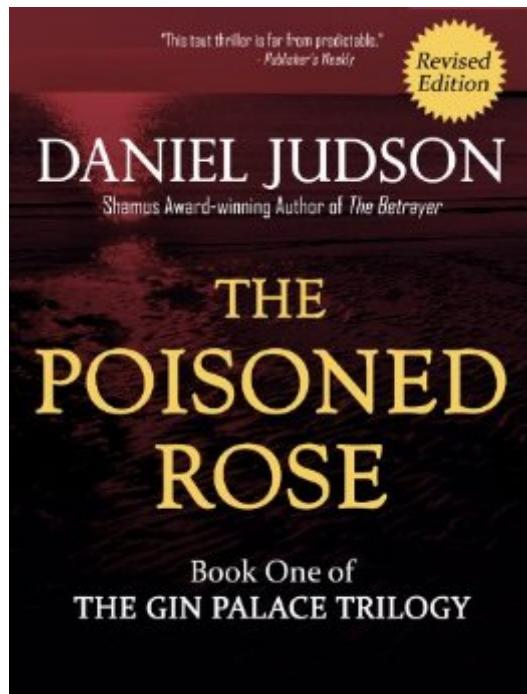


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The Poisoned Rose (The Gin Palace Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

To a corrupt chief of police intent on maintaining his power at all costs, part-time PI Declan MacManus is a problem that must finally be addressed. Cursed with an unwavering sense of right and wrong, and a fierce loyalty to his few friends, Mac has become known as someone the working class of Southampton can turn to in times of desperate need. On a rain-swept night in October, Mac witnesses a brutal homicide, but he has learned that nothing on the East End is ever what it seems. Determined to hunt down an elusive hired killer before he can strike again, Mac is reunited with what is left of a prominent family he once knew well. But something more—“something darker than Mac could have possibly foreseen”—is at play here, and as a long-hidden secret threatens to emerge, Mac once again becomes the only hope for justice in a town that all too clearly belongs to the rich and powerful. The Poisoned Rose was a stunning and wondrous debut, and The Bone Orchard only confirmed Daniel Judson’s artistry and unique style, but those two dark gems do not prepare the reader for the huge leap forward that is The Gin Palace. The final outing of Declan MacManus, one of our most compelling PIs, shows an author at the very height of his dizzying power. Fresh, vibrant, startling, and beautifully rendered, Judson’s The Gin Palace Trilogy breathes a whole new energy into the genre. -- Ken Bruen, Author of HeadstoneAward: Shamus Award Winner, 2002Reviews:“This taut thriller is far from predictable, and its dark and mysterious plot suits Judson’s understated writing style”--Publishers Weekly“Daniel Judson is so much more than a crime-fiction novelist. He’s a tattooed poet, a mad philosopher of the Apocalypse fascinated with exploring the darkest places in people’s souls.”--Chicago Tribune“Daniel Judson is a thoroughly accomplished writer.”--Kirkus Reviews

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Customer Reviews

This was a book I COULD very gladly put down. There were just too many characters and I had to keep asking myself, "wait...which one is this guy again?" I just didn't think the plot was so great - it's just that the author added too many characters which is the only thing complicated about the plot. And oh my gosh the amount of errors in this book are unbelievable! I've never read a book with so many mistakes. There were missing words, added words that made no sense in the sentence, misspellings like crazy. Was this book even edited? If so, fire the editor. I found the plot to be about the same old sorry character who is a drunk, tough guy but really has a big heart. (Yawn) The story was depressing because of this guy's life. There were definitely twists and turns but I wasn't all that surprised by them. Something that really bothered me and completely ruined the book for me were some of the gory, gross-out details of violence that went way too far. I had to skip over some parts and the book left me with lingering gross pictures in my head that made me wish I hadn't read it at all. I would definitely not recommend this book to anyone and won't read anything else by this author unless I decide I'd like to be depressed and physically repulsed.

This prequel/sequel to The Bone Orchard makes good on all the promise of that first book featuring Declan MacManus. In moody, lyrical prose, Judson takes us through Mac's boozy recollection of a bewildering night spent with a woman named Rose. A dreamlike interval, it is ultimately pivotal to this second outing for hard-drinking, vegetarian Mac and his friend, just as hard-drinking, retired DEA agent--the inimitably lovable Augie. When the pair are asked to discourage a young man from seeing a certain unnamed young woman by the darkly omnipotent Frank Gannon, big wheel in small-town Southampton, all hell breaks loose. Murder and menace of every conceivable variety are central to a plot so confoundingly complex that it's impossible to predict a single moment of this beautifully executed, breakneck-paced novel. The writing is as lean and lonely as Mac himself--perfectly complimentary, something rarely achieved. This book is a knock-out, dealing as it does with the ugly inner machinations of wealthy families and the fallout on the children, as well as

on those who must come along to perform damage control. The barely-contained energy of the prose provides a driving narrative that doesn't let up for a moment. It is un-put-downable, gripping, and oddly rewarding. Most highly recommended.

He lives in a quiet little Long Island town that is home to the rich and famous but booms during the summer season. There is a clear class division year round between the rich and the working stiffs like Declan MacManus, a man barely making ends meet, who is drunk more than he is sober. Frank Gannon, a powerful private detective in the area, hires Mac and pairs him up with Augie to deal with a man who promised to stay away from a girl but broke his word. When they catch up with the young man, they witness him being killed by professional hitmen. They follow them but the professional thugs escape while Augie gets injured and Mac saves their lives. Augie becomes Mac's new friend and the two work on cases for Frank until they can get a line on the killers. Neither Mac nor Augie realize they are the fall guys in a serpentine plot orchestrated by one of the town's most prominent families and the chief of police. There are so many twists and turns in the *POISONED ROSE* that the audience will feel obsessed to read it in one sitting; that is if they want to find out who is the manipulator and who is the manipulated. Mac is a man with many flaws and failings but when the chips are down he is a man a friend can count on. He is in essence of a hero in every sense of the word. Daniel Judson is an expert at writing novel crime thrillers. Harriet Klausner

The word novel comes from the Italian word *novella*, meaning "new kind of story". We've read mysteries. We've experienced the twists and turns of a good who-dunnit. We've met great characters throughout the years and lived vicariously through their experiences. But, when a plot twists so hard that the underbelly becomes, not only the explanation of previous events, but a whole new series of occurrences in itself, it truly does become a "new kind of story". The plots are hidden and reveal themselves like a set of Russian nesting dolls. As one layer is cracked open and pulled apart, the underlying story is revealed to be an entirely new undertaking. A novel within a novel. Daniel Judson's characters are so lifelike that your mind's eye has no issue creating a face, a build, and demeanor for them. Being a first-person-narrative through the eyes of Declan "Mac" MacManus, you experience the internal tug-of-war of raw emotions that Mac must wade through on a daily basis. You start to unconsciously feel the physical pain. You can hear the bones breaking, the gun shots echoing, and the thud of footsteps behind you. The words on the pages disappear and you become an invisible bystander, witnessing the events as they unfold. I will not attempt plot and story descriptions, as I do not feel that I can do Judson's writing any justice by writing about it

myself. The stories are better experienced first-hand without warning or preconceived expectations. Each installment is so well-crafted that they are strong enough to stand alone, but the thrill of tying them all together will allow the reader to experience the whole picture as it was meant to be read. If there was a clinical illness of page-turning addiction, the first few pages of this trilogy will be the gateway-drug to a dark, ever-widening spiral of what every mystery novel should be gauged against. Give your imagination the gift of stimulation. The Gin Palace Trilogy is what you have been missing.

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