



Back on Murder
A ROLAND MARCH MYSTERY
by J. Mark Bertrand
ISBN: 978-0-7642-0637-5
Trade Paper; \$14.99; 384 pp.
Release Date: July 2010

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Acclaimed Author Launches Gritty Solo Debut

Back on Murder by J. Mark Bertrand

Minneapolis, MN—J. Mark Bertrand ushers readers into the stark and dangerous reality of a modern-day Houston homicide detective with the release of his solo debut novel, *Back on Murder*—bringing to life the city of Houston in a way that few have done before. With a style that is gritty and incisive, Bertrand firmly joins the company of such reader favorites as Steven James, Michael Connelly, Tim Downs, and George Pelecanos.

For Bertrand, whose previous publishing credits have been quite diverse, including a non-fiction take on Christian worldview and a co-authored, bestselling romantic suspense, this launch into the crime genre has been long building. A passionate reader of the category, he says that “as a kid, I always wanted to be a detective. I took some mail order courses, even apprenticed to a private eye, and planned on majoring in criminal justice.”

Though his professional life took a different turn, Bertrand still found himself thinking of that world. For him *Back on Murder* began “with this notion of ‘the suicide cop,’ a detective whose punishment duty included having to investigate the suicides of fellow officers. What kind of guy gets stuck with work like that? And what else does the department stick him with?” It was out of this pondering that Roland March, and his story, was born.

Drawing on his 15 years as a Houston resident, Bertrand infused the story with a setting that almost becomes a character. “You can’t write crime fiction these days without a strong sense of place,” he says. “To write *Back on Murder*, I had to start seeing the place through March’s eyes, and he has a very different take on Houston than I do.”

By getting into March’s head, Bertrand’s first contribution to the crime thriller genre tells a story layered with unexpected twists readers are sure to enjoy.

Houston homicide detective Roland March was once one of the best. Now he’s disillusioned, cynical, and on his way out. His superiors farm him out on a variety of punishment details until an unexpected break gives March one last chance to save his career. And his humanity.

All he has to do? Find the missing teenage daughter of a Houston evangelist that every cop in town is already looking for. But March has an inside track, a multiple murder nobody else thinks is connected. Battling a new partner, an old nemesis, and the demons of his past, getting to the truth could cost March everything. Even his life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



J. Mark Bertrand is the author of *Rethinking Worldview: Learning to Think, Live, and Speak in This World* and *Beguiled*, co-written with Deeanne Gist. He has a BA in English from Union University and an MFA in creative writing from the University of Houston, where he worked as production editor of the literary magazine *Gulf Coast*. He teaches on the faculty of Worldview Academy, an academic summer camp for teens. After living in Houston for fifteen years, Mark and his wife, Laurie, now reside in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

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