



## Bread

*Ed McBain*

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## **Bread** Ed McBain

It's the heart of the summer. Kids are playing in open hydrants. The water pressure is sinking, and tempers are rising. The cops of the 87th Precinct know that someone out there is fighting fire with fire. And as usual, its all about...

## **Bread Details**

Date : Published December 31st 1997 by Grand Central Publishing (first published 1974)

ISBN : 9780446604253

Author : Ed McBain

Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Bread for online ebook

### Daniel Sevitt says

Quite a convoluted plot for the fellas of the 87th precinct to deal with. Not because the criminals are smarter than usual, but just because there are a lot of moving parts. If I'm not mistaken, this is the first appearance of Fat Ollie and he's deliciously awful. He adds a nice element of questionable morality in a squad that is sometimes a little unnaturally right on. A solid entry.

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### Skip says

A warehouse fire consuming insured imported goods gets this novel off to a fast start, but Parker goes on vacation, leaving Carella, Hawes and others to deal with his open case. As the investigation progresses, key people start getting killed or badly beaten. McBain introduces "Fat Ollie" Weeks from the 83rd Precinct, who has many of Parker's flaws, but is a much better cop, and helps break the case.

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### Steve Gozdecki says

Quite probably the first of the \*great\* 87th Precinct novels. Tons of brilliant social commentary, especially on rhetoric v. reality around urban blight, along with the introduction of Fat Ollie Weeks. "Ah yes, my little chickadee...."

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### Craig "NEEDS MORE DAMN TIME TO READ !!!!" says

Good interrelated crimes that all add up eventually, as usual, but was just a bit lacklustre. Bring back the Deaf Man!!

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### Chad Malkamaki says

One of the better cases solved by the 87th, prostitution rings, international drug smuggling, and arson add up to a fine study.

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### Jim says

These just keep getting grittier and the cases get a little more complex and involved as the series progresses. McBain introduces some new characters and adds to the detective squad every so often to create some new energy in the series. I know I've said this before, but the reflection of the times these were written in is part of what I find so intriguing in reading them now. It seems to me that the Miranda rights must have been a really big deal when they were instituted as it is something he has brought up in almost every book so far!

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## **K says**

Love the guys of the 87. Fat Ollie Weeks makes for a fine example of a bigot who happens to get results as a detective. Steve Carella still shines as a counterpoint to all that Fat Ollie represents.

All if that notwithstanding, I just didn't find this story as engaging as others in this series. It was a fine and complex plot-- but somehow I never really could connect with it like I have in previous episodes.

Ah well, still well written police procedural with great dialogue.

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## **Allison Edwards says**

### **Great book**

This book, like all of McBains, keeps you interested all the way thru..my goal is to read all of the 87th precinct books. I would give it four and a half stars.

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## **Susan says**

### **A Little Bit of Everything**

I'm slowly getting through this series. This book started off slowly with a fire. So I'm starting my guessing game when all help breaks loose. There's arson, prostitution, a bad beat down, drugs, and of course, murder. Jeez, so much to take in. Oh, I almost forgot the lies and double-crossing. In the end, I kinda figured it out. Then again, I read all his books.

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## **Karen says**

Since I love murder mysteries, I am always on the lookout for them. This is an older novel and it is part of a series by Ed McBain. I have read a couple of others in the series, so some of the police detective characters were familiar. I found this book to be a bit more wordy than I enjoy, even though some of that results from a wry sense of humor prevalent in McBain's writing. He takes a stab at "knocking" institutional racism and brutal interrogation techniques in police departments, which I should laud, but it seems a bit half-hearted. This is especially true since the majority of the book's bad guys are not "white" (but there were one or two criminal Caucasians). The plot is convoluted, but so is real life so I can't complain.

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## **David Highton says**

Carella and Hawes cover an arson case for Parker while he is on vacation and it expands into other linked cases with two murders involved. No sub-plots in this one, just one major investigation over a few days, involving Big Ollie from the 83rd, whose bigoted and racist language was shocking to his colleagues forty years ago but is more appalling by today's standards

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### **Tim Healy says**

No one is ever going to mistake the 87th Precinct novels as anything but escapist reading. These are straight police procedurals. They are, however, quite a lot of fun. McBain had a talent for character, and also the way people actually talk. You never find yourself separated from the people on the pages. I also rarely figure out these mysteries until I'm supposed to, at the end of the story. Bread is pretty indicative of the good stories here. The mystery is fun and twists around bringing in a number of unexpected details like paying a hooker to fly to Germany for you. It also tells you a believable sounding way to commit arson, so I'll hope that McBain made that piece up. This is a good fun read if you like cop stories.

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### **James Thane says**

On a hot August afternoon, a man comes into the 87th Precinct demanding fast action on the investigation into a fire that destroyed his warehouse along with \$500,000 worth of small carved wooden animals that were housed there. He insists that he has to get the insurance claim settled immediately so that he can afford to pay for the next shipment of animals that is already on the way from Germany.

About half of the precinct's detectives are on vacation, given that these are the dog days of summer, but Steve Carella, Cotton Hawes and the other detectives who are on duty promise to do what they can. The investigation turns out to be more complicated than your average arson case, though, especially when people start turning up dead. In addition to arsonists and killers, there are hookers and urban redevelopers running loose in the city and Carella and company have to get all these things sorted out before they can appease the guy who wants his insurance claim settled.

All in all, this is one of the more intriguing entries in this long-running series and this book is critical to the series because it introduces the character of Fat Ollie Weeks who will appear prominently in several books from here on out. Weeks is a miserable pig of a human being who does an awful impression of W. C. Fields, but he has great skills as a detective and so the other detectives of the 87th and the reader as well, will just have to grin and bear it. Another fun read from one of the masters.

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### **Bruce Humbert says**

Love this series - great characters and storytelling

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### **Jeroen in UK says**

Lovely mind candy, as always with this author.

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