Places For Dead Bodies

by Gary J. Hausladen

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Synopsis

From Tony Hillerman’s Navajo Southwest to Martin Cruz Smith’s Moscow, an exotic, vividly described locale is one of the great pleasures of many murder mysteries. Indeed, the sense of place, no less than the compelling character of the detective, is often what keeps authors writing and readers reading a particular series of mystery novels. This book investigates how “police procedural” murder mysteries have been used to convey a sense of place. Gary Hausladen delves into the work of more than thirty authors, including Tony Hillerman, Martin Cruz Smith, James Lee Burke, David Lindsey, P. D. James, and many others. Arranging the authors by their region of choice, he discusses police procedurals set in America, the United Kingdom and Ireland, Europe, Moscow, Asia, and selected locales in other parts of the world, as well as in historical places ranging from the Roman Empire to turn-of-the-century Cairo.

Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages
Publisher: University of Texas Press; 1st edition (July 15, 2000)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0292731302
Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches
Shipping Weight: 12.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 2.5 out of 5 stars  (See all reviews) (2 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #2,059,714 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  #457 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Mystery & Detective  #472 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Reference  #1299 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > History & Criticism

Customer Reviews

This book serves as a study in the use of geography in crime fiction, how location and surroundings can define writing and "convey a sense of place". As one reviewer stated, this might be suited to the more scholarly interests. Still, it is what it claims to be. If you’ve paid attention you’ll get what you expect and be quite happy with it.

Not at all what I thought it was going to be. As a book for new or young writers it would probably be good to help them consider the setting and detailed knowledge required.
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