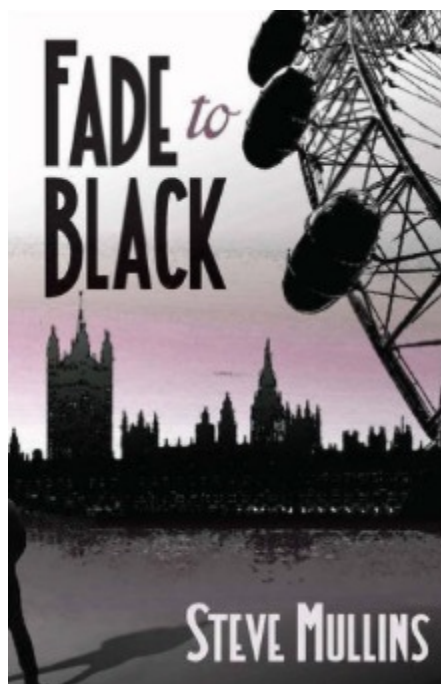




Fade to Black

Steve Mullins

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Fade to Black, the electric new thriller by journalist Steve Mullins published on 28 January, is a rollercoaster ride of murder and intimidation that exposes the dark underbelly of London's media scene.

The mysterious return of a 'deceased' film icon forces media man Root Wilson – the director's obituarist – to hit the capital's streets in search of the truth.

But powerful forces and henchmen are determined to stop Root, and he soon finds that he's a murder suspect himself ... not to mention a likely next victim.

Moving swiftly between iconic London locations – from Peckham to Parliament Hill, from Stoke Newington to Soho – Fade to Black is intricately plotted and shot through with the mood of a basement jazz club at 1am.

This stylish thriller, inspired by classic cinema, transforms London into ?a noir landscape full of fast-talking antagonists, matchless and smart-as-whip femmes fatales, and a River Thames that plays as big a part in the action as any other character.

Author Steve Mullins said: "Fade to Black saturates London in so much noir-ish ink you can pretty much see it coursing under the capital's bridges."

"It's best to think of Fade to Black as The Third Man-on-Thames — Root Wilson even goes so far as to do a rewrite of Graham Greene's screenplay!"

"I channelled an awful lot of Orson Welles and Carol Reed and I trust that pays off for the film's aficionados."

Fade to Black Details

Date : Published January 28th 2016 by Saraband (first published August 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9781910192252

Author : Steve Mullins

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Genre :

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From Reader Review Fade to Black for online ebook

Pat Chappell says

Loved this book. Thoroughly enjoyed the atmospheric descriptions of London and the Thames, and was gripped by the plot. Loved the characters too, all of whom are entirely believable. Hoping for a sequel ... This is a must-read not only for lovers of crime fiction, but also lovers of London. Highly recommended.

Sabine says

A real page turner, clever noir mixed in with a film script, a radio show, moody Thames side scenes, a too-cool-for school London media man who's getting in too deep with an undead film director and a cast of women who're all a step ahead of him ... Beautifully written, intelligent and different, really enjoyed it!

Michael Thurnell says

I liked this book a lot. Steve Mullins paints an excellent picture of contemporary London. He shows a good understanding of what it's like to be in media and brings us into that world.

The book tells an exciting story with some excellent plot twists. Steve has a unique story telling style that really kept my interest.

I highly enjoyed it and i think you would too.

J. Simons says

Mullins provides the reader with that rare and longed-for combination - a whodunnit/whydunnit written with literary flair. Very much in the vein of William Boyd and Ordinary Thunderstorms, Mullins is able to bring a classy stamp to the crime novel with London and its beating heart, The Thames, at the core of his narrative. This is crime noir, London noir and even film noir at its best.

Sharon Thurnell says

I received this book in a goodreads giveaway. I loved waling through London through Steve Mullins eyes. I have been to London once and I really can not wait to return. The opening line got me hooked. Not many people get to shake the hand of a dead man. Have a read and enjoy.

Pat Chappell says

Loved this book. Thoroughly enjoyed the atmospheric descriptions of London and the Thames, and was

gripped by the plot. Loved the characters too, all of whom are entirely believable. A must-read not only for lovers of crime fiction, but also lovers of London. Hoping for a sequel ...

Craig Sisterson says

Longtime journalist Steve Mullins' first novel reads like an ultra-cool love letter to London, magnifying the stylish and cinematic aspects of the capital city as it flows along on honeyed prose. It's a tale that sparkles with atmosphere and originality, while at the same time having a rather old-fashioned noir sensibility.

Root Wilson is his own man, a bit of a maverick who hosts an eclectic radio show where he curates things he loves and thinks his listeners will too, ranging from music to film references, food, art, and little-known London history. His world is tipped when he suspects a dead film director whose work he very much admired - to the point of writing a glowing obituary and referencing regularly - may actually still be alive, having pulled the wool over everyone's eyes, for whatever reason.

The situation ascends from puzzling to dangerous when Root is confronted by sinister figures; our hero seems to have stumbled into his own noir film, complete with henchman, femme fatales, and mysterious forces lurking in the shadows. Just what the heck is really going on?

This is not your typical British crime novel. Mullins has created something that, like several of his characters, is a little eccentric. Full of culture and plenty of film references, it's a very visual tale; as readers we glide along in Root's world, at times feeling like we're in a classic black and white film. Root is an engaging protagonist, even if at times he seems to be blundering through life in a haphazard way. Mullins brings various areas of London vividly to life, but the setting and story both centre strongly on the Thames River; its waters bisecting the capital like a glittering snake.

There's a good sense of pacing to *Fade to Black* as the mystery unravels, and Mullins surrounds Root with plenty of fascinating and well-developed characters. Overall the book is an impressive first effort, a jazz lick of a debut - fast-moving, offbeat, and shot through with a sense of cool.

This review was first published on *Crime Watch*: <http://kiwicrime.blogspot.com>

Craig Sisterson is a journalist from New Zealand who writes for magazines and newspapers in several countries. He has interviewed more than 140 crime writers, discussed crime fiction at literary festivals and on radio, and is the Judging Convenor of the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Crime Novel. Follow him on Twitter: @craigsisterson
