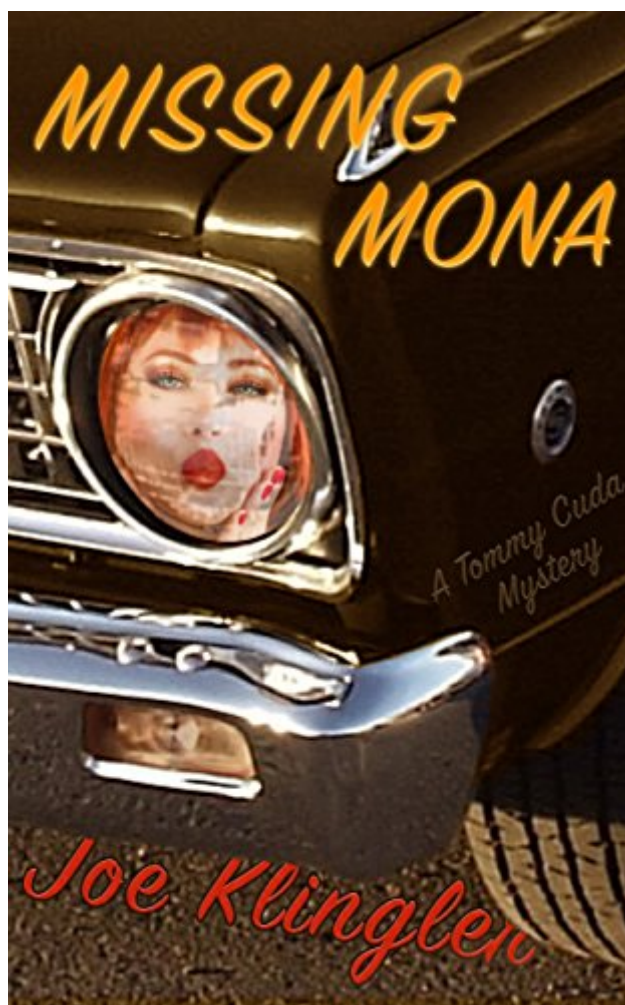


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Missing Mona: A Tommy Cuda Mystery



Synopsis

Foreword Reviews 2015 INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards Finalist Winner of the 2016 London Book Festival "Klingler presents his craftiest yarn to date, summoning the pulpy spirits of Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett. The setting of Chicago rattles from the page in lines such as, 'The buildings held noise and exhaust fumes around me like a torture chamber.'" --Kirkus Reviews (Recommended List) Tommy has boomeranged back to his parents residence and a dead-end job after too many years in college. As he looks squarely at his next decade of life, his smartphone convinces him the time is ripe for a change. A gift from his grandfather provides the means, so he embarks on the path of blues artists and beatniks before him--and hits the road. He immediately meets a damsel in hitchhiking distress who says her name is Mona. Her presence persuades him that the bright lights and dark clubs of Chicago might be his kind of town. So on a summer Saturday night they settle into a fancy hotel overlooking the beaches of Lake Michigan. On Sunday...Mona disappears. But she leaves behind more than a sweet memory that involves Tommy in a brand new cash flow problem he never imagined. While trying to sort out how to stay on the right side of the law and get back on the road, he meets a young criminologist who helps him, a DJ who doesn't, and a librarian who teaches him about the city, women, and the art of the makeover. After truth and lies are stirred like a blue martini, being assaulted by a pink monkey, and witnessing a drive-by shooting that drowns a Ferrari--Tommy is desperate to help Mona. If he can find her. "A private investigator, a mysterious hitchhiker, dancers, gangsters, a mysterious bag that holds the unthinkable and twists and turns that will have the reader unable to put it down, Missing Mona by Joe Klingler has it all."--San Francisco Book Review (5 of 5 stars)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Initially, I thought this was just going to be another trashy detective type novel. Not particularly impressed with the writing or characters (seemed filled with cliches), BUT, I was very pleasantly surprised as I got into the story. Maybe not great literature, but an easy style to read, interesting characters and all in all, an enjoyable ride.

Missing Mona was an absolutely fun read, especially if you like mysteries from the classic noir genre. Tommy, the primary character, is a smart, friendly, respectable guy in a dead-end job, who decides to head west (from Ohio) to find himself. He gets himself into a bit of trouble by telling a beautiful hitchhiker that he is a private investigator - (what beautiful woman is going to think a car mechanic working at Walmart is cool?). Things appear to be going his way when they settle into a swanky hotel in Chicago, however things begin to go haywire when she is missing the next morning and he's tasked with finding her. He immediately needs to learn to operate in the windy city, make some friends, stay out of trouble with the law, avoid the bad guys and of course find Mona. I loved the characters in Missing Mona, they were real and had intelligent dialog. The plot was well thought-out, exciting and riveting with lots of twists right til the end. I recommend Missing Mona to anyone, especially if you're looking to get away for an exciting summertime visit to Chicago.

If you can accept that no one can recognize a woman after she changes her hair and eye color, you can have a great time reading this rollicking crime romp. Young man leaves home to find himself, picks up a hitchhiker and goes on a wild ten-day ride. Enjoy. Very bluesy and atmospheric.

Missing Mona Joe Klingler's latest novel begins with a departure from the world of hi-tech with the protagonist, being a just turned thirty, college graduate and car mechanic at Wal-Mart, tossing his cell phone out the window of his restored Hemi Barracuda as he heads west on I-80 to see the Pacific Ocean. He picks up a beautiful hitchhiker along the way named Mona. After an evening at the W in Chicago he awakens to find her missing with a note, "Find Me". This begins a wild ride with Tommy Cuda desperately search for Mona. Along the way, in less than a week, he meets six beautiful women all of whom want to be with him. (Makes me want to move back to Chicago) As he searches, he is drawn deeper and deeper into the hi-tech world of surveillance, encryption, and undercover disguises and the dark world of murder, theft, counterfeit money and deception. The twists and turns keep the reader involved and guessing all the way. A fun interesting read. Tom Hudson Key West

I enjoyed this book, but not as much as RATS and Mash Up. Still, I found it difficult to put down. Maybe I enjoyed the other two more because I'm basically a techie at heart and Tommy/Toe had turned antitech or maybe because there were no smart kickass female heroines. There were several smart, beautiful, young ladies though. Unfortunately this isn't a picture book, you have to use your imagination. Luckily for me, I have a good one.

A fun read. The main character is amiable and appealing although immature, and perhaps he should have figured out a key plot point sooner. That said, this is a perfect summer beach read, a bit of escapism and amusement. The writing is smooth and the pace fast, but not too fast.

A super fun book to read. Loved the whole implausible story, or maybe it could happen this way, who knows? Great characters and good action pace. I do recommend it.

Fun read, well written, good pace, and clever. Kept me reading until I finished. I will search out more Tommy Cuda mysteries.

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