



The Vanishing Smile

Earl Emerson

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"EMERSON AGAIN DELIVERS THE GOODS, dishing out humor, suspense, and heart-pounding action in heaping portions."

--Booklist

Marian Wright is an amateur sleuth in the employ of two attractive young women eager to catch up with their no-account ex-lovers. But when Marian's investigation ends abruptly and ferociously, Seattle private eye Thomas Black has a new case on his hands.

Picking up the pieces of Marian Wright's search for her clients' rogue boyfriends, Thomas encounters a network of people--from ex-cons and prostitutes to other private investigators--all webbed together by a chilling common thread. It's a discovery that speaks volumes about the zealousness of Marian's manhunt, and even suggests a monstrous reason for her sudden death. Yet equally monstrous is an unknown, baseball bat-wielding assailant who seems hell-bent on making sure Thomas Black's investigation stays closed. . . .

"Emerson adds another smoothly written book to his popular series."

--The Seattle Times

"GRITTY."

--Publishers Weekly

The Vanishing Smile Details

Date : Published September 1st 1996 by Fawcett (first published 1995)

ISBN : 9780345404534

Author : Earl Emerson

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Detective, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

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From Reader Review The Vanishing Smile for online ebook

Ed says

#8 in the Thomas Black series. Finalist 1996 Shamus Award for Best Novel.

Thomas Black accompanies Kathy to meet a client; approaching the meeting place, a woman suddenly appears in front of Kathy's car and is struck and killed - it's the client. Tom checks into the woman's activities prior to the accident and finds many people who would want to push her into traffic, a bewildering matrix related to AIDS. Tom weds Kathy.

Elizabeth m says

There were so many characters involved it was hard for me to keep track. Then again, I read it while on holiday so my mind was also on holiday.

aPriL does feral sometimes says

Although an event I won't go into detail over finally occurred and made me happy (I've been waiting for it for at least 4 previous books in the series) this book was a little unfocused. It did not have one emotional buildup, but sort of a series of spikes, with a bunch of tragedies caused by the AIDS epidemic, when getting it meant certain death. On top of the case and the clients and the victims, there was a lot of family drama going on and a rather anticlimactic finish. However, a ton of loose ends were tidied up very satisfactorily if a bit quickly.

Glen Templeton says

I usually like Earl Emerson's books quite a bit. This one not so much. There were too many characters that were potentially involved in the mystery that I kept finding myself getting lost. I will continue to read his books, however, since this 2 star book was an aberration for him.

Julie says

This is a Thomas Black mystery-number 8, but the first one I've read. Three members of a book club decide to look up old boyfriends who did them wrong. Which leads to murder and a good mystery. I liked the main character and recommend for mystery readers.

LJ says

THE VANISHING SMILE - Ex
Emerson, Earl W - 8th in Thomas Black series

When amateur sleuth Marian Wright suddenly dies during an investigation into her clients' rogue boyfriends, Seattle PI Thomas Black's investigation uncovers a strange network of people and reveals the zealousness of Marian's manhunt, and the monstrous truth about her death.

This was one of the best books in the series so far.

Jeff Dickison says

Another good Thomas Black entry. This one is definitely a sign of its time; Thomas and a client try desperately to determine who is spreading aids, thereby killing people. Thomas and Kathy are separated at the beginning of the book, but are back together permanently by the end. Good going! Recommended.

Wanda says

Lots of names and connections to keep straight. Enjoyed it.

Joe says

Emerson's Seattle series with his detective, Tom Black, creates an unusual set of coincidences involving an usual accident and the events leading up to and subsequent to what turns out to be a murder. Somehow it is all believable. The two main characters are attractive, intelligent people, who you'd like to know.

Katharine Ott says

"The Vanishing Smile" - written by Earl Emerson and published in 1995 by Random House Value Publishing. A decent mystery.
