



Hastened to the Grave: The Gypsy Murder Investigation

By Jack Olsen

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Hastened to the Grave: The Gypsy Murder Investigation By Jack Olsen

The bestselling author of "Son" and "Doc" investigates a chilling series of alleged murders that exposes the sinister underworld of Gypsy culture in America. 8-page photo insert.

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Hastened to the Grave: The Gypsy Murder Investigation By Jack Olsen Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1366567 in Books
- Published on: 1998-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x 6.00" w x 1.00" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 276 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Jack Olsen's *Hastened to the Grave: The Gypsy Murder Investigation* features a delightful hero: a female private investigator who calls herself "Rat Dog Dick." Rat Dog relies on an ancient Everex 286 computer (Evil Evie), a Toyota Tercel (The Frog Prince) that is so outrageously green it's useless for surveillance, and a big, funny-looking dog (Beans). She is probably the best skip tracer (someone who finds people) in San Francisco. Once she gets her teeth into the "Foxglove" case--several old people who dwindle and die quickly after being "befriended" by a local Gypsy family--the fact that she has no client to pay her for her work is just not an issue. The police are ignoring clear evidence of elder abuse, and Rat Dog is outraged. We follow every step of her adventures as she learns a whole lot about Gypsies and turns into a fierce advocate for the elderly.

Jack Olsen's prose style is supple and engaging, with funny dialogue and colorful characters worthy of an Elmore Leonard novel. His observations about people (especially women) are priceless, and his account of Gypsy crime and police negligence is balanced and thought-provoking. *Hastened to the Grave* is a true crime classic by a master at the top of his form. --*Fiona Webster*

From Publishers Weekly

Author of 27 books (*Salt of the Earth*, etc.), Olsen has found a winning protagonist in Fay Faron, the straight-shooting, busty blonde proprietress of Rat Dog Dick, a down-and-out San Francisco detective agency comprised of Faron and her trusty mutt, Beans. Olsen's latest true-crime saga begins when Faron is hired by a lawyer friend to check out Danny Tene, who the lawyer suspects is bilking an elderly client out of her life savings. When the client turns up dead, Faron suspects murder. Her investigation leads her to the shady and mysterious world of the Tene Bimbo clan (the family Peter Maas chronicled in *King of the Gypsies*), and six more bodies, all elderly men, all seemingly seduced by Tene women as far back as 1984 and duped into giving the women their money and property. Apparently not content to wait for the natural demise of their aging charges, the Tenes allegedly dosed them with the heart medication digitalis, which acts as a slow, difficult-to-detect poison. Faron finally gets the police to act on the evidence she's uncovered; as of the writing of this book, the supposed perpetrator of the so-called Foxglove murderer (named for the plant that produces digitalis) was still to go to trial (Olsen concludes with the November 1997 indictments). As the trial promises to be fascinating in its own right, readers with an interest in the case would have been better served by a definitive account. Even so, Olsen does his usual professional job here, turning in a brisk, well-researched treatment of murders most foul. 8 pages of b&w photos, not seen by PW. Literary Guild, Mystery Guild and Doubleday Book Club alternates.

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From Library Journal

This latest work by true-crime author Olsen (*Salt of the Earth*, LJ 4/1/96) begins in 1992 in the San Francisco Bay Area, where the reader meets a female private eye, Fay Faron, a.k.a. Rat Dog Dick, and the Tene gypsy clan, who allegedly conned and murdered the elderly. The case Faron is investigating has its complications: gypsies, who frequently move around, often use aliases, and the Tene clan may have defied the unwritten rule that gypsies do not kill for money. The chief suspects in the case are Angela and her brother Danny, who would allegedly befriend the elderly, con them into giving up money and possessions, and then abuse them and poison their food. Olsen's interesting account reads like a novel, but because the case has yet to go to trial by book's end, readers may be disappointed. Nevertheless, this case offers an inside look at the dark side

of gypsy culture. Recommended for true-crime collections. Michael Sawyer, Northwestern Reg. Lib., Elkin, NC

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Keith McLeod:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book is usually option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the publication untitled Hastened to the Grave: The Gypsy Murder Investigation can be very good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

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Lola Kelly:

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