



Deadfall: **Crime Stories by New England Writers**

Edited by Kate Flora, Ruth McCarty, and Susan Oleksiw

Published by Level Best Books
ISBN 978-0-9700984-5-0
Pub. Date: November 2008
Category: Fiction/Mystery
Binding: Trade Paperback, 5.5 X 8.5
Price: \$15.00
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The Perfect Addition to a Mystery Lover's Collection

Mystery lovers and fans of the short story alike will find a compelling read in *Deadfall*, Level Best's sixth Annual anthology of crime stories by New England writers. From a weary dad facing failure in his rusted trailer in rural Maine to an angry old woman running a struggling mom and pop store in a gritty urban city, from the chilling whisperings of the pets in an elegant Boston townhouse to a stalker lurking in a dark mall parking lot, and from the genteel anguish in a Cambridge therapist's office to the desperate merriment of a church hall bingo game, good guys and bad guys and gals struggle for love, honor, money, and truth. This collection of twenty-six stories includes the 2008 Al Blanchard Award-winning story, *Family Plot*, where a death in the family exposes a struggling single mom to the greed of relatives she didn't even know she had.

This year's collection introduces stunning shorts by new voices Libby Mussman and Joe Ricker. Susan Oleksiw continues the adventures of Indian-American Anita Rey at Auntie Meena's Hotel Delite, in a sad tale of jealousy and ambition. Mike Wiecek returns with a closely-observed story of city crooks and small town politics in *Vacationland*. Judy Green takes us back to a 1950's childhood, and a child's attempts to understand the mysteries of adult behavior, in *Dark*. An aging editor struggles to revive his paper's readership in *Pat Remick's Circulation*.

The yearly crime story collections from Level Best Books have been recognized by the mystery community with a host of nominations and awards, including the Robert L. Fish Award for best crime story by a first time writer, Derringer awards, and Edgar, Macavity, Agatha and Derringer nominations. This collection continues the Level Best tradition of introducing the region's readers to some of its finest crime writers.

Level Best Books is the cooperative venture of writers Kate Flora, Ruth McCarty, and Susan Oleksiw. The co-op's goal is to publish quality literature with voice and vision that might be overlooked by large publishing houses.

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