



Shadowlands

Erin Farwell

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In July of 1927, Prohibition is the law of the land, gangsters control the city of Chicago, and Cabel Evans wants to die. Haunted by nightmares of the Great War both waking and sleeping, Cabel Evans lives in self-imposed isolation at his family's summer home in St. Joseph, Michigan, until a face from the past intrudes. A fellow soldier, one who served under Cable, needs help. His teenage daughter, Kitty, was found floating in the river. He wants Cable to find the murderer. Coerced by a debt that no amount of money can repay, Cable begins an investigation, ushering in his reluctant return to society. From the innocent distractions of the Silver Beach Amusement Park to the dark enticements of a Chicago speakeasy, Cabel must fight through the shadows of his past as he searches for the truth about Kittie's death. Answers lead to more questions, and as the body count rises, Cable must finally face his most dreaded memory in the town where it took place: Chicago, Capone's domain, where violence and corruption are currency and everyone is a pawn in someone else's game. What began as a chance to repay a debt has become an opportunity for redemption. Yet just as Cabel realizes that he wants to live, someone else wants him dead. Caught between the darkness within and the darkness without, he struggles for salvation. Will Cabel find his way back into the light, or will the Shadowlands claim him forever?

Shadowlands Details

Date : Published August 14th 2012 by Tate Publishing & Enterprises

ISBN : 9781618628893

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Format : Paperback 328 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Crime

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From Reader Review Shadowlands for online ebook

Stephanie says

The Shadowland Ballroom is located at the Silver Beach Amusement Park in St. Joseph, Michigan, just down the hill from Cabel Evans' home. Shadowland is also the mental and emotional landscape Cabel inhabits. A WWI veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder before it was ever an official diagnosis, Cabel is weighed down by his nightmare memories of the war and its casualties, as well as his knowledge of how it has changed him. He is a young man old before his time. Erin Farwell has done a marvelous job with the characterization of Cabel. He is sympathetic, honorable, broken, and believable.

The quest Cabel undertakes to help a fellow veteran whose daughter has been murdered involves him in many adventures, including a couple of meetings with Al Capone. Those adventures are exciting and gripping, but what impresses me most about the novel, besides the characterization of Cabel himself—and that of his bossy and endearing housekeeper—is the narrative voice. The novel reads like a book written in an earlier time—and that seems to me to be no mean feat. The author has immersed herself in the time enough to write like she is of it.

Shadowlands is a mystery with a complex and believably imperfect protagonist and a healthy dose of Southwest Michigan and Chicago history. While the novel seems to be nostalgic for the days when the Silver Beach Amusement Park was still in operation, it doesn't romanticize the world of Capone or the war. Against that backdrop, the story of Cabel and his inner journey unfolds. Cabel's quest takes him on a search for answers, but, more importantly, it moves him from a desire for death to a renewed longing for life. I am grateful for the opportunity to accompany him on that journey.

Katiethompson says

Really enjoyed reading Shadowlands! A wonderful prohibition era historical murder mystery set in Silver Beach & Chicago. Shadowlands was a great sit on the porch enjoying a sunny spring day read.

Ashley Owens says

I loved this book. Erin does a great job creating a page turner with colorful characters that exist in 1920s Prohibition & gangster ruled Chicago. Her hero was excellent - a shell-shocked war veteran who struggles to overcome his anxieties to solve the murder of the daughter of his former soldier. Please read my favorite quotes here: <http://www.generallyanxious.com/books...>

Mayrose says

I really enjoyed this story. I was pulled in immediately and couldn't put it down. I grew up on Silver Beach even lived a few houses down from where one of the character families lived. The amusement park was a bit

before my time but my family got one of the pool tables from there when they tore the place down. I learned how to beat my 4 brothers playing on that table and it still sits in my parents house today.

The author really knows how to weave many layers together that envelopes you completely with a smooth flow that keeps you guessing with this mystery all the way to the end.

From the war veterans struggle reentering society and overcoming his past with family demons to somehow becoming friends with a family in need of his help solving the mystery of their murdered daughter, this story tugs at your heartstrings for all the players while keeping you on the edge of your seat with the danger from Chicago gangsters in a time of prohibition and corrupt police from the small town of St. Joseph, MI.
