



A Boatload

Dwight Holing

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Jack McCoul is a master con artist. The problem is, none of his special skills are legal. Good thing he uses them to catch killers.

In this stunning debut in the series, Jack McCoul has vowed to give up his life of crime for good after marrying a sexy, sustainable-minded fitness instructor. But when his new brother-in-law pulls a heist, McCoul and his wife get caught in the middle of a deadly fight over stolen computer chips. He must resort to his old ways and pull off the con game of a lifetime to nail the killers and avoid a one-way ticket to death row or the morgue. Read as a standalone or as part of the series.

"The characters here are delicious, the plot tighter than the proverbial toad's nether regions, the local color spot-on. To all who enjoy yarns and caper novels, Jack McCoul is waiting to entertain you and fleece you of that evening you thought you were going to spend watching TV or cleaning the attic." - Richard B. Schwartz (Top 500 Amazon Reviewer)

"Loaded with one liners. Keeps the plot turning." - Kirkus Reviews. "Rooting for a crook has never been more fun."

What Amazon readers are saying:

- ★★★★★ "A cross between Raymond Chandler, Robert B. Parker, and Carl Hiaasen."
- ★★★★★ "Flat-out funny with plenty of action and suspense."
- ★★★★★ "Fun, stylish, edge-of-your seat."
- ★★★★★ "Surprising and funny as hell."
- ★★★★★ "A roller coaster ride full of surprises."
- ★★★★★ "100% fun!"
- ★★★★★ "An excellent crime novel."
- ★★★★★ "A Boatload is a thriller of a read."
- ★★★★★ "Brilliantly authentic."
- ★★★★★ "Successful in every way and at every level."
- ★★★★★ "McCoul is really cool."

A Boatload Details

Date : Published February 19th 2014 by Jackdaw Press

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Author : Dwight Holing

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Genre : Mystery

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From Reader Review A Boatload for online ebook

Barbara says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for a review - Being a 4th Generation San Franciscan, I love books with its locale. I especially enjoyed this book - not only because it's a really good story and hero - but the street names and locations are CORRECT - I even understand there was probably a good reason for a minor name change of Yacht Club that didn't detract from the book's story at all. Thanks to author, publisher and Amazon for gifting this book - I look forward to reading more from Dwight Holing!

William says

A good read. And fun. Some good relationships and dialogue between the principles.

Haris says

If you like Robert Parker or Elmore Leonard or Carl Hiassan, you will absolutely love Dwight Holing's first Jack McCoul mystery; "A Boatload." Jack and Hark are both fantastic characters. The dialogue is snappy and sharp and funny as hell. The writing is very visual and tactile. It pulled me into the story immediately. Every character is interesting and well-defined and the mystery is sufficiently twisty all the way to the end. San Francisco comes off as a fully fleshed out character as well and so does the modern day tech industry. It's gritty and hilarious and surprising, but always believable, with an underlying emotional core that really made me care about the characters. I can't wait to read book two.

Cath says

A ship from China is holding a container full of stolen microchips and heading into a local San Francisco port. Local ex-conman, now turned private investigator, Jack McCoul gets mixed up in trying to find the location of the container holding these chips, before they arrive, when his brother in law winds up involved with the wrong people. Jack's wife, a yoga instructor, wants him to help her brother and keep him from getting hurt.

Jack had promised his wife, shortly after they got married, that he would go straight, so no more con artist jobs or getting on the wrong side of the law. Unfortunately, the man his wife was going steady with before Jack met her, is a policeman who is still insisting she will come back to him. All it needs is for Jack to break the law or be suspected of doing so and he will be arrested. He is practically stalking Jack, waiting for him to trip up.

The slight problem of the stolen chips, a murder and his brother in law being taken, all make this case a difficult one to succeed in and come away without being charged for murder. Jack will have to pull off the most complicated con job he has ever done, to ensure his wife and brother in law are safe and he isn't left dead or in prison for the rest of his life.

Crime gangs, Chinese Triads, a very wealthy businessman that wants everything, Jack, his brother in law and other con artists are all around, trying to get their hands on these chips. Who will succeed is anyone's guess. You have ups and downs involving Jack and his wife. Jack has to go back to some parts of his old life whilst trying to stay true to the promise he made to his wife.

An interesting story, based on a simple container of stolen microchips from China, getting into the wrong hands. The main characters are believable and Jack will no doubt have more stories to tell – whether about his pasts or future shenanigans. You have a police officer with a strict black and white view of crime, who is also infatuated with his ex-girlfriend, now Jack's wife. A good tale of a con of a con. It has to be the best for it to succeed.

I enjoyed this book and have signed up to read another by this author. I received a copy of this book from Hidden Gems and I have freely given my own opinion of the book above.

Cindy says

Fast moving plot & game cast. It's all game - 3-card monte style with lives at stake. Some cussing (mf) otherwise a totally enjoyable romp with a sideline of romance TTS-enabled.

Marcia says

Great Read!

Exciting & intriguing. Twists and turns. Charismatic characters. This is an excellent first in series book! I will be reading the rest shortly...

Bonnie Hunsaker says

Funny, fast and great

First book of Dwight Holing I have read. It won't be the last. Good story line and easy read. I really like the characters. A lot of action. Can't wait to start another.

Saralee says

A really well-written, stylish crime caper set in today's San Francisco -- a treat to read.

Jack McCoul is a con man who's promised to go legit to please his wife, a New-Age yoga teacher whom he adores. But his idiot brother-in-law tried to pull a fast one on some Asian gangsters, and now Jack has to return to his slick con-game ways to save said idiot.

Even with back-up provided by his tough Mexican-American Army veteran friend Hark, Jack has to deal with violent thugs, venture capitalists, computer geeks, a grudge-holding police detective, the rich WASP crook whose boatload of illegal cargo is at the center of it all, and, even worse, the Catholic priests who have known Jack since his school days and are still tut-tutting over his failure to follow the rules.

Leila Pitchford-English says

Story wise, I would probably give this a four. The writing tripped me up but not enough to make me stop reading. It's a PI story without a PI.

Janice Romanini says

Good

Good book. Looking forward to others in the series. Since I'm from San Francisco it was fun to read. Enjoy.

beth says

Jack gets schooled.

Jack thinks he can get something for nothing. But this time, the scam backfired, he scammed the wrong guy. Now what?

Bob says

A light caper in San Francisco has Jack McCoul, a almost x-grifter and now venture capitalist caught in a scheme by a big time millionaire to smuggle in stolen computer chips. When Jack's wife pushes him to help her brother who has cried for help when he gets in trouble with his gambling debts and thinks he is has found a way to cash in on the smuggled chips he find himself up against the millionaire a Chinese Triad family who claim the chips were stolen from them and a local cop, and old school friend who is carrying a grudge because he thinks Jack stole his girl. Lots of back and forth as Jack and a buddy try to help BIL and locate the chips keeps his light tale moving. Not a ad read as light fare goes.

Peggy Roberson says

There are very few books that will grab you from the very beginning, and keep you hooked throughout the duration of the book. This book falls into that category. Mr. Holing wrote a very good, fast-paced, page-turner, that you're going to hate to put down!! His scenic descriptions were so vivid, that I felt as if I were there in California - not only by the water, but in other places as well. I don't give 5-star ratings very often, but this book was so well-written, and so intense, I couldn't see rating it any lower. It was a win on

Goodreads, but had no bearing on my review.

Sheri Jackson says

A fun caper. I will definitely read more.

Gail Ofterdinger-Ledgister says

This is a supersonic read about a San Francisco uber hipster dude who just cannot stay away from the criminal elements. Who does have the Chinese chips? Kudos to the yoga instructor wife. Good guys, gangs and coppers. This one takes off at warp nine and keeps you breathless on a wild ride. I want more from this writer. My thanks to the author and Goodreads for a complimentary copy of this book.
