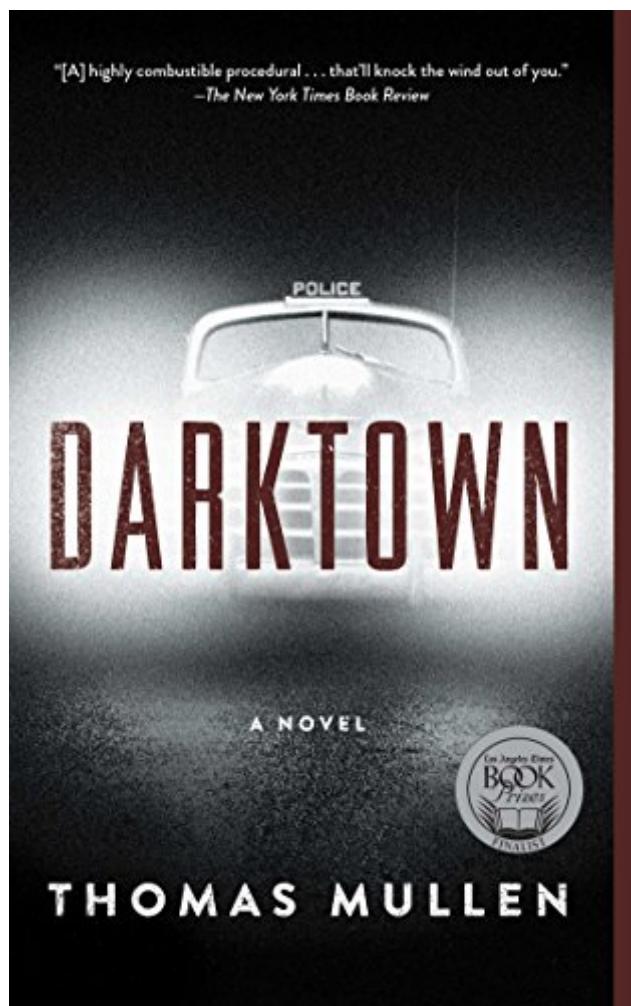


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Darktown: A Novel (The Darktown Series Book 1)



Synopsis

In the tradition of our most acclaimed suspense writers, the author of *The Last Town on Earth* delivers a riveting and elegant police procedural set in Atlanta, a ripped-from-the-headlines depiction of a world on the cusp of great change involving race relations, city politics, and police corruption. Responding from pressure on high, the Atlanta police department is forced to hire its first black officers in 1948. The newly minted policemen are met with deep hostility by their white peers and their authority is limited: They can't arrest white suspects; they can't drive a squad car; they can't even use the police headquarters and must instead operate out of the basement of a gym. When a black woman who was last seen in a car driven by a white man turns up fatally beaten, no one seems to care except for Boggs and Smith, two black cops from vastly different backgrounds. Pressured from all sides, they will risk their jobs, the trust the community has put in them, and even their own safety to investigate her death. Their efforts bring them up against an old-school cop, Dunlow, who has long run the neighborhood like his own, and Dunlow's young partner, Rakestraw, a young progressive who may or may not be willing to make allies across color lines. Set in the post-war, pre-civil rights South, and evoking the socially resonant and morally complex crime novels of Dennis Lehane, and Walter Mosley, *Darktown* is a vivid, smart, intricately plotted crime saga that explores the timely issues of race, law enforcement, and the uneven scales of justice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It would have been much more interesting to have read a straight history of the first African American police officers in Atlanta. This is a 2-dimensional portrayal of what someone who does not know the south imagines the era to be. The voices of the characters do not ring true. While the author may get the essence of the "bad guy" corrupt prejudiced white cop, I felt that he totally misses the nuances of what it was like to be African American. And the author has the nerve to wonder if he now qualifies as a southern writer. The answer is "no, not now, not ever." Forget this drivel and read a history book instead.

Engaging, suspenseful novel based on experiences of first eight black police officers in the Atlanta PD in late 40's. Very revealing of the horrible limitations and dismissive abuse that they had to endure. The twists and turns in the mystery plot are complex. Good graphic detail is always provided, including development of the characters and where they were coming from, but both along the way and in the end the complex relationship of the various intersecting murders and the motivations of the perpetrators is more confusing than clear. Nonetheless, a book very well worth reading.

Mullen's novel is absorbing and tense, filled with the history of race relations in the aftermath of the Second World War. There is a lot of story here - and indeed my one criticism would be that the author sticks solely to the action. I would have liked to get to know the protagonists and their stories even better, even to the extent of the more mundane parts of their lives and relationships. The almost exclusive focus on action/decision moments, while thrilling, seem to rob the story of perspective. But this is a minor quibble - Darktown is a fast, entertaining and enlightening read.

Excellent book! This book should be made into a movie. Thomas Mullen has exposed in this book a subject matter that history books are silent about. For years African Americans have known the KKK has a strong presence in the police force. This book, and reading the story about the true first black police hired in Georgia proves it's true. It's sad when you think about the pressure that this men

endured in those days trying to function as a true police force. Again I say thank you Mr. Mullen for reveal this dark past.

It is a well written book, based on real events in Atlanta's history. Mullen couched it in a fascinating fictional story that keeps you turning pages (or tapping the Kindle).

Very well done, actually! Closer to five starts than four except the ending seemed a little weak. Aspects of the story could have driven the suspense a little deeper and bolstered a few characters, but overall the characters were very well done. The story has shades of truth which are painful reminders of how race relations was and remains an issue that we cannot/should not hide or shy from. I enjoyed this book and highly recommend it to others, especially those interested in Southern Literature.

The African American officers in this book did a fabulous job despite so many constraints and restrictions placed upon them by a "forward thinking" police department. Many times, I actually felt the straightjacket that these officers wore to perform their duties. I was appalled and horrified by their treatment, but elated with their triumphs. It was not an easy book to read, but a necessary one. My book club read it at my direction and all gave it a wonderful review.

A flashback to days gone by -hopefully. Good characters and plot. I'm sure there is a lot of truth here.

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