



Fuzz

Ed McBain

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The 87th Precinct is up against the Deaf Man, master criminal, and Detective Carella's own Moriarty. With the murders of two prominent citizens to his credit, the Deaf Man is about to reveal his pice de resistance of extortion and homicide. Fuzz was the basis of a major motion picture starring Burt Reynolds, Raquel Welch and Yul Brynner.

Fuzz Details

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Author : Ed McBain

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From Reader Review Fuzz for online ebook

Phil Williams says

Thoroughly enjoyable as always

Cathi Davis says

My first Ed McBain book. (my household has started an EM marathon. I was told to start here.). Since the 87th Precinct series is (mostly) free on Kindle Unlimited, I will continue. He is a very funny writer, the story is preposterous but intentionally so. I did have trouble keeping the cop characters separate, they seem to be of a type, except for the bumbling one who shot himself in the foot and is afraid of criminals. Plodding, disgruntled cops solve crime through inordinate good luck. The deaf man is back (clearly I missed something by starting here) with a sinister plot to extort money from the wealthy of Isola. It requires a few well placed assassinations to set it up, a fatal hatred of the 87th, but the story rolls along until the fortuitous ending. Why not a higher star ranking? Expectations perhaps? McBain is a very good writer, with descriptions and phrases that are stunning, but overall the story is weak and the characters shallow. Maybe an artifice of the genre, but I bet it gets better. So I have to leave room for a higher rating for the next one.

Pamela McLaren says

I love Ed McBain. His books are serious, comic, irreverent and a joy to read. And its amazing the range he had with the 87th Precinct Books of which this is one — and the lawyer Matthew Hope to Blackboard Jungle, written as Evan Hunter.

This is the 12th in the percent books with all the usual characters -- working cops just trying to put away the bad guys. And they have come across an old nemesis they thought was dead. Steve Carella is dressed as a homeless man to catch teenagers who are setting homeless men on fire; he gets burned and he gets beat up. Meanwhile, the others on his team receive a threatening note that if someone is not paid \$5,000, a commissioner will be killed -- and is. Then the note asks for more, to not kill the deputy mayor and in a spectacular bombing, he is killed. In the midst of all this the town of Isola is hit by one of the biggest storms in history, the police department is being painted by seemingly inept painters who spatter everything and finally, the cops come across an attempt to rob a tailor. And somehow, its at the tailor's where everything somehow comes to gather. Very much as you realize it probably happens for many crimes. The characters feel real and speak realistically, and you feel for them the whole time you're reading the book. Ed McBain/Evan Hunter was a genius. There are few authors I can say that for every time I open a book.

Jack says

Much of reading Fuzz reminded me of reading Killer's Wedge by the same author. There's the no-nonsense description of the action, the detectives, the perps (we can say that for bad guys, right?). The similar view on crime and criminals, the nearly-literal city as a character acting upon its residents. Hard boiled, gripping,

engaging.

And not one of these similarities is a bad thing. They are all realized in different ways. (But I probably would not want to read three 87th Precinct novels in a row; variety being spicy and all that.)

The big difference I find in this book is the amount of humor. People look at you funny in Whataburger when you just break out in laughter sitting at a table by yourself. It is said that humor arises from the unexpected, and while that is true at least in part, it was unexpected to find humor in this story. It serves the story well, though. A movie was based upon this book and released in 1972. I'm positive the humor in the book is the reason it was chosen, because it would be relatable to the public.

I suppose you want a basic plot: A man issues demands for money or threatens to kill high-ranking public officials. Detectives pursue. Teens burn not just in passion but people. Literally.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I highly recommend it. Unless you hate kitties/puppies. You don't hate kitties or puppies, do you? Well, do you?

Nikmaack says

I'm continuing to read all of the 87th Precinct books in order. This one features the reappearance of the deaf man. I was not a fan of him in the first book he showed up in. He's more fun in this one. The book is somewhat silly, almost comical. You know, except for the murders.

At no point did I find this book dull. The plot zings along. All the cops are accounted for. It's a fun ride. An utterly preposterous plot, but enjoyable.

Donna Davis says

Meh. The slang is dated, and McBain was just getting his engine warmed up as a writer. Reading this was a better choice than reading some crank-em-out writer who creates the same damn story over and over, but McBain's later work is so much better than this.

Matt says

I just finished my trio of McBain books (Hail Hail the Gangs All Here, Jigsaw and Fuzz) and this was my least favorite. It's well developed and written. This one relied on LUCK more than good police work. All the usual detectives are there: Carella, Meyer, Willis, Brown and they introduce a bull wannabe Genero.

>>>>>SPOILER<<<<<<

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The author brings back an old nemesis- the Deaf Man-for this one. The Deaf Man has a plan that includes murdering three city officials in an attempt to extort money.

wally says

another deaf man caper. took me a month to read. imagine that. do da. do da. four stars. i really liked it.

Violet says

The blurb on the back of this pocket book says that a movie has been made of this one, starring Burt Reynolds, Yul Brenner, Raquel Welch ... wow ! I'd like to see that. This time Carella, Meyer Meyer, Kling, Byrnes, etc. seem to be "a day late and a dollar short" on preventing the deaths of city officials. They know WHO and approximately WHEN but not the HOW. The ending kind of leaves us hanging but still a very entertaining read.

L says

This is the first "deaf man" novel in the series that I've enjoyed! And I'm not sure why I did. Perhaps because the usual mayhem continued in the 87th Precinct as the detectives tried to unravel the deaf man's threats, actions, and plans. Perhaps because I've had my nose in other books and hadn't read an 87th Precinct story for a while. The ending, which I will not share, is delightful!

K says

Nobody writes police procedurals quite like Ed McBain, and his ear for dialogue separates him from oh so many authors. This installment of the 87th precinct brings back the squad's nemesis, the deaf man-- a criminal mastermind who seems to relish outwitting cops while operating his well planned schemes.

But even the best laid plans... Well you'll have to read he book.

It does have a few shortcomings; the ending seems abrupt and there is a lack of satisfaction in how several of the criminals are foiled-- at least for this fan. But nevertheless, it's still a solid episode in a consistently entertaining series. And I'm guessing we've not seen the last of the deaf man! At least, I hope not.

Bob Cantrell says

Where is the glamour

I enjoyed this book and got to liking the characters, the men of the 87th. I wanted to read the book after seeing the movie that was based on it. Right off let me say they are two different animals. The movie is okay, but the book is way better. There are no big gun battles between the Cops and Robbers most of it is just

following the leads to solve the crimes. In this story there are three crimes that happen: a case of murder and extortion, a case of somebody attacking the homeless, and a case of armed robbery. Three separate events that just happen to cross paths with each other. Just how I won't say so grab a copy and hit the streets with the 87th Precinct and get ready to outsmart the bad guys.

James Thane says

In *Fuzz*, a master criminal nicknamed the Deaf Man returns to bedevil the detectives of the 87th Precinct. As is often the case in this series, the weather plays an important part in the book. It's the middle of winter; the snow is deep, and the temperatures are freezing. It's not fit weather for man or beast, but the criminals are not taking the winter off and so neither can the police.

In one particularly aggravating series of crimes, someone is pouring gasoline on sleeping homeless men and then setting them on fire. Detective Steve Carella goes under cover in order to catch the killers, but this means he's going to spend a lot of time freezing in alleys and doorways, playing bait for the attackers. It won't be any fun at all, and it's going to be a particularly frustrating assignment.

While Carella is thus occupied, someone calls the 87th Precinct and demands that he be paid \$5,000 or he will shoot the Parks Commissioner. Almost everyone, including the Parks Commissioner, assumes the call is a prank. Sadly it isn't, and after the Parks Commissioner is shot and killed, the caller, who turns out to be the old nemesis of the 87th, the Deaf Man, steps up his game and puts the city in a panic.

All in all, this is a very entertaining read that should appeal to the legions of fans who follow this series.

Jim says

The low rating might indicate that the book was poorly written, but that is not the case. I felt it was dated and simply didn't live up to the praise heaped upon it. The story wasn't all that interesting or challenging, the characters not all that compelling. Maybe they were back in the 60s.

Colin Mitchell says

For me this is not one of the best 87th Precinct novels but it does involve a great many of the squad roster. The deaf man appears again and is threatening the Mayor and his team. Why is Carella in hospital and what is going down at the tailor's shop and Bert Kling is in love. All the usual ingredients but somehow there were too many plot lines that arrived together with haste.
