



Slow Burn

G.M. Ford

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Aided by his band of scruffy irregulars - "the Boys, " a team of residentially challenged connoisseurs of inexpensive spirits who specialize in going unnoticed as they trail a suspect - Leo remains Seattle's most unorthodox and politically connected private investigator. Anticipating disaster, Le Cuisine Internationale, a prestigious global restaurant convention, hires Leo as its own Special Security Officer. His relatively simple assignment is to monitor the movements of the society's bone of contention: two adversarial steakhouse competitors, whose "beef" has previously made for some nasty confrontations; and the food critic who's caught in between the warring factions. Cleaning up the Boys, Leo sends them off to shadow the entourages and report back to him at day's end. What could be easier! But even the simplest of plans can cascade into catastrophe. Leo finds himself served up as the prime suspect in a murder, gets thoroughly grilled by the police, and realizes that both his life and career are at stake.

Slow Burn Details

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Author : G.M. Ford

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From Reader Review Slow Burn for online ebook

Rob Kitchin says

Slow Burn by title and slow burn in terms of storytelling. Slow Burn is told in an easy going, relaxed style with an undercurrent of gentle humour. The story features a set of larger than life characters and has a good set up. The narrative is workmanlike, with a good flow between scenes. What the story lacks, however, is tension. The story does build towards a climax, but it is without a real sense of urgency. Whilst there is a nice twist with regards to the identity of the killers, the rest of the ending is fairly predictable. Overall, an enjoyable, gently humorous read that lacked a bit of bite.

Greg Tymn says

In some ways, this novel was a mess. Too many characters for readers to track. Too many sub-plots. Scenes added to provide continuity between other novels in the series. Scenes appearing for no reason. Bums chipping in 4/4 time. A disfigured bum added for....texture? Jokes....that appear to be for the sake of the joke and barely woven into the plot through extended metaphors.

A mess.

However, "Slow Burn" is a visually exciting, fast moving novel! There were certain aspects that reminded me of "Clue" in and extended landscape...the dinner party taken to the streets. And perhaps a bit of B-movie scripting. Apocalypse Now Meets Dallas.

I don't know why this novel works, but it does. Messy, overly-complex and thoroughly enjoyable.

I've now read all of the Leo Waterman novels. While GM Ford may not have the buzz of some of the other PI/detective writers, the Waterman series compares favorably with any of the current generation of genre novelists.

Cynthia Larson says

if you love gritty Seattle, this is a fun read!

Paul Edlund says

Leo is always an entertaining read.

bonnie kirchner says

Slow Burn

I did not like this book . So far this is the worst book in this series . It was such a confusing story with all the different characters in this story I could not keep up with the story . Really did not like it.

Ed says

#4 in the Leo Waterman series.

Leo Waterman, Seattle PI, and his street people friends are engaged to track the movements of the principals of two warring steakhouse businesses. What starts off as a publicity stunt involving the barbecuing of a prize bull turns more serious when murder is involved.

Eliana says

Funny, funny, improbable and lovable characters. Set in Seattle where the lone P.I. solves cases with the help of his version of the Baker Street regulars, a bunch of winos from downtown's Pioneer Square. Well written, political humor and atypical shamus investigations form the basis of these novels.

Walt Mccluskey says

Slow burn

A very different story than I thought it would be yet totally easy to read and understand. The crew of characters was out of an old fashioned time and, while more than a little unbelievable added much to the tale. The summary of the murder was a Perry Mason finish but somehow made as much sense as any. Worth the time in reading.

Marion Ward says

As usual a perfect read.

Good easy to read book. I would like to see numbers on the front to make reading them in order easier, but that doesn't detract from the content at all many thanks

Chad says

I love the Leo Waterman series, but of all the books, so far, this one has to be the most ho hum of scenarios. And its interesting come from the previous books, that usually have 2 cases going at once which is also really fun. Otherwise a great book and read, and the ending was not what I saw coming, that is for sure.

Dale says

Good but had such potential to be better

I was told that this book was a disappointment. I have to agree and disagree. It is a good book - it really does approach the level of being a great farce of a detective novel. The client is outrageous and the people he investigates are larger than life throughout the story. At times, Waterman is the only sane man in the room. It makes it a fun ride - but I finished the book pleased but quite sure that it could have been even more if Ford had pushed a bit more. I would have liked for him to have met other bizarre personages that were attending the food show, but the climactic scene at the steakhouse with the helicopter and the barbecue was certainly odd and funny enough in its own right.

Like all of the Waterman novels, it may behoove the reader to jot down some notes as you go along because the author does little to remind the reader who the characters are as the story progresses. The murder victim is introduced and not mentioned again until he is killed about 100 pages later. I had to think hard about who this guy was and why it was important to the story that he was dead.

I would recommend reading the other Waterman books (*Who In Hell is Wanda Fuca?* , *Cast in Stone* , *The Bum's Rush*) before reading this one.

I give this book a "4 stars" out of 5 - fun but I'm struck by the unrealized potential.

Read all of my reviews at: <http://dwdsreviews.blogspot.com/>

Janice says

This is my second time reading the Leo Waterman series. Love the main character and his crew of homeless people that he uses for surveillance. This story deals with the 2 owners of competing steakhouse chains and who is sabotaging one of them and how he tries to prevent it.

David Hughes says

Another excellent.m.Ford mystery.

DR H is wondering what the initials G.M stands for. m

Mr. fo

Ford's great use of really historical analogies scattered through out this quick moving. Well written North west location _ Seattle . I kept trying to determine if Dr. Duvall was Leo's girlfriend or future wife. Maybe we will find out in future Leo Waterman's stories. Drh

Sho says

Well that was... odd. Leo Waterman private detective. At the bidding of an aristocratic British gastronome Leo and his motley crew must get to the bottom of a bitter rivalry between two steak house chains.

To say more would ruin it.

Rhonda says

This is another hilarious tale in the Leo Waterman series. Seattle Private Investigator, Leo Waterman is hired to ferret out who is trying to sabotage the other in a best steakhouse competition. Waterman hires his crew of homeless misfits to help out, and it's nonstop fun all the way.

Tulay says

You'll laugh so hard.

Love the way Leo talks to himself and the way he describes the world around him. Boys: Ralph, George and Harry don't have a drinking problem, just they have stopping problem. Sir Geoffrey character made enjoyable by the narrator. Happy long life Bunk. Time to start reading the next in this series.

Darcey Tomasino says

Good, but too many characters/names

I like Ford's Waterman series, for the most part. The only things I dislike are his habit of randomly referring to a character by his/her surname when he typically uses the first name--in a book like this, with dozens of

characters, it's nearly impossible to keep track of them all--I also dislike the many obscure allusions; I feel like I'm on the outside of an inside joke.

Marty says

The story has far too many characters, all similar and engaged in similar businesses and shenanigans. After they were interviewed the first time, I could no longer keep track of who was who. Finally I just went along for the ride and enjoyed the story. It is an enjoyable story.

Kyle says

I got hooked on Mr. Ford's most current novel with his cast of homeless and endearing characters so, of course, I had to go back and read all of them. This is a fun read.

Description: G.M. Ford's unconventional private detective, Leo Waterman, jolts the p.i. scene like a double shot of espresso from a sleek Seattle coffee bar. Aided by his band of scruffy irregulars -- "the Boys," a team of residentially challenged connoisseur of inexpensive spirits -- Leo remains Seattle's most unorthodox p.i. Now, SLOW BURN ignites the fuse on the most combustible entry in the waterman cannon. Anticipating disaster, a prestigious global restaurant convention hires Leo as Special Security Officer. His assignment: monitor the movements of two adversarial steakhouse competitors whose "beef" has previously made for some nasty confrontations and a food critic who's caught in between the warring factions. Leo sends the Boys off to shadow all three parties and report back to him. But even the simplest of plans can cascade into catastrophe. And Leo soon finds himself served up as the prime suspect in a murder...realizing that both his life and career are at stake

Sue Nelson says

Leo Waterman is a PI in Seattle, tough when needed, fair, he cares but doesn't show it, good at zingers and says it like it is. The entertaining aspect of these books is his 'staff'. When he needs help finding or tracking people he uses a group of locals who live in questionable places and always have a brown bag bottle handy. As Leo has noted, they are invisible to society at large and, therefore, get the answers he needs without being noticed. The interchanges he has with them are a highlight of these stories.

In this book Leo is at a culinary conference in a swanky hotel hired to watch warring steakhouse owners. He has to clean up his 'staff' so they can work in the hotel. Funny stuff and makes the read more entertaining than usual.
