



## Blood Drama

*Christopher Meeks*

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**Blood Drama** Christopher Meeks

BLOOD DRAMA

Everyone has a bad day. Graduate student Ian Nash has lost his girlfriend in addition to being dropped from a Ph.D. program in theatre at a Southern California university. When he stops at a local coffee shop in the lobby of a bank to apply for a job, the proverbial organic matter hits the fan. A gang of four robs the bank, and things get bloody. Ian is taken hostage by the robbers when the police show up. Now he has to save his life.

FBI Special Agent Aleece Medina's analysis of the bloody bank heist drives her into the pursuit of a robbery gang headed by two women. She doesn't anticipate how this robbery will pit her against both the bandits and the male higher-ups in the FBI while the media heats up during a giant manhunt.

The robbers are about to kill Ian, and all he has at hand is his knowledge of the stage.

## Blood Drama Details

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Author : Christopher Meeks

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## From Reader Review Blood Drama for online ebook

### Krystal Milton says

I loved this book from page 1. As the story begins we meet Ian a man who is on edge as he finds himself losing everything he has worked so hard to obtain. As he finds himself at the end of his rope he pulls his mind back into order and thinks of his priorities, first, finding a job. But it seems his momentary pit stop would be the culmination of his worst nightmare.

It seems he had walked into a bank heist gone wrong, but was it really? Ian finds himself jobless, womanless, moneyless and at the whim of four captors who plot his future...death or freedom.

You would have thought Ian had learned his lesson; things just don't go his way. But instead he embarks on revenge that may well cost him his life.

On the Flip side you have hard ball Aleece Median an FBI agent assigned to the case of the bank robbery that took a turn for the worst ending in Murder. She not only has a hard time proving herself as a female agent, but also has an untrustworthy Witness who is making her case more difficult.

The story spun here was so delicately woven it kept my rapt attention from start to finish. There was so much eye crunching suspense, twists and turns I had no clue the story would lead down. And a very satisfying ending I am positive readers will love.

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### Kristina says

I really enjoyed this novel, and I honestly hope it winds up being the first book in a series featuring the two main characters.

One of the main things I enjoyed about this novel were the characters, all of them. You hated the right people, you rooted for the right people. Part of the reason I hope there is a second book that follows these characters is because at the conclusion of this book characters were beginning to recognize their own faults and starting to act to better themselves. I would love to see how that plays out and whether or not Ian decides to follow through on career options he was thinking of at the conclusion of this book.

Another thing I loved about this book involved the characters, they weren't black and white for the most part, and that not only added depth to the book, but it also added a sense of reality to the story. I don't think very many people in the world *are* black and white, and this story reflected that.

There were a few things that threw me for a loop also. One, the synopsis suggests that there is a major conflict with the ex-girlfriend of Ian Nash, but quite frankly, I didn't see it. Yes, she was there and occasionally mentioned, but the break-up is apparently not recent and the fact that Ian is hung up on their break-up is not mentioned very often. Also, I kind of wish the budding relationship in the book had been dragged out more. I understand that in a 240 page novel that isn't really an option, but if this had been part of a series, I would have liked to see it play out over a longer period of time. It just felt rushed and as such wasn't as fulfilling as I had hoped it would be.

Overall, very good book, and I really hope there is a sequel so that I can see what happened next. And isn't

that the goal of any writer? To make you care enough about the characters to want to see what happens next?

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### **Tommy says**

This was really a page turner! The characters are wonderfully entertaining, the story was an exciting thriller with a lot of twists and turns.

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### **TAMMY CUEVAS says**

After being dropped from his doctorate program at SCU, grad student Ian Nash stops at a coffee shop in a bank lobby to apply for work. While Ian is trying to think of what to write on the application, the bank is held up and he is taken hostage. When he escapes from the bank robbers a few days later, he combines forces with FBI agent Aleece Medina to hunt down the robbers/ killers.

What sets this novel apart from other thriller is the development of the characters. Not only is Medina more complex than the stereotypical FBI agent found in many suspense novels, but Nash is a new type of victim. His theater and academic background give him an interesting perspective.

This is definitely a suspenseful, can't-put-it-down thriller. Clear your calendar in order to have time to read this from start to finish!

4.5 stars

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher through the Virtual Authors Book Tours book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Sam Sattler says**

Blood Drama, the new crime fiction thriller from Christopher Meeks, is Meeks's first venture into genre fiction. Now, let's hope it is not his last, because this one is great fun.

When Ian Nash, a Southern California graduate student, unexpectedly finds himself callously dropped from his theatre Ph.D. program, he realizes that more than just his future expectations have changed. Now, because he was fired from his teaching duties at the same time he was booted from the program, Ian is also without a source of income. And because a man needs money to survive, Ian decides to apply for work in a little bank lobby coffee shop on his way home from the university.

His day is about to get a whole lot worse.

What begins as just another Los Angeles bank robbery suddenly goes very wrong. As Ian watches from his

assigned spot on the coffee shop floor, shots are fired, people die, and, when the police show up, he is horrified to be chosen as the designated hostage to accompany the robbers to their escape vehicle. He will be even more horrified when he realizes that one of the robbers is determined to eliminate any chance that Ian will be around long enough to identify the gang to FBI investigators. If he wants to live, Ian has to find a way to escape – and soon.

Blood Drama is very much a thriller, but it is a thriller with a romantic twist. Ian Nash, as are several male characters from previous Christopher Meeks novels and stories, is a well-intentioned, but rather naive, bumbler who sometimes overestimates his own abilities. He combines innocence and recklessness in a way that endears him to the reader as much as it confounds the other characters in the novel. One can only imagine why he believes himself more capable of finding the bank robbers than the FBI, even to running his own sting, but he does. And when Ian begins to woo the beautiful Latina FBI agent officially in charge of the investigation, we see that his basic optimism about the future remains intact.

Ian Nash is not an easily defeated man. He is a winner in spite of himself, and we love him for that.

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### **Laurie says**

I fell in love with Christopher Meeks' writing after reading *Love at Absolute Zero* last year, so I was thrilled to accept the offer to review this, his latest effort. Mr. Meeks seems to have an almost magical pen when it comes to capturing his characters' unique quirks on paper. This cast is filled with an odd assortment of misfits and miscreants, yet, as with the hero of *Love at Absolute Zero*, I had little trouble identifying with any of them. The story is well-balanced with enough humor to keep it from becoming too dark or depressive. I particularly enjoyed the hot and cold, tug of war relationship between Aleece and Ian, although I did become exasperated with Ian's whininess occasionally.

Polished and tightly structured, this novel should appeal to a wide reader segment. The pacing is fast enough to keep the plot stirred up, and the intensity of the characters' resolve is heartfelt. The ending surprised me; I felt satisfied and quite pleased with its closure.

This book was given to me by the author in exchange for my honest review.

Reviewed by Laurie-J

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### **Victor Gentile says**

Christopher Meeks in his new book, "Blood Drama" published by White Whisker Books brings us into the life of Ian Nash.

From the back cover: Everyone has a bad day. Graduate student Ian Nash, after losing his girlfriend, gets dropped from a Ph.D. program in theatre. When he stops at a local coffee shop in the lobby of a bank to apply for a job, the proverbial organic matter hits the fan. A gang of four robs the bank, and things get bloody. Ian is taken hostage by the robbers when the police show up. Now he has to save his life. FBI Special Agent Aleece Medina's analysis of the bloody bank heist drives her into the pursuit of a robbery gang headed by two women. She doesn't anticipate how this robbery will pit her against both the bandits and

the male higher-ups in the FBI while the media heats up during a giant manhunt.

The robbers are about to kill Ian, and all he has at hand is his knowledge of the stage.

Innocent routine activities. We go to the station to get gas for the car, we go to the supermarket, we go to the movies, we go to the bank. Innocent routine activities where nothing ever happens. Except Ian is caught in a bank robbery and taken hostage and if he doesn't do something they are going to kill him. Mr. Meeks has given us a mystery thriller. Ian's life is in deadly danger and he feels it is up to him to save himself. Lots of events happen in this story but this is most certainly a character driven piece. Ian and Aleece are unique individuals seldom seem in this type of story but certainly welcome. Mr. Meeks has given us a roaring good story that will keep you highly interested in what is going to happen next.

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## Kelli says

The following review is for Blood Drama, by Christopher Meeks. I was provided the Advance Reader's Copy through the GoodReads FirstReads program free of charge. I do not receive any compensation from GoodReads, the publisher, the author, or anyone else involved in any fashion with this book or any other for my review.

I've been sitting here for the past several hours trying to summarize and review the characters and plot of Blood Drama, but I just couldn't do it. You can't summarize this story. It has way too many twists and turns and is way too unique to shorten without giving something away. You can't condense these characters into a short paragraph each. They're all, save one, too complex, too well-rounded, too evolving to be able to write just a few lines about each. Blood Drama and the characters in it are richly detailed and complex without being verbose or flowery. The hero and heroine of the story are perfectly flawed, to the point where the hero actually makes things worse at first. They are believable, likeable, and realistic. The bad guys even, save one, are also believable, likeable, and realistic. One is a complete jerk, though, and he's just not likeable no matter what. The relationship between the hero (Ian) and the heroine (Aleece), however, seemed stilted and awkward. I'm sure the author was going for awkward, as Ian just seems to be the epitome of it, but I don't think he was going for stilted. When Ian and Aleece were interacting with each other, the dialogue and descriptions seemed tense and unnatural. Those parts just didn't flow properly. Even later, when she wasn't fighting Ian's misguided help, their interactions just felt unnatural and unrealistic. Since a large part of this story is about these two forging a bond, I simply couldn't just ignore this particular problem with the story.

Overall, however, Blood Drama is a definite worthwhile read. Once you get past the painfully slow first chapter, this book really shines. While I think the interactions between Ian and Aleece need work, I still think Christopher Meeks has done a fine job with this story. I love that the heroes are so imperfect and that Ian's actions especially have more realistic results than you see in other novels. I think anyone who likes mysteries

or action/thrillers will enjoy this book. I know I did.

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## Grady says

### Christopher Meeks Tries on Combat Boots - and Succeeds

I've read and reviewed every book and play written by the gifted Christopher Meeks, so it was with some trepidation to pick up a novel with a title BLOOD DRAMA, packaged by a cover that suggested he'd joined the au courant genre of spy and murder and intrigue army of writers. Was he forsaking his own quirky and deliciously entertaining usual topics of onstage interpersonal relationship scenarios of his previous books? Had he sold out to the bigger market of bestseller yet rapidly transient airport books? Happily, after I'd become attached to his satisfyingly rather strange hero in the first chapter, and the fear vanished that Meeks had abandoned his signature warmth and tasteful dissection of ordinary people, the pages practically turned themselves.

Meeks has the gift to mold characters with such extensive backstories that after only a few pages as each new character is introduced, they become part of the surround-sound family into whose story we have wandered. Here our tale involves one Ian Nash, who, having been dismissed from his doctoral program in Theater Arts, decides to not miss a step but instead apply for a job in a coffee house (think Starbucks type coffee house) that just happens to be in the building that houses a bank about to be robbed. In no time, he is involved as a hostage to a quartet of bizarre bank robbers led by the Busty Bandit (two women and two men comprise the quartet) who after robbing the bank and killing a man take our drugged hero off to a sanctuary to hide. The police arrive, and, under the "utter control" of Special Agent Aleece Medina, the investigation begins. Ian manages to escape from his bank robbing ensemble, and eventually the disparate duo of Aleece and Ian set out to solve the case and find the perps, a randy run that takes the rest of the book to resolve.

Ian Nash is a typical Christopher Meeks creation - smart, somewhat befuddled, Mamet-quoting theater type who knows just enough to spar with the rigidly controlling Aleece. A quick quote that shines a light on Meeks' ability to draw a scene clearly, a scene when Ian is in hostage custody, deserves sharing: "That night, tied and gagged and wedged against a Maytag washer - no more bed for him - Ian was still alive. He thought of something musician Bruce Springsteen said in an interview when talking about his song 'Racing in the Streets.' He said there was a lot of pain in life, but that one had to persevere and be resilient. That's what Ian realized his job was at the moment. Persevere."

A short snippet, that, and there are far better ones, but the book is so rich in feisty humor, in theatrically enacted derring-do as the pursuit of the quartet of bank robbers ensues, some fine psychological insights into these strange but likeable folk from the Southern California setting Meeks knows and lives so well - well, so rich, period, that it begs to be read. Meeks may have daringly (for him) stepped into new territory, but the fact that he continues to remain in the rarefied atmosphere of fine contemporary authors is secure.

Grady Harp

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## Jeannie Davide-Rivera says

Could not put it down...

I picked up Blood Drama yesterday and could not put it down! The book introduces our protagonist Ian

Nash, who to put it mildly is having a very bad day!

The story opens begins when Nash loses his job, gets thrown out of his graduate program, misses his exit on the freeway, and winds up at a coffee shop filling out a job application. If the day isn't going badly enough, the coffee shop is in the lobby of a bank.

The bank is robbed and Nash taken as the only hostage by the bank robbers—and this is just the beginning. The action continues from the opening scene until the closing scene with no wasted words. Every scene moves the story forward and leaves you asking, what is going to happen next? What more could possibly happen?

Just when you figure things cannot possibly become worse author Christopher Meeks delivers, yet another astounding blow to Nash's adventure. What I loved the best about Meek's novel is that there was no wasted time describing the leaves on the trees or cumbersome background information to make my inattentive eyes glaze over.

I found Blood Drama to be an easy, pleasant, read. I will be on the lookout for more of Meek's novels in the future.

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## **Teddy says**

This is the third book I have read of Christopher Meeks and consider myself a big fan of his work. The first two books of his that I read were, *The Brightest Moon of the Century* and *Love At Absolute Zero*. Both are literary fiction with some smart romance and biting humor. The characters in both are quirky. I love quirky characters and biting humor.

When Christopher told me about his new book, *Blood Drama*, I wasn't sure what to expect. It a crime mystery thriller, not a genre I typically read. However, as a fan, I wanted to give it a try.

*Blood Drama* delivered! It is full of the quirky characters, I've come to expect from Meeks, especially the lead character, Ian Nash. It is fresh and has the biting humor I also expect from him. The book is well written and researched and flows well. It takes place in California, Minnesota, and Winnipeg. Since I grew up in Minnesota, I am familiar with all of the cities and some of the landmarks mentioned. I always find that a fun aspect of a book when I am so familiar with the location. I can certainly vouch for the authenticity of Meeks representation of Minnesota.

The crime/mystery is easy going and not heavy handed. IMO, the ending is pretty predictable but I enjoyed it despite that. With *Blood Drama*, Christopher Meeks has proved to me that he can successfully cross genres and still entertain. Highly recommended!

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## **Vicki says**

This is one action packed thriller that you don't want to put down. The author doesn't waste time with the trivial, he gets right to the action and stays there. Just when you think things are as bad as they possible could get...wrong!

This was different from most thrillers I read in that it also has a little humor, I absolutely loved that aspect of the book.

The characters are well written, they seem like real people, flaws and all. There's also romance in this book, which gives you a little relief from the gripping adventures.

I liked this book very much and so I will be checking to see what other books this author has written.

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### **Thomas says**

I received an ARC of Blood Drama in a Goodreads giveaway. I probably would never have picked it up on my own; which would be my loss. It was a good book. I enjoyed reading it, and will look at other books by Christopher Meeks in a different light. The characters of Ian and Aleece are fully fleshed out, as well several of the supporting characters. If you like detective and police dramas, you will find Blood Drama a wonderful read.

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### **Lori L (She Treads Softly) says**

Blood Drama by Christopher Meeks introduces us to Ian Nash, a grad student who has been kicked out of his PhD program. To make matters worse, while applying for a job at a coffee shop in a bank lobby, Ian is taken captive by bank robbers lead by the Busty Bandit and her gang. What is different about this Busty Bandit robbery, however, is that this time it has turned deadly. Hot on Busty's trail is FBI Special Agent Aleece Medina, who is trying to discover the identity of the hostage while tracking down the robbers.

Once Ian manages to escape, one of the robbers, called Owen, seems determined to kill him. Owen leaves a trail of bodies while trying to track Ian down. Agent Medina is doing her best to find out what Ian knows and how it will help her track down the robbers. At the same time, Ian is determined to insert himself into the investigation in order to help Medina solve the case and bring the robbers to justice.

Ian is a hapless hero who uses his knowledge of theatre and deductive reasoning to solve clues about the robbers along side Agent Medina, who is fighting to solve and stay on the case. Even as she nears solving it, male higher-ups want to step in, take over, and, perhaps, take credit for the resolution. As they try to solve the case, Aleece and Ian also are fighting their attraction to each other.

Blood Drama was highly entertaining and extremely enjoyable. It is a combination black comedy and crime novel. The characters of Ian and Aleece are memorable, quirky, and unique. I soon reveled in Ian's quoting David Mamet (or some other playwright or work of literature) to deduce and interpret the information he had to ascertain where the clues were leading them.

As always, Meeks is a gifted writer. He has a pleasing way of propelling the action forward while developing his plot and characters. I had an advanced reading copy so I'm not providing quotes, but I couldn't help but share this gem:

"English teachers liked using allusions the way kids love sprinklers."

I enjoyed Meeks Love at Absolute Zero quite a bit, but I liked Blood Drama even more. I'm hopeful that Meeks will bring back Ian and Aleece to solve another crime.

Very Highly Recommended

Disclosure: I received a digital advanced reading copy of this book from Christopher Meeks and Premier Virtual Author Book Tours for review purposes.

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### **Rebecca Graf says**

I have to admit that I was thinking my life was tough and my day was pretty bad until I began reading this book. Poor guy had a much worse day: kicked out of his doctorate program, no job, finds himself in the midst of a bank robbery, and then is taken hostage. Nope, my days are pretty rosy.

This story had me hooked just out of pity for the poor guy, but when things turned from bad to worse I couldn't put it down. I had to know what was going to happen next. This was far from the typical suspense/thriller. Yes, it does follow the MOs you expect in some areas but the characters make it so unique.

I loved these characters. They were so unique that I could see them as real. They had their quirks and secrets that revealed their flaws and their vulnerabilities. I mean, they are adults and have parent issues even while dealing with being kidnapped. They have problems at work as they try to make a career for themselves as they fall in love with the victim. Nothing is really too far fetched. Yes, there is one character you might argue is but I live in a huge city. Trust me, it is not far fetched. Can't say more or I let a big secret slip which is a no-no in reviews. I don't do spoilers.

If you love suspense/thrillers that have some humor, you'll love this book. Yes, the kept me riveted, but it was also not so intense and fast paced that I couldn't put it down and get dinner ready. There were many places where it slowed down so the characters could breathe and let the past reveal itself. I was thankful for that. While I love a story that never slows down, I also appreciate one that is well-balanced.

You have to read this book. You'll enjoy it and want more. Plus you'll learn to appreciate your own days a little bit better.

Note: This book was provided as part of a book tour with no expectation of a positive review.

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