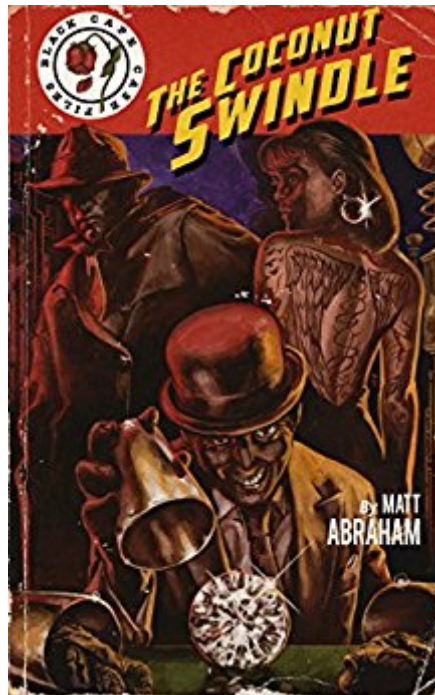


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The Coconut Swindle (Black Cape Case Files Book 2)



Synopsis

In this exciting prequel to the critically acclaimed Dane Curse, a pair of black capes are found dead on the floor of Wentorf Hall, mere inches away from the world's largest diamond. Of course the cops think the pair killed each other over the heist. After all, everyone knows that the Vandenberg Coconut is a one size fits all motivation for murder. Everyone, that is, except for Dane Curse. But when the former villain turned PI takes the case he'll discover that the truth has more sides than a diamond has facets. And in order to get to it Dane will follow a trail that leads through an old enemy with a bagful of grudges, a killer who specializes in assassinating super villains, and a wealthy socialite with a murky motive. A thorny maze indeed, and sitting at its heart, mysteriously returned from years in hiding, is Dane's very own daughter. Will Dane Curse discover the thieves' secret in time to solve the case, save his agency, and protect his only child from a vicious death? Or will he lose it all, just another victim of The Coconut Swindle? In this follow up to the critically acclaimed Dane Curse, Matt Abraham, winner of Pulp Detective's 2015 Newcomer of the Year Award, takes us on our second trip through Gold Coast City. It's Dane's very first case, the one that made the agency, but almost broke the man. If you like white knuckled action, devious dames, and heroic villains then get your copy today, and saddle up with the most exciting detective since Harry Dresden!

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Customer Reviews

..and his name is Dane Curse. This prequel to author Matt Abraham's first novel "Dane Curse" is every bit as good as the first one. Dane Curse is a private investigator who, like most of his ilk, is into booze, babes, and brawls. The twist is that he is invulnerable and has super strength. He resides in Gold Coast City, which is filled with various superheroes (white capes) and supervillains (black capes), all with different powers. Curse, a former black cape, works as a PI for other black capes who can't get help from the police or white capes, but he'll work for anyone who will pay. The book is filled with the humorous quips that is usually associated with noir crime fiction, like "I was knocked flat, but bounced back like the king of bad checks.". The premise of this book is the mysterious death of two black capes who apparently tried to steal a well-protected giant diamond known as the Coconut. With more twists and turns than a Georgia backroad, Curse tries to get to the bottom of the deaths and runs afoul of various black capes who think he is a "turncape", a snitch who sold out his former partners. The action takes place at breakneck speed as Curse fights his way through the maze that the case becomes and never lets up for a minute. If you love gritty private eye stories, ala' Mickey Spillane, then you will like this book and the superhero aspect makes it a fun ride. When I read the author's first book, the aforementioned "Dane Curse", I liked it so much I gave it a 5 star review on also, and let the author know how much I enjoyed the book. When I saw this book was out, I snatched it up, knowing I would love it. Imagine my surprise when I read his Acknowledgments page and found my name there as the first reader to send him an encouragement letter. I was honored to be named there, but don't think that is why I gave this book a 5 star rating; it is a really good novel that you should check out. You won't be disappointed.

It's going to be difficult to find a superlative for The Coconut Swindle that hasn't already been used, and believe me, every one of them has been justly earned. This heady brew mixes the best of noir detective fiction with golden age superheros and arch villains who are armed with gizmos that would make Dick Tracy weep with envy. Fair warning, though: It is not to be imbibed late in the afternoon, unless you want to stay up half the night. Once you're strapped in and this ride starts, there's no exit until it's finished! This is one plot you won't figure out before the ending, and every time you think you know what will happen next, you'll be wrong. You won't, however, feel at all manipulated or

cheated at the end... it's all there in plain sight, but you won't see it until Dane Curse does. Everything you wondered about Dane in the first book is revealed in this one, yet I'm sure you'll be eager for the next installment-- I know I am! Bravo, Mr. Abraham! Another thrilling, excellently written read here!

The Coconut Swindle is the second instalment of one of my favourite private detectives, the "invulnerable" ex-black cape, Dane Curse. Business is tight at the Dane Curse Detective Agency with only one client, soft man, Toby Teenie who moves like a "pregnant yak" until Dane wins a new contract. Armed with his super strength, his weapons, Lois and Rico and his invulnerability to bullets, Dane is ready to take on all-comers with the help of his faithful secretary, Mrs West (love her!). The action takes place again on the streets of the futuristic Gold Coast City with its silver buildings that "twist as they climb through the clouds". Dane's contracted to investigate a case for a black cape, Mandy involving a likely double murder and the Vandenberg Coconut, the world's most valuable diamond. In this latest novel, readers are introduced to a new character, Doodle or as she's now known, Sketch. This relationship shines light on Dane's character and background, giving him more depth. Another new and entertaining character is Laars Monday who's hell bent on joining the Special Powers Extraction Commission and forms an unlikely alliance with Dane. "The Coconut Swindle" surpasses the first Dane Curse novel. It's electrifying and funny from the first action-packed pages. The author's writing is tight, slick and original, while the story and dialogue would lend itself perfectly to a film series and a graphic novel. What's unique about the series is the blend of characters and dialogue that feel like they're plucked from the streets of the US Prohibition of the 1920-30s with its gangsters, violence and speakeasies, yet it's set in a sci-fi world with futuristic technology and characters that battle each other with fabulous super-powers.

It has come to my attention that not everyone innately understands the merits of books about a private investigator in a town full of people with super human abilities. This is baffling to me. I can only suspect it is my tendency to babble and throw my arms about when excited that confuses people and distracts them from the topic at hand. So let me explain in the written word... View tips and guidelines Preview Dane Curse is a small time private investigator. Not just any old PI but the type that brings to mind old radio shows: "The door swung aside and in walked a woman. She had a long, flowing overcoat atop a tailored black suit that hugged her hips like an old friend it hadn't seen since high school. Her broad brimmed hat cast a shadow over a pair of almond eyes so smokey

they could teach a Navajo communications course, and with two full lips as red as the menace that scared my ma she said, "Mr Curse? I'm Mandy Marcus." - The Coconut Swindle The difference is that Mr. Curse happens to have super strength and invulnerability and when Mandy Marcus (aka The Widow) shrugged off her jacket, she had four arms underneath. While I love the idea of a PI working in a town full of super heroes (white capes) and their counterparts (because seriously, how fun is that) that isn't even the best part. The best part is Dane Curse himself. Former black cape turned PI for the "bad" guys and their families. He's not got great luck, but he's good with brute force and persistence. And while he might kinda, sorta, still be a tiny bit of a bad guy, he's still doing his best to do right by his clients. Would I recommend it? Heroic villain anyone? Yes. Yes, is the answer you're looking for.

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