their audio lives. (Other Transgression audio volumes include *Chasing Shadows* by Walter Mosley and Joyce Carol Oates; *Price of Desire* by Ed McBain, Anne Perry and Donald E. Westlake, and *Terror's Echo* by Lawrence Block, John Farris and Stephen King.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Reading an anthology is a bit like listening to a musical sampler (what record collectors once lovingly called a mix tape); it's always tempting to have your favorite bands cued up one after another, but sometimes you're not in the mood to change moods every few minutes. These 10 brand-new novellas offer longer grooves than short stories, but it's still a valid concern: Can fans of Anne Perry also shake it to Ed McBain? Maybe it's the relief of not having to carry a book by themselves, or maybe it's the fun of trying a rarely used format, but these big-name authors write like the pressure is off. In "Walking around Money," Donald Westlake sidles his thief, Dortmund, through a deadpan-hilarious tale that should also serve as a Zen how-to for budding writers; in "The Corn Maiden," Joyce Carol Oates offers an impressionistic tabloid thriller about a mean girl who abducts a slow classmate for ritual sacrifice; in "Archibald Lawless, Anarchist at Large," Walter Mosley profiles an irresistible, offbeat hero through a journalism student who answers a want ad for a "scribe

After the success of his novel *BLACKBOARD JUNGLE*, Evan Hunter (Ed McBain) turned to what were then referred to as "novelettes," his subject being the 87th Precinct detectives of Isola (think New York). As time passed, the 87th Precinct novelettes grew to full-length novels. Fifty years later, McBain persuaded nine other mystery, thriller, and horror writers to submit what are now called "novellas" of around a hundred pages each. The result was one of my most enjoyable reads of 2006. I don't know why I don't read more anthologies. It was in an anthology that I first experienced Stuart Kaminsky, Sharyn McCrumb, and Lawrence Block. Coincidentally, one of the best novellas in this anthology is one by Block. Block returns with his enigmatic hit man Keller in *KELLER'S ADJUSTMENT*. Block manages to make us feel empathy for the man. Although he has sex with a Phoenix real estate saleslady, Keller is essentially a lonely man. He needs somebody to talk to. He once had a dog, but a former girlfriend took it with her when she left; he went to a therapist, but the therapist turned into a snoop, and he had to dust him. Unwilling to take a chance on a living breathing entity, Keller buys a stuffed animal to talk to. Jeffrey Deaver also responded to the call with

FOREVER. In it he introduces Tal Simms, a mathematician/statistician working for Westbrook County Sheriff's Department. Simms is considered a "computer geek" by the rest of the detective squad, especially homicide detective Greg "Bear" LaTour. Simms and his eventual partner LaTour are confronted with several suspicious suicides. Older rich couples are killing themselves under dubious circumstances. In most respects, the underdog character Simms is every bit as likable as Lincoln Rhymes. I would definitely buy a full length novel featuring Simms. A new discovery for me was John Farris. Farris's THE RANSOME WOMEN concerns a beautiful art appraiser named Echo Halloran who agrees to pose for the great artist John Leland Ransome. She's not only flattered, but as a budding artist herself, she wants to learn from him. Her boyfriend, police detective Peter O'Neil, is suspicious, and with good reason. I enjoyed this novella so much I ran right out and bought FURY, THE TERROR Farris's masterwork. I have to admit that Ed McBain's own contribution, MERELY HATE, was my principal motivation for purchasing the anthology. I needed my 87th Precinct fix, and it's great as usual. It is post 9/11 in Isola, and the detectives are called to investigate the murder of a Muslim cab driver. Through these cab driver murders, McBain capsulizes the reason for the problems in the Mid East. Other writers who contributed novellas were Donald Westlake, Anne Perry, Joyce Carol Oates, Walter Mosley, Sharyn McCrumb, and Stephen King. All of them were excellent.

I haven't read all the stories yet but the Donald Westlake contribution alone is worth the price of the book

One of the better short story audio books I've read in awhile. Plot was different and would love to have a sequel!

This is a great collection of stories but the hard bound book is too big for easy reading. The Kindle version is outstanding and one I can return to over and over. A great find!

The story by Ed McBain as well as the other stories by his colleagues and friends are a fantastic read. It gave me a chance to discover some authors I hadn't read before and that I will surely read again.

This collection of short stories is perfect summer reading with interesting twists and surprises. Enjoy on the plane or at the beach

A story for everyone. Loved em all.

My favorite is Ed McBain. I have read everything he wrote that I could find. I sure miss him and his writing.

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