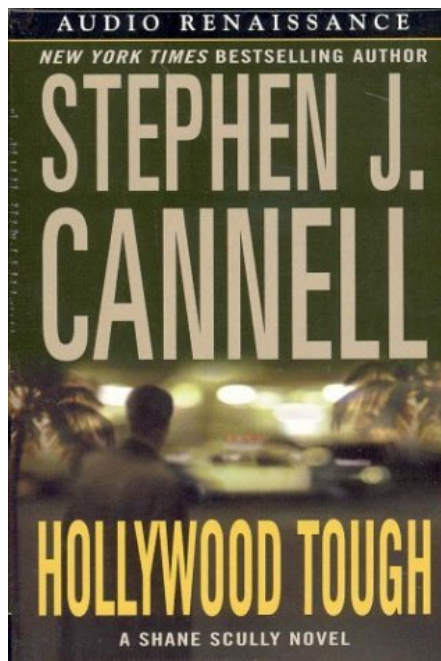




Hollywood Tough

Stephen J. Cannell , Paul Michael (Narrator) , Michael Prichard (Reading)

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Back on the LAPD and hailed as a hero after taking down a deadly gang of rogue cops in *The Viking Funeral*, Shane Scully finds himself unwittingly involved in a criminal scheme to take over the movie business. Soon, he will have to go deep undercover to take down a Hollywood conspiracy.

At a glamorous party with his new wife, Alexandra, Shane hears a world famous director make an ominous remark about the strange deaths of his ex-wives. This is more than police business, it's personal: Alexandra's closest friend is engaged to the producer.

When he looks closer, Scully discovers that the director's mysterious past may hide deadly secrets. To uncover them, he must work alongside a former down-and-out-turned-Hollywood impresario to infiltrate the movie business's violent dark side, a world where deals are settled with handshakes but broken with the spilling of blood, and where the danger to Shane's loved ones is all too real.

Hollywood Tough Details

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Author : Stephen J. Cannell , Paul Michael (Narrator) , Michael Prichard (Reading)

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From Reader Review Hollywood Tough for online ebook

Dad4525 says

Enjoyed this book

Bill says

I like much of the television that Stephen J. Cannell has written and produced. It turns out that his fiction writing isn't too bad, either. I liked this. It's not ground-breaking or earth-shattering or by any means awe-inspiring. But it is pretty good, down-to-earth, fun, detective fiction and kept me turning pages.

As the third story in the Shane Scully series, it picks up after he's become recently married and also found a son he didn't know about. I had not read either of the first two books, but Cannell does a reasonable job of filling in this necessary background as the new story moves along. Both the wife and son become key players in the current tale.

Keep in mind that Cannell is a television writer, so the plots and schemes of Shane Scully and the characters around him are suitably ridiculous and far-fetched. Taking that as a given, the plot is inventive and keeps you guessing. The characters were colorful and well-drawn. The settings might be a bit fuzzy, if you weren't completely familiar with them from hours of network television set in Los Angeles. The prose was easy on the eyes and inner ear, except for a few times where paragraphs suddenly began with the word 'Suddenly' several times in a row.

The other main complaint is that the electronic edition of the book, at least the one downloaded to my Nook device, is full of typos. This seems odd to me, since I would think that a book published in 2003 would have full digital source on file and be fully edited by now. The most noticeable problem was the intermittent substitution of the word 'die' for 'the' (and not in the context of the German language).

Melliott says

Well, that was both hokey and cheesy. Some of it was also entertaining, especially the way the separate crime stories ultimately came together, but...it was really hard to tell when he was being ironic and when he was being serious. And because some of it was obviously ironic or satirical, it didn't fit too well with the parts that were "straight." Maybe a 2.5.

Space says

This was a little better book than the last couple, I think. The premise was still far-reaching and large-scaled, but it seemed a little more realistic. A New Jersey mobster is trying to acquire influence in the movie business. It all ties in with several other storylines, of course. All of which Scully and his wife are investigating. Of course.

The only parts I had trouble believing - and to the point where it actually ejected me from the story for a bit -

was where he let himself be talked into allowing his teenage son, Chooch, accompany him on a raid. Yeah, no. No amount of begging would make that happen in real life. And it seemed a bit too easy when all was said and done.

These books, like most movies have the same formula for gunshots that just doesn't sit well with me. If one of the good guys gets shot, it's usually in the shoulder or hip or thigh or something where it can't possibly render permanent danger. Shane is carrying a nine-mil or a MAC-10 or whatever. Single-shot pistols. His attackers are always carrying the shotguns or the automatic weapons, yet somehow, miraculously - and Cannell uses that word a lot when describing their ability to avoid being hit - they never get hit. Or rarely. And then, like I mentioned, it's always superfluous. Fair enough. Makes for a good read. Again, though, on this book, I have to say unless you're just a Cannell fan, or reading the entire Scully series, you can probably find a better read. I'll recommend this one with the series. I'd recommend the series, in fact. I quite like it. But any one of them on their own just aren't fabulous enough to stand out.

Dawn says

I know this guy was a big-time TV writer, but apparently TV writing is very different from book writing. The story is okay but the writing is terrible. I suspect he got a book deal based solely on his Hollywood cache. He did make one of my favorite 80s shows, 21 Jump Street, so I don't want to trash the guy, but this was bad.

It seemed like it should be written in first person. Shane was in every scene. Nothing happened behind his back. Why wasn't he the narrator?

There were some parts that should have been cut because they were pointless or needlessly descriptive. The two dream scenes made no sense and added nothing. And I didn't need a description of the lock-picking process. Just say he picked the lock!

The descriptors were odd and overused. Multiple things were "little," most annoyingly, "the little grifter" over and over and over. Two guys were "wiry," one was additionally a wiry geek. Reading Day-Glo Dago over and over and over made me want to put a sharp stick in my eye.

Finally, the dialogue was horrendous! People do not speak the way he wrote. I have lived in Jersey almost my entire life and I have never once said "youse," nor have I ever heard anyone else actually say it.

The best part of this book was Franco. I'll keep watching 21 Jump Street, but I'll spare myself the aggravation of reading any more of Mr. Cannell's books.

Nancy Chiok says

It is entertaining and an easy read.

Typically, when it comes to action books like this, I seems to have Bruce Willis cast as Scully already.

The author was also jovial in some parts of the novel which makes me want to finish the whole series.

Mario says

Surprisingly good. Tight storytelling, decent pace. I wanted to give it four stars, but I'm not sure it could

have been improved (except for maybe the gratuitous ethnic slur). These types of stories are, by nature, kind of ephemeral, and I'm sure I'll eventually forget just about every detail but, for the moment, I really enjoyed it.

Kaye Bleek says

I couldn't put this book down, read 64% in one sitting. I liked the way they began investigating separate crimes, then everything merged into one case. Nice to see the introduction of Chooch's girlfriend, new characters are a great way of diversifying the story.

Quillracer says

It's been over 5 years since I read a Shane Scully book and I'd forgotten how good the series was.

This third entry in the series has Shane and Alexa squaring off against a mob effort to take over the film industry while Alexa also copes with a brewing gang war.

Cannell, creator of many hit TV series like *The Rockford Files* and *The A Team*, knew how to tell a story. And he showcases that talent here in a story full of twist, turns, and unique characters.

If you're looking for a thrilling police procedural series, give this one a try. But start with *The Tin Collectors* the first book in the series.

Vincent Lombardo says

I was going to give it four stars but when a book can make me tear at end, it gets a five.

Cindy says

Enjoyed this read, all the right stuff included. Well narrated and recommended.

Macjest says

Not one of Carnell's better efforts. Shane Scully's wife has a best friend who is getting married. They go to the Hollywood party and that's where everything gets started. There are too many storylines going that are hard to keep straight. But the part I found really annoying was his use odd descriptions for the characters. He kept using the same phrases over and over. Finally, after spending a huge amount of plot time talking about producing a movie, there was just a quick wrap at the end. What I found even more confusing was how involved and knowledgeable Scully was in the movie business. Yet, in one of the later books where the movie business comes to play, not one reference is made to this book.

Leon Aldrich says

If you are a fan of: Vince Flynn, Lee Child, Robert Crais, Michael Connelly, John Sanford or James Lee Burke, then you owe it to yourselves and your children's children, to read this series!

It don't get much better than this.

Katie Sundahl says

Not as good as the first two

Nolan says

In this third book in the Shane Sculley series, he's back to deal with gang violence that comes entirely too close to home. Fearing that his son is still drawn to the gang world from which his dad helped rescue him years earlier, Sculley is alarmed when his son is drawn back to that world as he searches for his abducted girlfriend.

Meanwhile, a seemingly innocent remark he overhears at a party starts him investigating the death of a young addicted prostitute. With his beautiful wife, Alexa, at his side, Shane takes on Hollywood mobsters and two gangs intent on destroying him, his family, and one another.

This is fast-paced gripping writing with a high profanity index. The series is made more impressive to me by the fact that it's author is dyslexic. I fully understand that dyslexia and intelligence are not at all the same. But writing books like this has to be a challenge indeed, even with good word predictive software out there. I admire the guy for taking on the challenge and for producing such an excellent series.

My rating is a bit low because I don't normally read books that focus on mob activities. It just doesn't captivate me for whatever reason, and I find mob family characters in books to be all too similar for my tastes.
