



Catfish Café

Earl Emerson

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Everyone who knew Balinda could have told Seattle private eye Thomas Black that the ex-choir girl thumbed a ride with the devil a long time ago. Still, no one expected the pretty young woman to vanish off the face of the earth--leaving in her wake an empty purse, a wrecked car, and a dead Eagle Scout in the backseat. What's more, Balinda never even gave notice at her last job--at a backwater diner where a freezer might keep more than crawdads on ice.

When Balinda's driver is identified, Thomas Black suspects big trouble. For it turns out that the victim was a fifth-grade Tacoma schoolteacher with an impeccable reputation. But tracking the past of that white-bread teacher is increasingly hazardous. Especially when it leads Thomas back to that modest little eat-in/take-out . . . called Catfish Café.

Catfish Cafe Details

Date : Published September 7th 1999 by Fawcett (first published 1998)

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Author : Earl Emerson

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From Reader Review Catfish Cafe for online ebook

Jeff Dickison says

A very good Thomas Black mystery as he must help his old police partner try to find his daughter and find out who murdered a passenger in her car. Good plotting, exciting action. The only problem: very little of the lovely Kathy. Recommended to Thomas Black fans.

Toesnorth's mom says

not great

Ashley says

great. fun detective story. im from the area the book takes place in and around. well written.

Dale Rosso says

I enjoyed this story very much being from Seattle, the local of the story. Emerson's style is great and he draws you into the stories.

Gary Barrentine says

Lots of interesting characters to keep track of.

Stacy Bearse says

Deception Pass

Susan says

Earl Emerson is a fire fighter right here in Seattle and he's a marvelous man but I've just never been interested in his books. But, Anne Petersen, my friend in Denmark sent me e-mail saying 'Earl's new book is called Catfish Cafe. Didn't we eat there when I visited??' Well, she is right. The Catfish Cafe of the book is really the Catfish Corner, one of my favorite places for dinner. So I really liked the book. The characters -

Thomas Black, private investigator and his friend and former police partner, Luther, transverse the streets within 3 miles of where I'm typing this all throughout the book. It really made the book fun for me.

Susan says

couldn't get into this one

Steve says

Thomas Black mystery - just catching up on my reading list.

Donna Davis says

My god, how I loved this series. As soon as Emerson wrote it, it went on my wish list. My spouse, who rarely reads fiction, felt the same.

Emerson's whimsical yet compelling series takes him into all sorts of unexpected corners, including this modest little eatery in the heart of Seattle's Black community, about a mile or two from my house. This guy knows Seattle like the back of his hand, that's for sure, and his writing will leave you with a quirky little smile on your face when you're done, no matter where you live.

Narnia says

I picked this up at the Moscow bookswap believing I was done in, but this was an exciting read. It reminded me a lot of Dennis Lehane's style, but not as good. Great for a quick read

Lynli says

I thought this was one of the worst books I have ever read. I kept reading thinking it would get better, but no luck. Read at your own risk.

Ed says

#11 in the Thomas Black series. Black is a bike riding, private detective and former Seattle cop.

Thomas Black is called on by his black friend and former SPD partner Luther Little to help find his daughter Balinda, who he fears might have become involved with drugs again. The plot revolves around Luther's

extended family and their interactions with the white world. Convoluted and not as interesting as other series entries, but does pick up towards the end.

Aimee says

Classic, solid mystery. I recommend it if you're looking for a quick, entertaining read.

Jane says

depressing.

Jim says

One of Emerson's best. Living in the Pacific Northwest, I have a soft spot for this series because of the familiar settings, but even if you aren't lucky enough to live around here, these are taut well paced mysteries that are sure to please any fan of the genre.

In Catfish Cafe' ripples from the past trigger a new and deadly series of events that seem to defy karmic retribution.
