



Mystic River

By Dennis Lehane

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When they were children, Sean Devine, Jimmy Marcus, and Dave Boyle were friends. But then a strange car pulled up to their street. One boy got into the car, two did not, and something terrible happened—something that ended their friendship and changed all three boys forever.

Now, years later, murder has tied their lives together again . . .

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Mystic River By Dennis Lehane Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Ever since blasting onto the literary scene with the Shamus Award-winning *A Drink Before the War*, Dennis Lehane has been the golden boy of noir. His Patrick Kenzie and Angela Gennaro novels are marvels of tight pacing, dialogue so good it gets under your skin and stays there, with dead-on portrayals of working-class Boston neighborhoods. Sure, he's the oft-proclaimed, hard-boiled heir to Hammett and Chandler, but Lehane also takes a page from the Hemingway school of hyper-intense writing. He pares away and pares away until he's left with the absolute essentials--and then those essentials just explode off the page.

In his five Kenzie-Gennaro novels, the detective duo is at the nexus of Lehane's big bang. Darkly funny and just this side of jaded, Angie and Patrick move through Dorchester's bleak streets with an assurance born of familiarity. It's impossible to imagine these streets without the pair, or to imagine the pair away from those streets. *Mystic River*, then, arrives as a bit of a gamble, as Lehane moves from the sharp edges of portraiture to the broader strokes of landscape. No Angie, no Patrick: this neighborhood is on its own. It's not any prettier and certainly no friendlier, and its working-class façade still barely masks the irresistible tug of violent ways, means, and ends.

Twenty-five years ago, Dave Boyle got into a car. When he came back four days later, he was different in a way that destroyed his friendship with Sean Devine and Jimmy Marcus. Now Sean's a cop, Jimmy's a store owner with a prison record and mob connections, and Dave's trying hard to keep his demons safely submerged. When Jimmy's daughter Katie is found murdered, each of the men must confront a past that none is eager to acknowledge. Lehane tugs delicately on the strands that weave this neighborhood together, testing for their strengths and weaknesses; this novel seems as much anthropological case study as thriller.

By turns violent and pensive, *Mystic River* is vintage Lehane. How good is it? You may go in missing Angie and Patrick, but after a few pages you won't even realize they're gone. Lehane's noir is still black magic. --
Kelly Flynn

From Publishers Weekly

Lehane ventures beyond his acclaimed private eye series with this emotionally wrenching crime drama about the effects of a savage killing on a tightly knit, blue-collar Boston neighborhood. Written with a sensitivity toward character that exceeds his previous efforts, the story tracks the friendship of three boys from a defining moment in their childhood, when 11-year-old Dave Boyle was abducted off the streets of East Buckingham and sexually molested by two men before managing to escape. Boyle, Jimmy Marcus and Sean Devine grow apart as the years pass, but a quarter century later they are thrust back together when Marcus's 19-year-old daughter, Katie, is murdered in a local park. Marcus, a reformed master thief turned family man, goes through a period of intense grief, followed by a thirst for revenge. Devine, now a homicide cop assigned to the murder, tries to control his old friend while working to make sense of the baffling case, which involves turning over the past as much as it does sifting through new evidence. In time, Devine begins to suspect Boyle, a man of many ghoulish secrets who has led a double life ever since the molestation. Lehane's story slams the reader with uncomfortable images, a beautifully rendered setting and an unnerving finale. With his sixth novel, the author has replaced the graphic descriptions of crime and violence found in his Patrick Kenzie-Angela Gennaro series (*Prayers for Rain*; *Gone, Baby, Gone*) with a more pensive, inward view of life's dark corners. It's a change that garners his themes regret over life choices, the psychological imprints of childhood, personal and professional compromise. A richer context and his characters a deeper exploration. Agent, Ann Rittenberg. (Feb. 6) Forecast: Given the excitement in-house at Morrow that this is

Lehane's breakthrough book, and the promotion they're placing behind it, it stands an excellent chance of leaping straight onto the bestseller lists. A one-day laydown, \$250,000 ad-promo and an 11-city author tour, plus a blurb from Michael Connelly designating Lehane as "the heir apparent," should provide the groundwork for explosive sales. Rights have been sold in the U.K., France and Germany, and there will be a large-print edition as well as an audio from Harper Audio.

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From [The New Yorker](#)

Back in the seventies, two boys from the Flats, wily Jimmy Marcus and sad-eyed Dave Boyle, hung around with Sean Devine, who lived twelve blocks away in what passed for a better neighborhood. This Chandleresque novel really starts when their paths cross again: Sean's a cop, Jimmy's daughter is dead, and Dave's a suspect. Lehane's theme is inevitability: once fate has its markers in place, it doesn't fool around. A sense of foreboding provokes the book's best heart-in-your-mouth effects, but the assignment of blame is clear long before the final pages.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jennifer Burritt:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book titled Mystic River? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have some other opinion?

Cindy Searcy:

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Donovan Pena:

Is it an individual who having spare time then spend it whole day by watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Mystic River can be the solution, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these books have than the others?

Paul Jones:

As we know that book is vital thing to add our understanding for everything. By a reserve we can know everything we wish. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated as well as blank sheet. Every year seemed to be exactly added. This publication *Mystic River* was filled with regards to science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your research competence. Some people has diverse feel when they reading any book. If you know how big benefit of a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a publication. In the modern era like now, many ways to get book that you simply wanted.

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