



Third Rail: An Eddy Harkness Novel

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"Third Rail gets off to a ripping start and never lets off the gas." —Jess Walter, author of *Beautiful Ruins*

At crime scenes, Eddy Harkness, the "Harvard Cop," is a human Ouija board, a brilliant young detective with a knack for finding the hidden something—cash, drugs, guns, bodies. Harkness's swift rise in an elite narcotics unit is derailed by the death of a young Red Sox fan in the chaos after a World Series win, a death some camera-phone-wielding witnesses believe he could have prevented. Scapegoated, Eddy is exiled to his hometown, Nagog, just outside Boston, where he empties parking meters and struggles to redeem his disgraced family name.

But one night Harkness's police-issued Glock disappears. Harkness starts a search—just as a string of fatal accidents in Nagog lead him to uncover a dangerous new smart drug, Third Rail. With only a plastic gun to protect him, Harkness begins a high-stakes investigation that sends him into the darkest corners of the city.

One of the most electrifying thrillers you'll read this year, *Third Rail* takes you deep into a gritty world of wronged heroes, corrupt politicians, and sinister kingpins, where your friends can't be trusted, a sleepy town breeds deadly crimes, and nothing ever happens by accident.

Third Rail: An Eddy Harkness Novel Details

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Author : Rory Flynn

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From Reader Review Third Rail: An Eddy Harkness Novel for online ebook

Theresa Leone Davidson says

The first 50 or so pages I kept thinking about author Mickey Spillane and his longtime protagonist Mike Hammer, and how Rory Flynn was trying too hard to make readers think of Hammer when they are reading about Eddy Harkness. But then the story softened, the reader finds out more about Harkness, and realizes his character is not as one dimensional as feared. Once a hot shot cop in Boston, a very public event has Harkness' career almost in ruins and he is forced to work in the small suburb of Boston in which he grew up. He wakes up one day after a particularly hard night of drinking and partying to find his gun is missing. The story goes from there and it was better than I expected, suspenseful throughout and with a good ending that makes me want to continue with any novels that follow.

Nancy says

Tough to get in to...almost put it down but finally came together!

Rabid Readers Reviews says

The author's publishing house, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, gave me a copy of this book in exchange for my review. I received this book as an uncorrected Advance Reader's Copy. Content may have changed between the version I received and date of publication.

Eddy is kind of sinking into himself when his gun goes missing. Not a good mark on the balance sheet for a man who is being scouted to one day go back to his old unit of Narco-intel in Boston. Society bothers Harkness, suburbia bothers Harkness and he's not prepared to think the best of anyone and nor, we learn, should he when one of Nagog's upper tier citizens crashes into a statue while high on the new wonder drug. As annoyed as he is by most things, the most important thing to Harkness is making it back to his old unit. Flynn peppers Eddy's narrative with flashbacks and personal reflections to show us how far he rose and the distance he had to fall. On Page 28 he mentally begs whoever took his gun not to use it to kill anyone. He would be done and knows it and that sense of passion for something humanizes a man who would be a complete jackass otherwise. We may not cheer for him but we're locked into who he is as a character.

"Third Rail" is a truly dark story. I am not a fan of present tense in story telling but for Flynn's story it works. Flynn brings readers into the moment so that the desperation, emotion and shock of the main character shows a dark but human side where Harkness might be unrealistically too jaded and cool. Harkness, in the absence of his Glock, is carrying a plastic gun and in witnessing an accident and on page 40 he thinks of how easy it would be to take the drivers gun and cover the loss of his own if only it looked like a Glock. He looks for the loopholes and beyond the purpose of the case we know that Harkness is driven by his greater purpose.

"Third Rail" is a beautifully dark story set in a gritty and dangerous visually compelling world. If you like

noir hardboiled fiction like that written by Dashiell Hammet and JD Rhoades, you will love Rory Flynn's "Third Rail."

William Hochmuth says

I like Eddy. It'll be interesting to see how they use (the girl) and the potential girlfriend.

Roy Kenagy says

I blew through this hard-boiled masterpiece in two days, because it's just that good. Plus, it's really short.

Kevin Ashton says

I loved this. A great summer read, despite being noir, with a smart, flawed hero you can't help but root for, doing good in a well-portrayed world. In *Third Rail*, Boston is gritty and urban, but it's the apparently quaint suburbs where the rot has really set in. Oh, and there's some really sharp humor too. Recommended.

James Thane says

This taut, gritty novel introduces Eddy Harkness, who was once the young, rising star of the Boston P.D.'s narcotics unit. But a tragic incident cost him his career in the big city, and Eddy, now twenty-nine, is reduced to working on the police force of Nagog, Massachusetts, the small town outside of Boston where he was born and raised.

For Eddy, it's been a particularly long and humbling fall, especially given his assignment for the Nagog P.D., which is emptying the town's parking meters. Then, to compound matters, on the anniversary of the event that cost him his job in Boston, Eddy gets roaring drunk, behaves very badly and, sometime during the course of the evening, loses the service revolver that the town has issued him.

Eddy is determined to recover the weapon and his effort to do so turns into a desperate quest to find some sort of redemption. The search drags him down into the seamy underside of this community that appears so bucolic on the surface and ensnares him in a web of crime and corruption along with an unusual mix of characters, some of whom are very badly bent, and many of whom are as desperate, each in his or her own way, as Eddy Harkness.

It's a gripping story, populated by characters that are fresh and intriguing. One of the blurbs on the cover suggests that Eddy Harkness is a "worthy successor" to Robert B. Parker's Jesse Stone. But as much as I admired Parker's work, and as much as I enjoyed most of the Jesse Stone novels, I think that this book is much more complex and ultimately a much better read than some of the later Jesse Stone books. I'm really looking forward to the second book in the series.

Reeka (BoundbyWords) says

As seen on my blog:

GOD this book was entertaining. Before I checked the stats for *Third Rail*, I was under the impression that there was a whole slew of Eddy Harkness novels prior to this one. You can imagine my disappointment when I realized that I was actually reading Rory Flynn's debut. And WHAT.A.DEBUT it was. *Third Rail* was varying shades of fantastic, and just the kind of read that can quench a thirst you didn't even know you had. Crime fiction is the distant cousin I keep forgetting I have, but when we're reunited, I remember EXACTLY why I loved being around them so much. *Third Rail* was crime fiction at it's best, and the beginning of my rekindled love affair with it's genre.

There's a new drug on the streets, and it's revealing itself in some seriously twisted ways. Eddy Harkness is a big shot supervisor of a narcotics unit, turned small town cop. The small town is Nagog, and with a whole slew of sketchy characters, and a missing/stolen gun to boot, Eddy Harkness doesn't exactly have his work cut out for him. In the depths, Eddy is stewing in guilt from an incident he failed to be the hero of, a guilt that works itself into both the silent, and loud moments of Eddy's mind, a guilt that seeps into the narrative every chance it gets.

Eddy Harkness. Snarky, ballsy, guilt-ridden Eddy. I kept switching back and forth between my established love for Hank Palace in *The Last Policeman* series, and my newly forming attachment to Eddy. It was the one in a million feeling they produced, that everything they were accomplishing could only be done by them, and them alone. Eddy Harkness was ruthless, but not in the out-of-control way, but in that completely controlled "OKAY, THAT WAS BADASS" kind of way. Think Denzel Washington, in pretty much every cop movie he's ever made. Yes, Eddy Harkness, you can stay, for a very long time.

It may have been the mood I was in, but I found little to zero flaws in Rory Flynn's writing. I thought he was subtle when it mattered, and completely in-your-face when you least expected it. His characters were full of dry wit, and humorous dialogue. The story line was not seriously fast-paced, but it was one that left you with VERY little chance of becoming bored. There wasn't a chapter in this book I didn't enjoy and not a single person I didn't suspect of doing the crime. The conclusion wasn't in the category of mind-blowing, but I'm becoming repetitive now: the pleasure was in the build-up, in the drawing out of a story that Rory Flynn obviously put some serious thought into.

There will be prayers to the literary Gods for a LARGE number of Eddy Harkness books. Please let this be a possible 10-15 book series!

Recommended for fans of: Crime Fiction, Contemporary, Linwood Barclay, Harlan Coben, Ben H. Winters, *The Last Policeman* series.

Susan Oleksiw says

Officer Eddy Harkness, formerly of the Boston Police Department, is demoted, and exiled to his hometown of Nagog, where he is assigned to reading parking meters. He doesn't even have enough credibility to collect the money in them, but he goes about his assigned duties and tries to make the best of it, offering courtesies to his old school teachers and others who remember him back in the day. The trouble is he can't get out of his

head the image of a man falling off a bridge onto the turnpike below, and neither can anyone else.

The many ways in which Eddy's life has gone awry don't make much sense to him but he plods along, until he makes things even worse by losing his gun. Eddy drinks too much, questions everything and everyone, and manages to follow his nose right into a mess of hometown corruption.

For anyone who knows New England, the story of Harkness investigating in a small town as well as Boston is a great trip through familiar spaces and people. The political corruption is subtle but pervasive, the damage to others' lives realistic. This is the beginning of what promises to be a terrific series showcasing Boston and its environs.

Jeffrey says

Rory Flynn's cop investigation story is a hard hitting, fast reading powerhouse of a debut that introduces a great new voice in detective fiction. Readers will be swept along on a wild ride as Eddy Harkness has to single handedly bring a new drug dealer, an old nemesis and a crooked politician to their knees.

Harkness was once the head of an elite Boston narcotics unit, but after a shooting incident ended with the tragic death of Pauley Fitz, a Red Sox fan, Harkness has been exiled to his hometown of Nagog, Massachusetts, where he has been reduced to being the meter maid. Infamously known, Harkness is now universally blamed for the Sox's losing season.. Tragedy seems to be dogging the Harkness family. His mother has dementia and his father blew his brains out after screwing people out of money in a Ponzi scheme.

When we first meet Harkness, he is drunk and dangerously playing chicken on the highway with passing cars. He is barely surviving his demons.

Then Harkness goes on a night of heavy drinking and ends up having hot sex with Thalia Havoc, a sultry amber haired waitress recently a mainstay at Mr. Mach's bar, a drug dealer that Harkness busted years before. When Harkness awakes, he finds his service pistol missing. Harkness immediately suspects that his Glock was stolen, not lost. His day gets even worse when he starts getting prank calls from Pauley Fitz's cellphone, which should be in an evidence locker in Boston.

Rather than report his missing piece, Harkness figures to run a private investigation, but soon finds himself hip deep in several other private investigations. Someone is cooking up a new designer drug called Third Rail that gives a tremendous boost, but also causes people to hallucinate and think they are invincible. Victims are dropping like flies.

When a high school senior goes running in a forest and pulverizes her brain by smashing her head into a tree, Harkness is told by his superiors her death should be ruled an accident. Harkness is not buying this story. He soon starts to piece together who is cooking up the new drug.

Meanwhile, Jeet, a friend of Havoc, who also worked for Mach, gives Harkness an incendiary trove of pictures of criminals, politicians and citizens with Mach's prostitutes. The pictures are especially damning in an election season.

Then the Chief of Police drowns in a mysterious accident and leaves Harkness even more evidence.

The drug investigation, dead cop and dead girl, missing gun, and pictures all come together in a fiery

conclusion to this explosive novel.

It's a must read for any fan of hard hitting police investigations.

Nakia says

Stepped a little out of my usual fiction lane by picking up this crime novel at the library. It was good! A lot of fun, if not terribly original. Noir conciets used well. I thought it was cool that the protagonist was a Boston hardcore straightedge kid before becoming a cop.

Ed says

Extraordinarily good debut novel about Eddy Harkness, a 29 year old Boston detective banished from the Drug-Intel Squad to a patrolman's position in his home town, an historic suburb west of the city. Eddy spends his days emptying parking meters while trying to find his service revolver that "disappeared" one crazy drug/alcohol fueled night in Boston's Chinatown. This starkly original story is essentially about a young man overcoming adversity and seeking redemption for himself and his home town which is threatened by a new and dangerous designer drug. Uniquely drawn characters and sharp, witty dialogue fuel a fast moving plot that shows no signs of being derivative of anything else. This is one of those rare debut novels that very quietly sort of sneaks up on you and reminds you again why you can't ever stop turning the pages!

(Thank you again James Thane for the recommendation)

Truman32 says

Third Rail by Rory Flynn introduces us to Harvard educated, tough-guy cop Eddy Harkness. Harkness is tougher than an overcooked pork-chop, he's grittier than the lining of my swim trunks after taking a dip in the ocean by Atlantic City, and he's more driven than Miss Daisy. And he's going through a rough patch at the moment. Disciplined for his actions in a fatal shooting outside Fenway, this once promising head of the Boston PD's Narco Intel drug unit, is now emptying parking meters in his suburban hometown of Nagog. He's fallen harder than a geriatric without a LifeCall medical alarm pendant, and now after recklessly going on booze filled bender discovers the next morning his police issued Glock is missing.

And then, after almost getting run over by a speeding Volvo, Eddy discovers a new designer narcotic has invaded his town—a little number called Third Rail which is as addictive as it is deadly. This is all really great stuff. There are dark secrets from the past, a booze-addled girlfriend who may or may not be working for a human trafficking mobster with a grudge against Eddy, corrupt police and more.

Defying the laws of physics, Rory Flynn is able to pack this entire story into a bare bones 200 page novel. On my next vacation I think I'll ask Mr. Flynn (the Boston sounding pen name for Stona Fitch) over to see if he is likewise as skilled packing shorts, socks, culottes, tighty whities and the rest of my family's luggage. Third Rail is clever, brutal, punk, and satisfying. I read the also great second book (out of order) last year and

I am anxiously waiting for the next installment.

Tom Hicks says

for a first crime novel, it was very good. A down and out cop from Boston sent to his hometown Nagog to empty parking meters ends up doing a lot more. The personal story was well written as well. Loved it and am looking forward to any other novels of his.

Aditi says

Frank Vincent Zappa, an American composer, musician, and film director, has mentioned about "drugs" as: "A drug is not bad. A drug is a chemical compound. The problem comes in when people who take drugs treat them like a license to behave like an asshole."

That's true, a simple chemical compound having so much power to turn people into impulsive zombies with no brain. Rory Flynn, a Boston-based mystery writer, explores the lucid world of a new drug found in the dark dingy alleys of Boston, in his debut of the Eddy Harkness series, *Third Rail: An Eddy Harkness Novel*.

Synopsis:

At crime scenes, Eddy Harkness, the "Harvard Cop," is a human Ouija board, a brilliant young detective with a knack for finding the hidden something—cash, drugs, guns, bodies. Harkness's swift rise in an elite narcotics unit is derailed by the death of a young Red Sox fan in the chaos after a World Series win, a death some camera-phone-wielding witnesses believe he could have prevented. Scapegoated, Eddy is exiled to his hometown, Nagog, just outside Boston, where he empties parking meters and struggles to redeem his disgraced family name.

But one night Harkness's police-issued Glock disappears. Harkness starts a search—just as a string of fatal accidents in Nagog lead him to uncover a dangerous new smart drug, Third Rail. With only a plastic gun to protect him, Harkness begins a high-stakes investigation that sends him into the darkest corners of the city.

From the beginning, the plot simply gripped me with its pace and adrenaline-rushing actions and mysteries. Eddy is a hero, who can sometime look very stupid with his toy gun, but he made me fall for his unflattering heroism and determination. He always saw the glitches, he always sniffed the foul smell, and he always bet on the suspected characters- in short, he always was right! Unfortunately, because of a past mistake, his guys in Narco-Intel had a hard time in believing his theories. I liked the fact that how Eddy stood against the tide to find the origin of a killer drug, although he used to work in a town where everything had a negative color, where everything was flawed and where people loved to get stoned and wasted rather than behaving meaningfully. I almost felt drunk with the aura of this plot where the underbelly of the criminal world looked so bright and striking.

The characters are maybe very faulty and flawed, but they all had the power to hook you into the core of the book. From well-developed characters to well-written plot, Flynn knows how to turn his simple plot into an action-packed pot-boiler story. I liked the narrative, it was kept short, simple and thoroughly intriguing, and the best part being every chapter ending on a mysterious note, and that peak my interest in this book. To be honest, there were not much twists in this story, moreover, they were not even meant to keep hidden from the readers, I guess, because, from the very first moment, I can see who the real thief of Eddy's gun was. Moreover, the book felt more like as if I was watching the whole scene in front of my eyes rather than reading it. The author has strikingly portrayed the underbelly of a city and while reading this book, you

almost feel its sick stink at the bottom of your stomach. And Eddy is indeed a marvelous character, stupid-at-times, yet brilliant.

Verdict: *Read this power-packed debut book to get swept away in the wild ride of crime and drugs.*

Courtesy: *Many thanks to the author, Rory Flynn, for providing me with a copy of his book, in return for an honest review.*
