

'The Chosen Few' gets thumbs up from Wagner

I love a mystery and have ever since I read my first Nancy Drew mystery back in grade school. Sherlock Holmes was my detective of choice in high school, where I not only read all the Sherlock Holmes yarns written by Arthur Conan Doyle but saw all

the movies and later on the whole TV series based on his famous detective.

English mysteries with the traditional comforts of the British manor house, puzzling plots, attractive settings, a brainy detective and interesting characters lead me to read Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers, P.D. James, and the like.

Don't get me wrong--I love American authors too, but they need to have the same criteria as my favorite English novelists, with not too much blood and gore, intriguing plots, an attractive setting, and a clever private investigator at the helm unraveling a suspense-filled, fast-moving plot line.

Luckily for those of us who love the mystery/suspense genre a new local writer has appeared on the scene, Matthew Simon, son of well-known published author, poet, writer, University of Massachusetts Professor



Center Stage
Marsha Wagner

Emeritus, and "Islander" theater critic Sidney B. Simon. Matthew Simon's first novel, The Chosen Few (CreateSpace, Scotts Valley, CA, Paperback), harvests a cornucopia of riches

for the mystery-lover by inviting us into the historically rich city of Boston. We are led there by Private Investigator Max Lovely.

The locale sets the tone and determines the content of Simon's elegant story telling, which couldn't be more appropriate for a quiet murder. The story line then ranges through the historic Boston neighborhoods of Back Bay, Beacon Hill, downtown, and the almost London-like South End with its historic Victorian homes and English squares.

The plot entangles a web of people, men and women twisting and turning in a mesh of grand schemes, shady, sinister concealments, and political intrigue. The political trickery of this narrative parallels the machinations that we have recently experienced in the Blagojevich scandal, where money, power and prestige entangles some highly placed,

complex individuals.

It is Simon's quick-witted and resourceful private investigator, Max Lovely, whose deep intelligence, sensitivity and resolve enables him to deal with these high-strung Bostonians. Once Lovely and his team of colleagues settle in, these wary, closed-mouthed people start to crack, opening up to expose the secrets that come pouring out.

If the English suspense novel with its rich prose and quirky, clever characters appeals to you, then Matthew Simon's page turner, The Chosen Few, will satisfy on every level. It is an intelligently written, cleverly plotted tale, populated with interesting, eccentric yet believable characters, most especially the aforementioned private investigator Max Lovely.

Matthew Simon's book is available at Macintosh Books and Paper and Sanibel Island Book Shop, both on Periwinkle Way, and online from Amazon.com

Keep your eyes peeled for announcements in "The Islander Newspaper" for dates and times of this local author's appearances at book signings and appearances in our local book stores and our library. When you go, be sure and tell 'em Marsha sent you.

Book Review

The Chosen Few

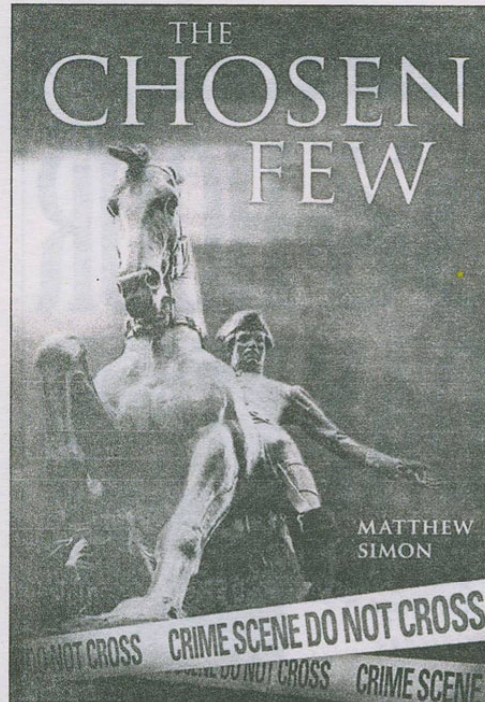
by Priscilla Friedersdorf

A talented new author, Fort Myers resident Matthew Simon, has constructed an intriguing and suspenseful plot set in the neighborhoods of Boston. Simon uses his background as a former real estate developer to give his readers an understanding of the peculiarities of various old buildings and Boston lore to add depth and realism to the mystery.

Max Lovely is a private investigator and his new client, Jaimee Kantor, contacts Lovely when her ex-husband David, a lawyer, disappears for three weeks only to reappear one night at the window of her fifth-floor apartment.

“Living on the top floor, you don’t expect to see someone looking in your window.” The plot thickens when an elderly neighbor is found dead and a lanky, leather-glove wearing prowler has apparently forced open the screen of the woman’s home in an attempted entry.

A brickmason friend identifies a quandary: “Beautiful woman hires you to find her husband – sounds like a conflict of interest, Mister Lovely.” But this well-written mystery has many twists and turns; an ex-wife who does not seem completely forthcoming, architectural details of properties which prove pertinent and an implication of those who have the most to gain politically from a possible murder by an organization of ruthless individuals, aptly named *The Chosen Few*.



The Chosen Few bookcover

The Chosen Few is the first of Simon’s Max Lovely mystery series. The book is available at the Sanibel Library and local bookstores.✪

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To return to the website of *The Chosen Few*, follow this link:
www.the-chosen-few.com