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Up In Honey's Room



Synopsis

German-born Walter Schoen, now living in Detroit, is a dead ringer for Heinrich Himmler. Walter's American wife, Honey Deal, doesn't know he's a German spy, but she's tired of telling him jokes he doesn't understand. It's time for a divorce. Along comes Carl Webster, the hot kid of the Marshals Service. He's looking for a German officer who escaped from a POW camp in Oklahoma. Carl's pretty sure Walter's involved, so Carl gets to know Honey, hoping she'll take him to Walter. Honey likes Carl and doesn't much care that he's married. But all Carl wants is to get his man without getting shot. It's Elmore Leonard's world—gritty, funny, and full of surprises. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

World War II is winding toward a conclusion in this semi-farcical Leonard mystery. Two German prisoners have escaped and U.S. Marshall Carl Webster is hot on their trail. Webster tracks them to Detroit, where he's pretty sure they've connected with Nazi "provocateur" Walter Schoen. Leonard uses multi-viewpoints to tell the story, and that's part of the problem with the book. Not very many of this cast of clowns are very likable or interesting. The title character, Honey Deal, Walter's former spouse, is the worst of the lot. Why in the world would a woman who looks like a Miss America contestant marry somebody like Walter Schoen, a Heinrich Himmler look-a-like? She also has the morals of an alley cat, unable to make up her mind whether she wants Carl Webster or former tank commander Jurgen Schrenk. Carl Webster's background is also a bit hard to accept. The "Hot Kid" has a reputation as a hard-nosed G-Man, but he lets one of the incompetent Nazi spies get the drop on him. Even his wife is larger than life. She's a marine who teaches gunners how to fire a machine gun out of the back of a plane. Then there's Bohdan Kravchenko, the crazy transvestite. Sigh! The

plot isn't much to speak of either. Walter's co-conspirators, led by Vera Mezwa, just don't seem to have their hearts in it. Jurgen Shrenk is more interested in becoming a rodeo bull rider than he is in any kind of sabotage. The closest they get to undermining the American war effort is a deluded plot to kill the president, and only one of them is interested. Leonard seems to realize nothing much is happening, so he throws in a couple of distracting murders, the motivation for which is completely baffling. Leonard does seem to be having fun at times.

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