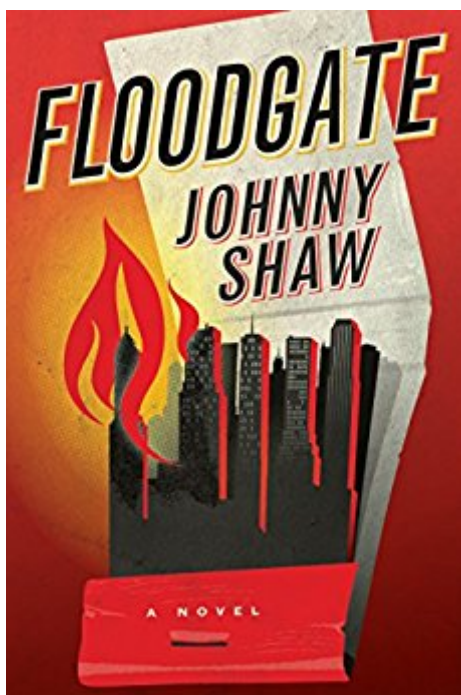


The book was found

Floodgate



Synopsis

Andy Destra is a mostly honest cop in the most notoriously corrupt and crime-ridden city in America: Auction City. After discovering explosive information that reveals corruption within the highest levels of the police department, Andy is kicked off the force, framed, and disgraced, left to wage a lonely one-man crusade against conspiracies he can't prove. Andy's investigation plunges him into a blackly comic maelstrom of one-armed gang members, slick pickpockets, criminal syndicates, hired mercenaries, escaped convicts, sewer dwellers, and one sinister ice cream truck. At the same time, he must contend with a mystery closer to home: the true identity of his parents, his most unshakeable obsession. Understanding their past may be the key to Auction City's future as it teeters on the brink of chaos. If Andy can't solve this case, the Floodgate will fail and his city will burn.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've put the book down for awhile. It isn't the prose I expect from Mr. Shaw. Plaster City was smooth and flowing with descriptions that pulled you immediately into the story. This novel has a staccato

screech to it. Short, jagged sentences. It mostly reminds of me of Season 2 of True Detective...and not many of us loved Season 2.Perhaps I'll pick it up again if the mood suits.

I love Johnny Shaw and have read everything I could get my hands on from him. His Jimmy Veeder stories, as well as Big Maria and even the Snickerdoodle Kerfuffle, were awesome and I can't wait to read more of his work in those genres. Floodgate, however, was a bit of a curveball for me. Its a completely different style of writing and story telling, compared to any of his other books. I'll have to admit it took me a while to get into a rhythm with this book. Once I did, I enjoyed the story and finished it with satisfaction. But it wasn't the same kind of "stay up all night turning pages" awesomeness I had grown to love from his other books. Still, I recognize the art and appreciate the versatility of the author in trying something else rather than staying in single lane.

We go back and forth between 1929 and 1986 with two sets of characters that represent the first and last (as of the book's timeline) representatives of something you need to read the book to learn about. The overall feel of the book is action, suspense and nearly scifi. Readers will have a tough time choosing sides. Well, not really, but it's hard to differentiate between the good side and the bad side. It's just a matter of degree of badness. So, we hope our baddies beat the other baddies. Mysteries come and are solved quickly because other mysteries will arise in a few pages. So, it's not really a mystery. That's okay since there is little time for such to develop. If you aren't into tough guys and tougher gals; violence; more violence; some sex to break up the violence with the tough and tougher then you should give this one a pass. If you are into such, then grab the chips, dip and bandages and dig in. This is well written and is non-stop all of the above. I had read Shaw's *Big Maria* a few years ago and enjoyed it, so I kind of knew what I was getting into with *Floodgate*. I've now bought his two Jimmy Veeder Fiasco books and will start them soon.

Nobody writes mayhem like Johnny Shaw. I started reading this book on a cross country flight and never put it down. Which is rare for me, usually I'm lured by WIFI and spend much of the flight on Facebook. Not that day. Coast-to-coast entertainment. I love the fact that Johnny Shaw manages to take every expected trope in adventure literature and turn it on its head. Any book where a character keeps trying to explain, "I have the gun, you need to answer my questions." and yet is unable to gain respect or get answers is a fantastic exercise in thwarted expectations. What a read!

I obtained this book for free from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review, so I'm going to be brutally honest. While the book is "ok", suffice to say that it's not Johnny Shaw's finest work. While previous novels such as "Dove Season", "Plaster City" and especially "Big Maria" are top notch reads, this latest novel pales in comparison and was at times a labor to get through. By the time I had reached the midway point, it had become a chore just to make myself finish it. This one is by no means a page turner and bordered on ridiculous in a number of places. In the final analysis, I'm glad that I didn't have to pay for it.

Rating novels is almost pointless. I gave this 4 stars because it isn't Moby Dick or The Grapes of Wrath, but that doesn't mean it isn't damned good. I first read Johnny Shaw's Jimmy Veeder novels because I know the area where they're set. Floodgate isn't like that, not at all. Set in an imaginary place, a city that wallows in every kind of vice, this isn't California's Imperial Valley. But it's just as fully realized and, once again, the hero is a deeply flawed human being who has an inner nobility that makes him do his best when better judgment would tell him to run the other way.

I have never struggled so much to read and finish a book. Writing is OK, but storyline borders on infantile. I knew it as soon as the name of the city (Auction City) came up. The entire plot is crazy. I made it through, however.

I almost considered this an alternate reality science fiction or fantasy. But it is closely related to political/crime fiction of the sort set in historic Boston, Chicago, or New York. A big part of the fun in this book is trying to figure out which city is the prototype for the background. Other than that, the book moves along rapidly and deftly. A great read.

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Floodgate

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