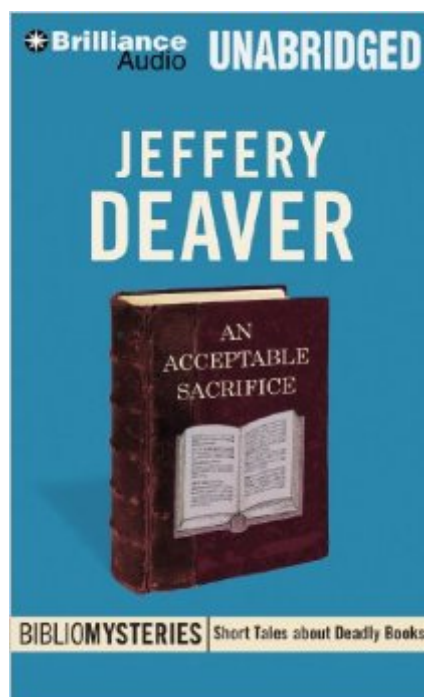


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An Acceptable Sacrifice (Bibliomysteries)



Synopsis

Short tales about deadly books, by top mystery authors. A pair of federal agents from either side of the US-Mexico border target a cartel kingpin. They call him "Cuchillo", the Knife. Not because he kills with a blade - he has plenty of men to do that kind of work for him - but because his mind is so sharp. As Mexico's government wages war on the drug cartels, it takes brains to survive, and Cuchillo has not just survived - he has prospered. But when Cuchillo begins to cut too deeply, the federal police of both the United States and Mexico step in to dull his blade. P. Z. Evans and Alejo Daz know the Hermosillo cartel is planning an attack on a tourist bus in Sonora, and they know they will have to capture or kill Cuchillo to stop it. The cartel leader has one weakness: rare, old books. To destroy the intellectual's evil empire, this unlikely pair of international police will have to appeal to his inner bibliophile.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Beginning November 12th, you will be seeing the publication of eBooks dubbed "bibliomysteries" by mysteriouspress.com. These will consist of works of shorter mystery fiction by a number of the genre's most venerable and enduring practitioners. The first is AN ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE by Jeffrey Deaver. While somewhat of a different work for him topically, it contains the trademark twists and turns we have come to expect from Deaver, as well as sharp and memorable characterization of both the protagonists and antagonists. AN ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE features an enigmatic businessman whose given name is Alonso MarÃ- a Carillo, but who is better known as "Cuchillo,"

which translates to "The Knife." P.Z. Evans and Alejo "Al" Diaz are the team tasked by a joint United States and Mexico task force to conduct an off-the-books operation with maximum deniability. Their mission is to take Cuchillo out; rumored to be a notorious drug lord, an informed source has reported that Cuchillo is about to commit a terrorist act against a group of tourists in Mexico. Evans and Diaz have a problem, to say the least, given that Cuchillo is heavily guarded and almost impossible to reach. He has but one weakness: his love of rare books. Evans and Diaz exploit that weakness, enabling Diaz to infiltrate Cuchillo's compound as the representative of a rare book dealer. However, once Diaz is inside, he has second thoughts. He wonders if Cuchillo is really a drug lord, or merely a misunderstood businessman who is the victim of rumor and innuendo. Can a man who loves books the way that Cuchillo seems to really be as evil as he is presented to be? Or is their intelligence all wrong? The lives of many innocents will rest on the decision that Diaz and Evans ultimately make.

"An Acceptable Sacrifice" is one of a series of stand-alone mystery stories from MysteriousPress.com in which books, bookstores, libraries, or manuscripts play a central role. The Bibliomysteries are short stories, not full length novels. A joint operation, sanctioned by Mexico City and Washington, D.C., pairs P.Z. Evans with Alejo Diaz, two killers hired to take out Alonso "Cuchillo" Carillo, presumed leader of the Hermosillo Cartel. According to an informant, in two days the cartel will set fire to a bus full of tourists to protest Mexico's war against drugs. Why Cuchillo doesn't pursue the time-honored defense against such wars -- paying off the federales -- is unclear, but the story requires the reader to accept the unlikely premise that blowing up tourists has something to do with the drug trade. A more intriguing question is whether Cuchillo really is a cartel leader, as opposed to a legitimate businessman. As is so often the case, the intelligence pointing to Cuchillo's guilt might be faulty. Since Cuchillo allegedly intends to remain in his compound until the bus is in flames, Evans and Diaz must find a way to gain entrance. Fortunately for them, Cuchillo collects first editions and rare books, a "weakness" that the killers hope to turn to their advantage. On the other hand, Diaz wonders whether such a pleasant book lover could really be a ruthless killer. What if they are assassinating the wrong man? Unfortunately, that question fades into the background as the story advances. Point of view shifts from Evans and Diaz to their employers in D.C. to Cuchillo, giving the reader a variety of perspectives as the relatively simple plot unfolds.

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