



Angel Eyes

Loren D. Estleman

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Ann Maringer is a go-go dancer with a problem: her life is in danger. Her only hope is Amos Walker, a hot-tempered, Detroit-based private eye with a caustic wit and a talent for getting into trouble--a guy who "sticks like nuclear fallout," according to a former client.

Angel Eyes Details

Date : Published 1981 by Houghton Mifflin

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Author : Loren D. Estleman

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Crime

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From Reader Review Angel Eyes for online ebook

Wayne Zurl says

ANGEL EYES by Loren D. Estleman.....

This is an early (the 2nd) Amos Walker mystery, copyrighted in 1981. But if you didn't look for a date, you might easily believe it was born in 1941. Any fan of hard-boiled/noir PI fiction would award this book five stars for the first chapter alone. Raymond Chandler, eat your heart out. Estleman nails it early in Walker's career.

The story has all the elements: A stripper with incredibly beautiful eyes, sleazy clubs with thugs for owners and waiters, a union boss with a shady past, and a wealthy lawyer, possibly tied to the stripper, who disappeared in a plane crash, but whose body was never recovered.

The stripper thinks she may be in danger and hires Walker to protect her and, if necessary, find her if she disappears. Early on, bodies begin to pile up with Amos in the middle of everything. And, of course, the police involved become secondary antagonists because they all hate private cops and Walker in particular. A little suspension of disbelief is necessary and easily given when these detectives attempt to arrest Walker for a murder or two without having that pesky thing called reasonable cause to believe. But that's PI fiction for you.

The solution is explained in lengthy confessions from several of the shady players, but you don't get the entire story until the last two pages where everything is wrapped up. But good doesn't exactly triumph over evil, so Amos Walker lights up another "coffin nail," trudges up the stairs to his crumby office, and prepares for another day of 86ing the bills that can wait and waiting for a new client to step into his place of business.

4.5 stars

Francis says

Ex-cop, wise cracking, detective trying to make a living on the hard streets of Detroit. Too many bodies, too many plot twists and too many wise cracks that didn't quite make it.

Although, as stated in an earlier review - the series does get better.

Kurt Weber says

Twists up to the very end

Vickie says

Estleman's Amos Walker is the archetypical noir private investigator. I'm so glad there are many more books in this series to enjoy.

Cyndy says

This was written about a Detroit PI during the 70s - pre cell phones, internet access, and political correctness. So set your mind back in time and meet Amos Walker, a PI that is generally on the wrong end of fists or guns. In this story he is hired by a "go-go dancer" to find her, if she disappears. The mayhem ensues from there. "The dangers you can count on are problem enough without worrying about something as neurotically unpredictable as a tornado." Estleman, Loren D.. Angel Eyes (Amos Walker Novels Book 2) (Kindle Locations 1117-1118). Open Road Media Mystery & Thriller. Kindle Edition.

Maddy says

RATING: 3.25

Mary Kinietz says

Uneven ending.

Liz Flom says

This is the first time I've read anything from this author so I wasn't sure what to expect. Pleasantly surprised though. Due to the setting being in the 70's it lacks a lot of modern drama (I.e. before social media explosion), but I actually found the story interesting. Though it may have lacked some modern flare, story line was complex enough to keep the reader interested. Will consider reading other books in the series.

Pamela Scott says

Angel Eyes was okay but nothing special. Estleman offers a readable but quite run of the mill hardboiled detective novel that reminded me a lot of The Big Sleep by Raymond Chandler. I enjoyed Chandler's novel a lot more. The writing is solid but the events of the novel get a bit over-the-top with bodies popping up all over the place and wise-cracks that fell a little flat. Angel Eyes was really dated and hasn't aged well. I like crime fiction but this just didn't work for me. It was just okay. It's not the worst book I've read but is far from the best.

Ed says

Detroit P.I. Amos Walker on another hardboiled case encounters murder and mayhem. Great prose style and voice. Sidetrip gives nice view of small-town Michigan.

Mike says

As rated, it was okay. Dated...tries too hard to be smartass, tough guy and noir and almost ends up as a camp send up.

Julie says

Angel Eyes, Loren D. Estleman, B

Amos Walker #2

Detroit, 1980s

First line: The Crescent was a cellar place on Cass, established before Michigan outlawed public dining and drinking below ground level.

A go-go dancer hires Amos to find a missing person -- herself. Then promptly disappears leaving behind a very dead man in her apartment. Over the course of the next 36 hours, Amos finds three more bodies, but no go-go dancer. This second outing was good up until the last 30 pages or so. Major information dump and explaining things by saying "she somehow learned this" when you can't think of a single way she could have learned that. But I have read a book later in the series and I know they do improve.

M. Sprouse says

This book is carried by PI Amos Walker. The plot and other story elements are secondary. Walker and with his witty dialogue are the best of the contemporary hard-boiled genre. He's a tough guy, who often seems to like doing things the hard way. The story is interesting but rushes to have everything wrapped up tidy with a nice bow. It's a clever hard-boiled ending. Though it runs precariously close to not only being difficult to believe but in also feeling convoluted, which is a feat considering this book is barely two hundred pages long. I'll give Amos Walker 5 stars, but can only give this book 4, which ain't bad at all, sweetheart.

Dave Wallace says

The lone detective out of time (1980) and place (Detroit) with character and characters is good fun to read. The plot was just a bit too complicated and a mite convenient here and there but at least it didn't tie up like a bow at the finish. Dialogue reminiscent of Pat Novak: "Do you serve water?" I asked. "When they ask for it. These days it costs us" "Lets be extravagant" "That mean you want water?" I said it meant water. It was the

longest conversation I could recall ever having on the subject.

Kristel says

Reminiscent of Raymond Chandler and the like, with a local flavor.
