



Speaking of Murder

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When a celebrity-packed motivational event turns deadly, Cleveland private eye Milan Jacovich (MY-lan YOCK-ovitch) finds himself caught up in the mess.

Milan and his associate Kevin "K.O." O'Bannion are hired as extra security for several high-profile inspirational speakers at a convention in downtown Cleveland, where they get off to a rocky start. Each special guest seems more unpleasant than the last--particularly Tommy Triller, the main draw for the weekend, with an ego to match his bank account. Tensions run high, but Milan thinks they have things covered . . . until Triller's dead body is found in his hotel room, a bullet hole between his eyes and a motivational CD jammed in his mouth.

Among the suspects are fellow speakers, including southern psychologist Dr. Ben, who resented earning less than Triller; hip hop artist and convicted killer Hy Jinx; and former big-league baseball manager Tony Nardoiani, who might be willing to do almost anything for the right price.

Milan figures he and K.O. are out of work when his significant other, Cleveland homicide detective Tobe Blaine, takes charge of the murder case. But to Milan's surprise, his old nemesis and local mob boss Victor Gaimari asks Milan to work for him. Nardoiani owes Victor, who wants to make sure the debt is paid--and that the aging athlete's gambling past stays under wraps as the murder investigation continues.

Tobe's not happy to have Milan and K.O. operating on her turf. But a job is a job, and Milan is determined to clear his new client of murder . . . by finding the real killer.

Speaking of Murder Details

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From Reader Review Speaking of Murder for online ebook

Michael Keller says

Another great Milan Jacovich novel from Les Roberts.

Francisco says

GMSA hires Milan Security as extra help for the speakers. Don't they know that is enviting murder? And Milan will stop at nothing to catch the killer. With the help of KO and Detective Sergeant Tobe Blaine, they sure catch the culprit.

Note: To Milan: Stop wondering about the Sacramento Capitol Building; it is elegant, but just don't plan to visit in the summer time. For myself, perhaps I'll come to Cleveland. I would like to see Nighttown.

Linda says

I have enjoyed most of Les Roberts books but this one was disappointing.

Jan says

I was totally unfamiliar with this author, but the blurb sounded interesting, and I have visited family in and around Cleveland, so I was glad to give it a try. And that is unfortunate for my wallet, as I now need to find and read more of this series.

Milan is an older ex-cop turned PI, Tobe is his SO/Cleveland homicide detective, K.O. is Milan's under thirty partner/apprentice. The other basics are covered in the publisher's blurb.

The plot is well crafted, and the plot twists are amazing. The characters are craftily depicted with superb realism. I suppose it must class as a cozy because there is no horror or explicit erotica, and it is not quite a procedural. I also feel that this is a series that must rank up there with the best, and, thankfully, is not a zillion pages long.

I entered a Goodreads First Reads Giveaway and won this offering from the publisher.

Jill says

This nineteenth book in the series finds that a motivational seminar is a perfect place to figure out who had motive to kill. Private eye Milan Jacovich and partner K.O. along with Detective Sergeant Tobe Blaine spend their time interviewing speakers at the annual convocation of the Global Motivational Speakers Association after one extremely pompous high-priced millionaire headliner, Tommy Thriller, ends up on the wrong side of a gun. In an unusual twist, someone followed self-help advice and decided much to private eye Milan Jacovich's dismay. To solve the murder Detective Sergeant Tobe Blaine must solve the case quickly so that disgruntled attendees and suspects trapped at the hotel can finally depart. Toss in a mob boss, payola, and the

fact that Blaine and Jacovich are friends with benefits and you find a plot that moves along to a satisfying conclusion.

Jerry B says

This finishes our reading of the 19-book Cleveland-based PI Milan Jacovich set – sorry to find the finale such a tepid retirement. As in #17, “Win, Place, or Die”, Dan S. Kennedy was recruited as a co-author for his first-hand experience. In the earlier novel, his direct participation in harness racing was the reason; in this one, his vocation as a business success motivational speaker was imperative. That ilk was the subject of “Speaking”, which focused primarily on a motivational speaker convention and the three “star” performers Tommy Triller; Dr. Ben Mayo, a blatant Dr. Phil McGraw caricature; and Dr. Lorelai Singleton, a blatant Dr. Laura Schlessinger caricature.

Not long into the plot, one of these is murdered despite Milan and his sidekick/intern K.O. being hired as additional security for the big names – who actually had their own bodyguards. After the murder, Milan’s firm is fired and his squeeze Homicide Detective Sergeant Tobe Blaine comes on the scene as the official investigator. Thereafter, Milan is hired by his mob buddy of sorts to “protect” one of the lesser lights (and keep Milan and K.O. in the tale).

Unfortunately, we once again then have a middle book consisting of nearly 80% of the novel wherein basically nothing happens to advance the case for either our PI’s or the cops. Thus the solution came after such a long drought of interest we were hardly wowed. We were additionally somewhat surprised at the rather pointed “attacks” on the Dr. Ben and Lorelai characters, although we are assured in an afterward that these were completely fictional in a debatable attempt to add some humor to the story. Moreover, some objectionable language uncharacteristically peppered the tale.

We stuck by this series for a long time since we consistently found the lead character Milan so likable. We’re not sure adding K.O. in book #16 did much for the set, and causes us to wonder if a ghost writer might have been involved thereafter – or was it just the publisher saying the stories needed fresh blood? We wish Roberts had been better at rolling out the clues more generously rather than dulling us with long sections of interview after interview with little progress in each case. To other readers we would recommend a sampling of the earlier books, but almost wish now we were not quite so determined to read all 19 novels. {2.5}

Quentin Stewart says

I received a copy of this book through librarything.com in return for an honest review.

This is the second Milan Jacovich mystery that I have read. In this case Milan is hired to protect the most famous of a group of self-help gurus who have gathered in Cleveland for a convention. The hotel is packed with convention goers and the top speakers in the United States on self help and even some of the lesser known practitioners of the genre.

Earlier in the morning the top speaker is found dead in his room. Milan loses his job as protector and the case is to be handled by the Cleveland police in the person of Milan's girlfriend Lt. Det. Tobe Blaine. But no sooner is Milan off the case then he is hired by an outside interest to protect one of the minor speakers on the program so that the police do not dig up any dirt on him and besmirch his character. In the process of the

investigation everyone has to stay in Cleveland and this brings out the worst in the egos of some of the megastars and even some of their fans who are attending the convention. Everyone has a favorite suspect but there appears to be no proof one way or another until someone mentions an unknown package in the trunk of a limo that delivered one of the speakers to the hotel. Now to track down where the package went.

The case is eventually solved. Milan and Tobe do not bump heads too much during the case. KO, Milan's able bodied sidekick learns a little more about controlling his temper and learning to talk to people. An excellent short book that keeps the Milan Jacovich series running.

Chad Malkamaki says

I'm not sure why I enjoyed *Speaking of Murder* so much but this went down as one of my favorite Milan books so far. Maybe it was the simple setting of being on Public Square, not having to race all over the region, or the enjoyable characters, but I couldn't put the book down. Also, as Milan is settling into his life as a private investigator, he has a steady girlfriend who doesn't judge him and their relationship seems to work. Also, the addition of K.O. to the Jacovich Security team, is a great mentor-ship role for Milan.

I do miss Milan's family, the first couple of books in the series deals with Milan's recent divorce and you see his kids grow up. Since his children went off to college, we haven't had an update on the family, nor had dealings with his ex and her significant other that still live in Milan's old home. Also, Milan has moved on, and we don't hear too much about his old stomping grounds in the old Slovenian neighborhood. Maybe's it's about time for Milan to take Tobe, K.O. and Carli on a double date to Sterle's and the new changes to Milan's old hood.

Paula says

Loved this as I have all the Milan Jacovich books by Les Roberts, mostly because they generally are quick reads of the old style tough guy, hard boiled PI variety, but really because I love the Cleveland setting. This one centered around the Renaissance Hotel in the Terminal Tower on Public Square, plus other scenes around town. Pictured myself tooling around with Milan and his new young sidekick K.O. Also, the plot skewered the cult surrounding public speaking celebrities. Easy to guess who were the models for the speakers. Lots of fun as usual.

Casey Hickman says

Assume this was the end of the Milan Jacovich series.

Lesia says

I've been a fan of Les Roberts' Milan Jacovich mysteries for years. They're set in Cleveland, and it's evident from the details about the city that Roberts loves Cleveland. And, Milan will remind mystery readers of Robert B. Parker's Spenser. It's been fascinating to watch the changes in Milan over the years. Now, Roberts utilizes Dan S. Kennedy's expertise to bring a motivational conference to town.

Speaking of Murder is a mystery, but that conference is perfect fodder for dry humor.

Jacovich has a two-person security company with a younger employee, Kevin O'Bannion, K.O. They're hired to provide extra security at the Renaissance Hotel while VIP motivational speakers are in town. But once a top-rated speaker is killed, Milan and K.O. are out of a job. And, then Victor Gaimari, godfather of the Greater Cleveland Mafia hires them. He and Milan have a history going way back. But Victor has interests to protect, and he wants Milan asking a few questions.

Milan and K.O. aren't investigating the murder. That's up to Milan's significant other, homicide detective sergeant Tobe Blaine. But, they have a full cast of characters to talk to. There's the television doctor with the trophy wife, the talk show host who has a laundry list of people she puts down on her radio show, the actress who now talks about her reincarnations. Milan and K.O. have a number of people to antagonize.

Milan and K.O. take turns talking about the investigation. It's fascinating to hear the viewpoints. Milan is an aging investigator, streetwise, and with an edge. K.O. is thirty years younger, a man who did three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has an attitude. He's good at what he does, but he's quick to anger. "Whatever he said aloud was either sarcastic or angry - or both." Roberts is astute in giving Milan a younger assistant, a different viewpoint.

Speaking of Murder has dry humor, a little politics, an interesting mystery. The portrayals of the motivational speakers is spot-on. And, for me, the book still has that special love of Cleveland.

Clwseattle says

I was born and raised in Cleveland. I have been a fan of and reading Les Roberts since I discovered him .. and Milan Jacovich in 1996.

It pains me to leave this review.

I was supremely disappointed in this latest book Speaking of Murder. It simmers between boring and awful.

In the past, the city of Cleveland was highlighted: it's twists and turns, its history, it's nuances, its interesting corners. Except for one hotel, Cleveland is absent in this book.

One major recurring character really got the bum's rush in this one, with barely a nod and a mention and another dismissed as old and retired.

As far as the main characters, they were not themselves: they were all angry... ALL THE TIME! It seemed like every conversation (and meal or intimacy!) started out in a friendly or business like manner then someone shouted, slammed or jumped up and ran out angrily. They sniped at each other, they were rude to suspects and minor character alike, as well as each other: "*We zing each other kindly.*" was the line Milan said at the very end. No, there was very little kindness in any of the interactions between the main characters, minor characters or in this book.

That is not Cleveland.

Judie says

I have read and enjoyed all of Les Roberts' Private Eye Milan Jacovich books. He may be getting older, but age has not slowed him down. When he and his associate K. O. O'Bannion are hired to provide security at a large, three-day convention for the Global Motivational Speakers Association, readers can be sure that at least one person will be murdered.

The convention, which cost each of the 2,000 attendees \$7,000 and gave them the opportunity to listen to several motivational speakers and buy their merchandise. The speakers' specialities ranged from psychiatry, baseball, hip-hop, religion, and the occult. All tried to convince people that if they followed their advice, they will become rich and have everything they want. The speakers are well-known to the attendees, though some, because of their media exposure on television, magazines, and newspapers, are better known than others.

Tommy Triller, a tall, good looking, womanizer is the main attraction. He earned more than \$100 million annually from his speeches and sales of his books, CDs, and other paraphernalia. After the opening night program, his body was found in his hotel suite, a bullet hole between his eyes and one of his motivational CDs stuffed into his mouth.

After the convention organizer fired Milan, he is quickly hired by the local mob boss who feared that one of his associates who owed him money may have his past publicized. He wanted Milan to find the killer before his friend got unwanted publicity.

Since Milan was not employed by the convention, his significant other, Cleveland homicide detective Tobe Blaine, was assigned the case.

Milan and K.O. quickly discovered that most speakers, as well as the organizer, had large egos and, it turned out, animosity towards the others. They were also a rather nasty bunch of people.

Since the organizer would not refund the money paid by the attendees, the hotel would not refund the money (paid in advance) for the three-night stays, and the police would not allow suspects to leave, there was pressure to find the killer quickly.

The book is a fast read and well-written. The reader gets to know the characters, motivations, and atmosphere. There is a bit of repetition and, while the chapters are short, most move on to a different topic and location; only a few continue directly from the previous one.

Interesting observation: Referring to the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Milan notes, "There's more about murder and crime on its pages every year than an entire section of mystery fiction at the public library." Sadly, that is true.

Debra Jeakins says

SPEAKING OF MURDER BY LES ROBERTS. This is the first book of the Milan Jacovich mysteries and I loved it! Very light hearted and the characters are well defined and likeable .

Milan and his cohort, KO (Kevin O'Bannon) are hired by a hotel to help provide security for some very controversial motivational speakers. The most problematic of them, Tommy Triller, who for various reasons, including his popularity, are targets for any would be hit man or wacko follower. Milan & KO find working hotel security not such a hot job as none of the main speakers want them around & they are all asses! When murder occurs on the first night, Milan finds himself nose to nose with his love Detective Tobe Blaine. From there the mystery really unfolds.

Not only did I get a pretty good mystery but I found the characters & the plot entertaining. I think Mr.Roberts just got another fan in me.

I recieved this book free from goodreads in exchange for an honest review.

April Helms says

Another fun addition to the Milan Jacovich series. Roberts again teams up with Kennedy, this time to explore the world of public speaking and motivational seminars. In this story, Milan and Kevin O'Bannion are hired on as extra security at a convention for high-profile (and some not-so high profile) motivational speakers. Of course, it doesn't take long for one of them to wind up dead, and Milan and his lady friend Tobe Blaine, a homicide detective with the Cleveland police find no shortage of suspects. I have said it before, but I love the dynamic between Milan and Tobe, although I noticed some of the exchanges seemed sharper at times. I was especially happy to see the return of Victor Gaimari, the head of Cleveland's mob. He's a fun character, one you can't decide whether to love him or hate him, and you often wind up doing both in the same book. All in all, this was another excellent mystery, with great dialogue, some good laughs and excellent action. In addition, I had no idea whodunit until the end.
