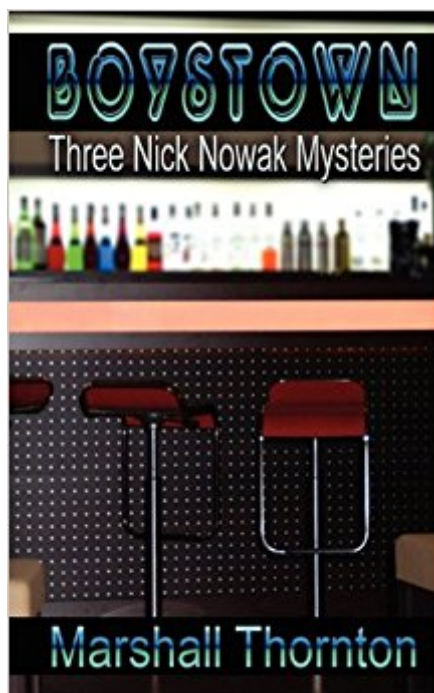


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# Boystown: Three Nick Nowak Mysteries



## Synopsis

A former police officer turned private investigator, Nick Nowak is haunted by his abrupt departure from the department, as well as the traumatic end of his relationship with librarian Daniel Laverty. In these three stories set in Chicago during the early eighties, Nick locates a missing young man for a mysterious client, solves a case of arson at a popular nightspot, and goes undercover to prove a dramatic suicide was actually murder. When he isn't detecting, and sometimes when he is, Nick moves through a series of casual relationships. But his long suppressed romantic side surfaces when he meets Detective Bert Harker. Will he give love another chance? Or, will he continue to bury himself in the arms of strangers? Stories include Little Boy Found, Little Boy Burned, and Little Boy Fallen. Marshall Thornton is an award-winning author, playwright and screenwriter living in Long Beach, California. Author of the Boystown detective series, he holds an MFA in screenwriting from UCLA. While there he received the Carl David Memorial Fellowship and was recognized in the Samuel Goldwyn Writing awards. Best Mystery Series 2011 - Well Read Reviews

## Book Information

Series: Nick Nowak Mysteries

Paperback: 212 pages

Publisher: Torquere Press (June 8, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1610402332

ISBN-13: 978-1610402330

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 54 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,308,703 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Mysteries #4350 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Erotica > Mystery #4709 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Erotica > Historical

## Customer Reviews

Marshall Thornton is a novelist, playwright and screenwriter living in Long Beach, California. He is best known for the Boystown detective series, which has been short-listed in the Rainbow Awards three times and has twice been a finalist for the Lambda Book Award - Gay Mystery. Other novels include the erotic comedy The Perils of Praline, or the Amorous Adventures of a Southern Gentleman in Hollywood; Full Release; The Ghost Slept Over and My Favorite Uncle. Marshall has

an MFA in screenwriting from UCLA, where he received the Carl David Memorial Fellowship and was recognized in the Samuel Goldwyn Writing awards. He has also had plays produced in Chicago and LA, and stories published in The James White Review and Frontier Magazine. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

After some pretty sad readings of gay mysteries, this book gives me hope. The writing has style and gives Nick a distinctive voice. The only down side is the gratuitous sex. Is this a murder mystery or a romance novel, or is the author trying to capture both types of readers? It distracts and disrupts. Two sex scenes were essential in story three, one with Campbell and the other at the conclusion. The rest were not. Will try another one to see if the story line does evolve along the lines the author ended it; if the author has Nick mature as a detective, and if the author can control the urge to write in sex where it is not needed it will be a good read.

I'm not a great fan of detective stories but I found this mini-series to be entertaining and enjoyable. Nick Nowak has a dry sense of humour and the stories are all told by him. One is left with a sense of reality and the stories flow easily in an almost chatty style. I'm amazed and somewhat appalled that he seems to indulge in unprotected sex with so many different men but the sex he has always seems to be pretty good.

Nick Nowak is an ex cop turned private investigator, after he and his ex were beaten in a gay bashing. He doesn't investigate murders, but somehow they have away of finding Nick. The setting is the early 80's, so casual sex is prevalent through out the stories. It's fascinating to see life, before AIDS became an epidemic. Well written and fast paced, this is well worth reading.

The detective storytelling is Harry Bosch and Mickey Spillane, which is always good for an entertaining read. As a romance, Nick is the kind of gay guy I'd rather avoid than kiss.

This series is becoming much more than I thought it would...it's absolutely entertaining, interesting and fairly and directly sexy in a light way. Good reading!

Nick Nowak Mysteries are set in Chicago in the early 80s. Nick gets by working as a PI and part-time bouncer at a gay bar after he was driven from the police force. His family rejects him and the cops still harass him for being gay, but Nick is too stubborn to give up and go elsewhere. The

mysteries are interesting, but the real draw is the character and setting. I can remember the times that Nick is living through, and it was definitely not an easy time to be gay - not in the midwest, and especially not in the hyper-masculine arena of law enforcement. Nick didn't come out voluntarily, but his homosexuality became known when he and his now-ex-boyfriend were gay-bashed. The setting, the character, the writing - they're raw, gritty, and in-your-face, just like Nick. Nick follows his penis around as much as he follows the clues. He sleeps around with anyone who catches his eye, then disposes of them just as easily. It is unapologetic, and it doesn't need to apologize. Nick has done the love-thing and been badly hurt and now the worst has happened and his secret is out. This is also before AIDS so he really doesn't see any reason to worry about consequences and he lives in the moment without worries about what he "should" do. This is not a romantic fantasy novel. It is erotica, but with a strong story and strong characterization. Yes, you hope that Nick will eventually find love again, and there are hints in this book that it may happen someday. But Nick knows that there are rarely happy endings. Deep down he really isn't happy. I don't think Nick believes he'll ever be truly happy again and he pretends he doesn't care. Life is hard - you fight where you can, endure what you must, and find pleasure whenever you want and mostly you survive. But despite everything, and even though he'd probably deny it to your face, Nick does have hope that his life will lead to happiness and that he might find love again. This book is targeted towards a male audience. Most male-male romance stories are written by and for women and the masculine vibe here is a nice change. Despite everything I've said, the book is positive. I heartily enjoyed sharing Nick's life through these pages. The setting is tough, but it is authentic; I remember that time. Despite how tough it is to be Nick, Nick perseveres and carves out a life for himself. Nick won't get rescued by a prince on a white horse, but he knows better than to expect that. His life is what he makes of it, and that's good enough.

The explicit sex was a turn-off -- at first. Then I realized that it melded perfectly with the story the author was telling. At the end, every word written made sense. The best part of this book is that it's frozen in the 1980s. It brought back a flood of memories. As I read it, the book got me to recalling my own life in the 1980s. If you didn't live through the 80s, read it to get an historical perspective. Oh, the three mysteries are pretty good, too -- lively, interesting and all with a little twist that keeps you turning the pages. Oh, it's a quick read, too, and, sometimes, that's the kind of read you need.

Good balance of story, character, era, and a little sex thrown in to boot. I thoroughly enjoyed reading these 3 stories. While quick reads I still felt connected and enough detail was provided to make it

complete. I don't easily give 5 stars or follow up with reviews but I felt this author deserved my feedback. I'll be looking to read more from this author.

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