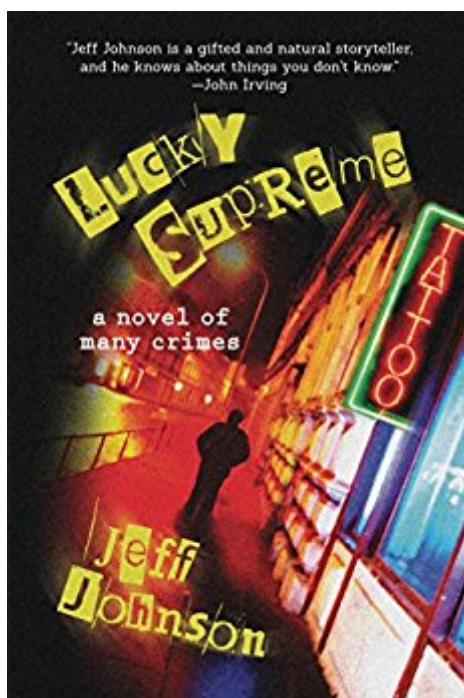


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Lucky Supreme: A Novel Of Many Crimes (Darby Holland Crime Novel)



Synopsis

The night world of Old Town, Portland, has gone mad in the grip of gentrification, and at the center of it all is Lucky Supreme, a seedy tattoo parlor, whose proprietor is a street-bred artist with a unique approach to problem solving. Darby Holland has enough on his radar, but when some tattoo artwork stolen from him resurfaces in California he can't help himself. His efforts to reclaim it set him on a dangerous path, dragging along his delightfully eccentric colleagues, including the brains behind his brawn; Delia, a twiggy vinyl-clad punk genius secretly from the other side of the tracks. No one knows why the art signed Roland Norton, Panama, 1955 is worth anything or how it came to hang on the walls of a tattoo shop in Portland, Oregon. Only the deranged former owner can say--and he's not talking. Before the wrecking balls swing through Old Town in the name of progress, Darby must settle old scores and face new demons to save his reputation, his shop, and his sanity. He has secrets of his own, and a tattoo shop in Old Town was a perfect place to hide, but when cash, lies, crime, and history collide, Darby Holland will need his ramshackle skill set, his wits, and a lot of luck to rise to the top of a human food chain, or be eaten alive. Lucky Supreme is an intuitive thrill ride from start to finish. It is the first of a trilogy featuring Darby Holland, Delia, and the other unforgettable nocturnal residents of Old Town. Jeff Johnson is a new voice in noir, as entertaining and as fresh as Elmore Leonard or Dennis Lehane.

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Customer Reviews

Why one star? Because I note that the 35 other or so reviewers all gave this book five stars. What are the odds of everyone who reviews a book gives it five stars, unless we are talking about something really, really great, which this book most certainly isn't. The author is so in love with his words that almost every paragraph has at least one superfluous sentence; every sentence has one adjective too many; and so on. The ending is preposterous, the story is generally crude and boring (yeah I get the pulpy factor, but no, this is no charmer). In fact, if not for the fact that I wanted to be fair and get to the end, because I knew I wanted to do this review, I would have just said nah and deleted it half read. I don't know what else to say other than if authors or reviewers are giving away free stuff for five star reviews, note it, or bring me in - I can be bought so why not?

Entertaining and fun read. A quirky mix of mix of odd characters conspire to bring down an untouchable gangland boss. The Fed's sit on the sidelines and watch it play out.

Wonderful novel, and I don't really read novels much these days..

Last year I read another superb book by author Jeff Johnson - EVERYTHING UNDER THE MOON - and I'm so glad I stumbled across this offering. Both stories take place in Portland, Oregon - a city I love. This tale takes us to Old Town, a part of town I've walked around many times before and this author has a huge talent in bringing his story locales and his characters alive. Darby Holland is now 40 years old but grew up, at least part of his life, as a street kid. He owns a tattoo parlor in Old Town called Lucky Supreme and has quite a unique mix of people working for him. One of his past employees stole some tattoo renderings (called flash) from him and Darby has been looking for him ever since. He gets a call from another past employee from Southern California who has spotted the thief. So Darby heads down to California and his troubles really begin. I loved this story. I loved everything about it, from characters good and bad, to descriptions of just about everything. The story is dark, quirky, made me think, made me laugh. I was thrilled to read that this is the first book in a trilogy about Darby Holland. Author Johnson's skill with the written word is top-notch. "The inside

of my mouth tasted like I'd been chewing on old cigarette butts scavenged from the lobby of a casino full of white wine drinkers."I received this book from Arcade Publishing through Net Galley in exchange for my unbiased review.

"Lucky Supreme" is one of those books. You know the kind I mean. The kind you can't put down and you hate to see end? This is the third Jeff Johnson book I've read and I will be searching for new titles. I'm told there is a "Lucky Supreme" sequel in the works. I await with eager anticipation.

4.5 stars!From Jeff Johnson, a man who is quickly becoming one of my favorite authors, comes this noir-ish tale of theft, ball bearings, tattoo shops and gentrification. I loved it!Set in Portland, Oregon, (with some forays down to the California coast), the city itself became a character. Old Town, one of the holdouts from the gentrification going on all around, was vividly drawn. A neighborhood with lots of rain and dilapidated buildings, but also with residents who, (with the proper motivation), will help protect their own. Darby owns a tattoo shop, Lucky Supreme, and a few years back some of his old flash was stolen. (This is the name for the designs that hang on the wall in tattoo shops, some of which is valuable now.) Darby has had the word out about it, and he finally gets a lead as to where the stolen flash is located. As Darby heads to the California coast to get his flash back, he meets up with characters I won't soon forget-some enemies and some friends, but all compelling. Darby himself is somewhat of an enigma.Quote: " I found myself smiling at the quantity of the madness I carried around inside me. "That's all I'll say about the plot, except for 2 more things: food and humor. All of Jeff's books feature at least one character who cooks, and man, the food always sounds delicious. Lastly, his books feature a black sense of humor that always works for me and this book was no different.Quote: "Hurl crazy hookers at the enemy at every opportunity. Sun Tzu said that, didn't he?"I swore to myself that I wouldn't start any more books that were part of a series, but with Jeff Johnson, I could not resist. This is an engaging tale full of captivating characters, a protagonist you can root for, (even though he's not the typical hero type), and a city where it is nearly always raining, but whose residents have a spirit that rises above. Lucky Supreme is a fun book with often sharp insights into human behavior and I give it my highest recommendation!*Thank you to Edelweiss and the publisher for the free E-ARC in exchange for my honest feedback. This is it.*

Lucky Supreme is a unique blend of many elements that make for an unforgettable and hypnotic read. First, the story is placed in Portland, Oregon, specifically, Old Town which is quirky and

interesting in and of itself. Darby Holland is the owner of the tattoo shop Lucky Supreme. His staff is typical of that milieu, full of eccentrics and folks who might not be considered mainstream.

Unfortunately, one of his ex-employees has stolen some sketches that are valuable to Darby. He gets wind that the thief is in Southern California, so off he goes in search of the thief and the drawings. On the way, he encounters all types of weirdos, freaks, dudes both good and bad. The story is dark and original, all of which make Lucky Supreme a definite haunting, thrilling and indelible novel.

Jeff Johnson, artist, writer and renaissance man! His novel Lucky Supreme, a novel of many crimes, is the culmination of the perfect literary storm sandwiched between two covers. A must read for the artist, poet, and detective in all of us.

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