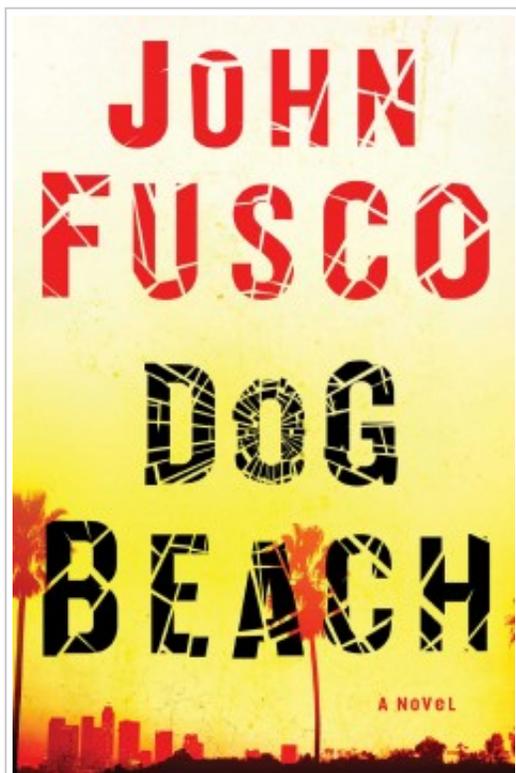


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Dog Beach

by John Fusco

Price: \$24.00(Hardcover)

Published: September 09, 2014

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: Acclaimed screenwriter John Fusco's thriller follows the exploits of Louie Mo, once Hong Kong's greatest stuntman turned Los Angeles knee-breaker, as his latest target unexpectedly casts him in the role of a lifetime.

Leaving behind a successful career as a stunt double in Hong Kong to escape entanglements with the Chinese mafia, Louie Mo now makes his living in Los Angeles as a hired knee-breaker, putting fear into the hearts of people reneging on payments to investors.

Troy, an aspiring director with NYU credentials and encyclopedic movie knowledge, is beginning to realize that he's made a deal with the devil by agreeing to direct a film for producer Avi Ghazaryan. When Avi's sketchy investors hire Louie to scare Troy into finishing their movie, Troy's reverence for film and keen eye save him from a beating when he recognizes Louie Mo as the stunt...

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What We Say

Screenwriter John Fusco is a rising star in Hollywood whose first novel -- Paradise Salvage -- received some positive attention from crime enthusiasts. Here he's channeling Elmore Leonard and specifically "Get Shorty" in an attempt to satirize the movie industry and secretly admit how much he loves it too. Unfortunately, "Dog Beach" falls between the bar stools -- not crazy enough to be a real satire and too stupid to be enjoyable as a peek behind the curtain. Troy is a wunderkind filmmaker who is making a cheapie zombie flick for a sleazy producer (is that redundant?). He can't finish editing this piece of junk which cost less than \$200,000 to make and shows it in every frame. Frustrated, the producer hires some muscle to scare the kid into turning in a finished product. (Because that's how Hollywood works when you've got dirty money behind your film.) But the muscle turns out to be legendary Hong Kong stuntman Louie Mo, on the run from the Triads and a broken heart. Before you can say greenlight, the kid Troy and Mo are making a dream project about an aging stunt man finally getting his turn in the spotlight -- all in about two weeks with four or five people in the crew and with seemingly every shot being captured during "magic hour." It's hard enough making a movie, but even harder when a homicidal washed-up NFL quarterback, the Triads AND a Latino mobster are all on your tail. If it sounds fun, it shouldn't, since this one lazily recycles numerous cliches to no effect. Here's hoping Fusco rises to the occasion better with his Hollywood projects, including an upcoming Netflix miniseries "Marco Polo" and the long-awaited sequel to "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

"Fusco channels Elmore Leonard and Quentin Tarantino in this vivid, action-packed tale of Asian gangsters and Hollywood moviemaking." - **Publishers Weekly**

"Both Louie and the novel are wise and gently humorous, tougher than they seem, and casual about their mastery of craft. What follows is a fine romp, with sex, drugs, murder, and car chases, but savvy readers will notice the underlying seriousness. And the insider stunt lore is priceless."

-Booklist

"This is a poisonously funny Hollywood noir nightmare, smart and savage. I loved it." - **Warren Ellis, author of Red and Gun Machine**

"I was always a big fan of Elmore Leonard, and now I'm a big fan of John Fusco. Dog Beach is a gem: A Hollywood novel by a guy who knows Hollywood. In this wonderful world of stuntmen and screenwriters, rising stars and falling producers, everyone is a step away from a blockbuster--if they can just stay alive to the final reel. Fast and funny and filled with surprises." - **Chris Bohjalian**