



The Viking Funeral

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If Detective Shane Scully's best friend, Jody Dean, committed suicide three years ago, then who did Shane just see for one fleeting moment on the Ventura Freeway? He's convinced it was his former colleague. Or was his mind playing tricks? Shane's lover, Alexa Hamilton, herself a lauded LAPD officer, happens to think so. But Shane knows what he saw. And for a rogue cop with nothing left to lose, the search for Dean has become more than an investigation. It's become an obsession.

The first clue to Dean's secret life--and suspicious death--is murder. The victim is Dean's former commanding officer. The connection taps into a corrupt, high-level conspiracy among L.A.'s finest that will put Shane and everyone he loves in harm's way. It will cut deep into the heart of betrayal and the meaning of friendship. And it will dare one cop already on the brink of madness to take on step further into darkness...

The Viking Funeral Details

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Author : Stephen J. Cannell

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Wancket Enterprises says

Soulfull

This book was the best book I have ever read. This is the second time I have read it and it just grabs my soul. I have read many, many books that were 5 star but for some reason I don't understand this book affected me deeply. It's just powerful!

Debby says

This is the second book in the Stephen Cannell's Shane Scully series and I'm hooked. This book is full of everything that makes for a great adventure: suspense, drama, romance, humor, and great characters! If you like books by Stuart Woods, Ed McBain, Michael Connelly or Harlan Coben, I think you will like Stephen Cannell's Shane Scully series.

Quillracer says

I wrote this review for a friend after reading this book in 2005

Shane Scully, hero of *The Tin Collectors*, gets the shock of his life when he sees a fellow cop in the car next to him on an LA freeway. The problem is the cop committed suicide two years earlier.

Scully discovers that a group of supposedly dead cops have become a city's worst nightmare – rogue cops who know how the system works calling themselves the Vikings. To establish his cover so he can infiltrate the group, Shane plans to 'shoot' his girlfriend, police sergeant Alexa Hamilton. But the set-up goes wrong, and Shane kills her.

Shattered by her death at his own hand and on the run from a murder charge, Shane hooks up with the Vikings as they assemble their most lucrative deal. From LA to Aruba to Columbia, Scully, having lost everything dear to him, walks the fine edge between good and evil, in danger of succumbing to the dark forces around him as he tries to bring down the most dangerous person he's ever known – his best friend.

This book read almost like a well-fleshed TV script. Cannell has little action in the first third of the book. The action picks up from there to the two-thirds point. After that, it's a wild ride of events to the chilling climax. I wish Cannell had spread the action out a little more evenly. I almost gave up on this book before things started happening. I'm glad I didn't.

Cannell builds tension well once he gets things rolling in the middle of the novel. And action flows logically out of action. There's only one place where the cavalry seems to arrive in the nick of time out of the clear blue. However, the set up for this rescue is subtly (but fairly) put in place earlier, and when the explanation of how it's pulled off is given, you'll say, "Oh, yeah. I remember that."

Cannell's writing is mostly crisp with a good feel for dialog and action. He only occasionally lapses into the sin of over-describing a place or character – something that slows any story down. I like a writer who lets me engage my imagination in visualizing a location or person. Cannell's secondary characters aren't full-drawn but are distinct enough (in a broad-brush TV character sort of way) that keeping track of them isn't a problem. You won't find yourself saying, "Now, who the heck is this guy?"

I liked the way Cannell handled Scully's reaction to killing Alexa. It was the right mix of debilitating grief and resolve to go on. And I'm extremely thankful Cannell did not make Scully an alcoholic or recovering alcoholic. So many writers have used this device that it has become a cliché.

I enjoyed this book – a fresh twist on the tried-and-true story of a cop going undercover to catch a friend gone bad. And I think you will, too.

JackieJ says

Implausible plot.

Kaye Bleek says

Better than the first book, it's a must read. I'm addicted to this series of books now

markandshantel says

I had seen this author's books before, but never picked one up. I was reading "Echo Park" by Michael Connelly - and he specifically mentions Stephen Cannell as part of the plot. I thought that was pretty interesting - obviously Connelly was giving a literary shout out to Cannell.

So I picked up "Viking Funeral". Very good book - very brutal. The LAPD must cringe whenever a book comes out that paints them in such an unflattering light (see LA Rex). Cannell is a former screen writer for lots of famous detective tv shows and he's an excellent writer with a real gift for dialogue.

I was frustrated to find out that "Viking Funeral" is the second book in the series - "Tin Collectors" is the first and is referred to repeatedly in "Viking". Why can't publishers make it easier to determine what book comes where in the series?????? I had to check copyright dates to get the order straight. That was a major complaint of customers when I worked in a bookstore... just because other books by the author are listed in a particular order, doesn't mean they were written in that order. Help us out, ok????

Anywho - I will keep reading this Shane Scully series. Off to start "Tin Collectors" right now.....

Cecelia/Ceil says

The Second of the Shane Scully series. Cannell writes interesting characters and this storyline had several unexpected twists. I listened to this as an unabridged audiobook read by Dick Hill, who was great at giving

different personalities to each character.

Zach says

Similar to other Cannell novels.

Great beginning, grabs your attention. Lots of action. Some character development, which is never allowed to come to complete fruition (Shane Scully has to deal with the fact that he did something horrible, but it turns out okay).

The book loses steam near the end, as the plot becomes overly and (arguably) unnecessarily complicated with an abrupt resolution. Characters are decent but could have been developed more (ie character described by single phrase/identity-steroid user, we were close because we played little league together--repeated over and over). Also the plot requires accepting Shane's close relationship with a character who has no redeeming qualities, you keep asking yourself--he only realized this guy was evil now??

Overall okay, but not great.

Kristen says

A great second book in this series. More of a mystery than the first novel. It is about Shane, the main character, who has a run-in with his past, in particular a friend whom he thought was dead. Again, no one believes him at first, and he has to risk his life to have the truth brought forward. A great story!

Sheryl says

I really like Cannell's books. The characters are good and the stories are good.

Thomas says

this was outstanding book.could not put this down.just kept reading until it was done.

Marleen says

This second book in the Shane Scully series presents us with a darker plot, revolving around corrupt police officers who have gone way off the reservation. One of those vicious undercover cops is LAPD Sergeant Shane Scully's best friend since childhood that everyone presumed dead since his suicide two years ago. Now it seems all that was staged so he could go undercover. When Shane unexpectedly recognizes Jody driving on the freeway, Shane can't let it go. He wants to know what happened to Jody and what he's up to. The only way to infiltrate this band of murdering ex-cops, is to become a murderer himself. This path will take Shane spiraling down and he feels like there's no way back.

Personally, I didn't care about the drug-money laundering scheme, and I wasn't interested in the activities of that so-called parallel market. All these South-American places they went to, didn't appeal to me, nor did any of the characters – especially not the many criminals in South-America, which is known to be one of the most violent continents on earth.

I was glad the book ended well and that Shane could pick up his life and repair his reputation after these 2 first books. I'll look forward to the next book; hopefully more compelling. **2,5**

Ed Schmidt says

While driving along the freeway, Shane sees his best friend, Jody Dean, in the car next to him. But that can't be possible, Jody committed suicide 3 years earlier. While Alexa thinks Shane's mind is playing tricks on him, Shane is determined to pursue the matter. His investigation leads him to faked deaths and rogue cops that he and Alexa must stop, at all costs. A surprise ending caps the story.

Space says

Reading this many books in a row by a single author has advantages and disadvantages. The good is that I really get in touch with (and stay close to) the continuing characters. The downside is that you also get really in touch with the author's little hitches. His overuse of the same clichés and tired, worn out descriptions. It gets pretty old. And I feel like I'm writing the same report for every Cannell book now: good read, kept me entertained, but nothing spectacular.

So why do I continue to read them? Is it because I like the guy? Because I've met him? Surely there are better things I could be reading out there. I don't know. All I can say is that they are indeed enjoyable. They're certainly not a waste of time. I wouldn't play that game. Just good, slightly-above-average novels with huge storylines and pretty good characters. So on to the book report:

This one is about Shane Scully's insertion into a secret deep-cover op known as The Vikings - a small, secret, deep-cover op within the LAPD. He sees his old best friend driving down the highway one day - two years after he attended the guy's funeral. So he starts looking into how and why he's still alive. It leads him into some dangerous and wild adventures - of course. It's pretty good, and gets into a lot of second-level storyline that you can learn a lot from. I'd never heard of the parallel market until this book. It's a huge global, tax-evasive scandal by a bunch of large corporations who have giant political pull.

I'm getting the stories confused in my head now, so I can't remember which ones I liked better than others. This wasn't my favorite though, I know that. It was just kind of average. So unless you're a Cannell fan like me, or you want to read all the Shane Scully books, you can probably skip this one.

Saudia says

A good book- lots of unseen twists. I felt it was a bit of a struggle at time to keep people/ plots straight. An interesting book about the “parallel market”, supported by previous Dept of Justice arrests and public comments. The premise, while at times wild, is possible, and the action is intense.

A good read, but won't need to read it again-
