



Steal the Show: A Willis Gidney Mystery

Thomas Kaufman

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George Pelecanos calls Thomas Kaufman "a welcome new voice in Washington, D.C., crime fiction."

Willis Gidney needs money because he's found a girl.

No, no, not *that* kind of girl. This is an abandoned baby girl. Gidney found her on a case. So he hands the girl to the cops, right?

Wrong, because Gidney started life the same way---abandoned. He knows all about D.C.'s juvenile-justice system, having barely survived it himself. That makes it hard to give up the girl. Too bad that unmarried private eyes aren't usually thought of as ideal parents. So now Gidney needs a lawyer, and that means money.

Enter Rush Gemelli, a code-writing hacker who pays Gidney to commit a felony. Just a small one. Nothing serious, really, but you know how these things can snowball. Gidney thinks this is a onetime venture, but Gemelli has other ideas. He blackmails Gidney into joining up with his father, Chuck, the head of the motion picture lobby in D.C. And when Chuck's former partner is murdered, it looks like someone may be playing Gidney.

Add to that the unwanted attentions of a crazed actress, the D.C. case worker from hell, and the Vietnamese and Salvadoran gangs out to kill him, and it's all Gidney can do to keep from getting his movie ticket punched--permanently.

A unique hero, a quirky cast, and a riveting mystery make *Steal the Show* a winner.

Steal the Show: A Willis Gidney Mystery Details

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Author : Thomas Kaufman

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From Reader Review Steal the Show: A Willis Gidney Mystery for online ebook

Michael says

Willis Gidney can't stay out of trouble. If there is one thing that is apparent after two novels, Gidney attracts trouble like honey. His supporting cast is back too. Sarah, the baby he rescued last book and his girlfriend Lilly. Life is going good. He has a small office for his PI business. He is finishing up his classes for adopting Sarah. To top it all off, he's still with Lilly. To bad the good times can't keep going perfect.

First he gets the worst case worker in DC for adopting. He gets rejected. He needs money now, lots of money to hire an attorney. The only job on his table right now is from Rush Gemelli and he wants Gidney to break into a warehouse. It's all down hill from there as Rush blackmails Gidney into other jobs. Then Gidney runs into gang trouble. Trouble, trouble, trouble. That should be Gidney name.

I really enjoyed this novel. Thomas Kaufman is an excellent writer and weaves us through many different events to bring a mystery that must be answered.

Carol says

Excellent book. I got this book as a gift and the ladies did good. Book two in the Willis Gidney series. Hope Kaufman will continue with more. Gidney a PI from Washington D.C. is hired and fired and hired again by the head of a motion picture lobby in D.C. He gets himself in trouble with a few local gangs while trying to find those responsible for pirated movies. Gidney is also trying his best to adopt an abandoned child he found while on a case. A snowballs chance, but he gives it his best shot...A good mystery with fun characters.

Jeff says

I really enjoy this character and the supporting cast. Well written book, easy going private investigator that doesn't take himself too seriously. I love the pace of the book and that it doesn't have to be intense to be fun.

David Marshall says

This is a nice balance between a character study of a PI who emerged from the foster home system of Washington with the life skills of a criminal but now makes his living more or less legitimately, and an up-and-at-em crime novel. Very entertaining!

<http://opionator.wordpress.com/2012/0...>

Homerun2 says

3.5

Interesting, quirky characters. Complex, somewhat disjointed plot; nice, spare style.

Virginia S says

Engaging mystery in which the main character realizes that his hopes and prejudices had been coloring his view of evidence. I thought it very realistic and have liked Willis Gidney since meeting him in *Drink the Tea*.

Louis says

Willis Gidney's second outing brings him close to a special girl. Not the grown-up kind; this is an abandoned baby girl. Having grown up an orphan, he cannot bring himself to hand her to the authorities. He needs to hire a lawyer and hires on for a computer hacker. This client blackmails him into committing small crimes that leads to murder. The presence of the hacker's father (the head of the movie industry's lobbying arm), a crazy actress and third-world gangs threaten not only Gidney's hoped-for domestic arrangement for the baby but his freedom and life as well. Having bought into Gidney's character and universe in *Drink the Tea*, I enjoyed this case and want to read more about him.

Debbi Mack says

Willis Gidney isn't your average private eye. For one thing, he was raised in the tender loving care of the Washington, D.C. juvenile justice system. Which is to say, he grew up hard and fast.

Incidentally, Gidney is a white man. For good or ill, race plays a significant role. D.C. has a large black population. And it's juvenile justice system is no exception. So Gidney grew up a minority within that system, as well as one within his own hometown.

He's also unmarried and looking to adopt a daughter who's currently in the ~~elutches~~ care of the D.C. Adoptive Services agency. Her name is Sarah. Well, Gidney calls her Sarah, anyway. Her actual name is Baby Jane Doe or some really institutional "who gives a good crap about you" name.

And wouldn't you know that Gidney's case worker turns out to be the ~~biggest b*tch~~ most ruthless bureaucrat of them all.

So Gidney really needs to get his hands on some moolah big time. To pay his lawyer. So he can grease the legal wheels and adopt this kid.

As a result, Gidney does just about the ~~stupidest~~ most desperate thing you can imagine. He agrees to break into a warehouse and ends up finding a lot of movie pirating equipment.

But he does it for the money, so he can grease the wheels and get the kid, so it's okay, right? No, it's not.

Turns out his client is ~~an asshole~~ a jerk and takes pictures of him breaking into the warehouse. Imagine!

So then the client uses the pictures to force Gidney to work for his father. The client's father, that is. Gidney don't have no daddy, remember? :(Anyhow, Gidney is forced to work for the client's dad, a lobbyist for motion pictures. Don't ask. He needs the money, okay?

Plus, have I mentioned how much I like Gidney? He's really awesome, tough and funny. Plus, Thomas Kaufman writes about D.C. with a style that's wholly his own. He captures the feel of the place perfectly. His prose reflects the hardboiled sensibilities of a modern Raymond Chandler, but does so in a fresh and unique way.

Read the entire review at <http://thebookgrrl.blogspot.com/2011/...>

Harvey says

2.5

Gidney, a lowbrow PI, takes on a case that became overcomplicated and I lost interest.

The character and premise of the series has appeal but the execution of this was disappointing/unsatisfying.

Diane says

This book is probably better than two stars but I lost interest after 7 or 8 chapters and couldn't get it back.
