

***THREE'S A CROWD* by DAVID BENJAMIN**

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Comments from Readers & Reviewers

F.J. Logan, prof. of English, Univ. of Maryland, author of *The Big Motorcycle*

“What do I like about this story? Everything: the characters, the settings, the stop-and-pivot-on-a-centime plot-twists, the dialogue. I relish the burbling subterranean humor, e.g., the mundaneness of NYC uxoricide, ‘like putting your garbage on the curb’; the macabre wistfulness of same, e.g., ‘Y’know, if you didn’t notice the exit wound where part of her face used to be, she still looked great. Even sort of sexy’; the bullshit artists at the CES, ‘networking themselves into a froth’; everything about that loopyest of T and A emporia, the Tough Titty; and the goofy debates, e.g., ‘a chicken is not a frog.’”

Patrick Keeffe, journalist

“David Benjamin spins a compelling, black-comic Hitchcockian tale. He writes with clarity and precision, and creates believable, cringeworthy characters who talk like people you may have met. He plays with the time structure of his story in ways that keep the reader racing through the pages. Benjamin, who has lived in Paris, employs his ex-pat's intimate knowledge of that city in ways that enhance the abrupt and unexpected twists of his engaging tale.”

Robert E. Hollingsworth, tech inventor/investor (and CES veteran)

“*Three's A Crowd* brings its readers into a diverse set of geographies ranging from Las Vegas to Wisconsin to Paris while seamlessly linking events from the past with the ‘present’ to unfold a bizarre and complex plot developed by a trio of geeky nerds to murder their wives and get away with it. The color offered on the Consumer Electronics Show offers the reader a glimpse into the absurd nature of this annual ritual. The fact that none of the wives ever wanted to travel to Las Vegas for CES sort of says it all. Gear up for a surprise ending and be prepared to set aside a few hours so you can enjoy the entire story like a gourmet meal... one

sitting but lots of courses.”

Rick Merritt, Silicon Valley Bureau Chief, *EE Times* (and CES veteran)

“... I admit it took me awhile to get over the revulsion I felt at the moral bankruptcy of the main characters — and how much I related to them. After the first third of this novel, I began to feel as if I were stuck in a *Waiting for Godot* with two miserable creatures doomed to each other's repugnant company.

“Somewhere about halfway through, the wives entered the story, and I got hooked by the plot twists in this book aptly described as a “noir comedy.” I started trying to guess where the story was leading, but the author was always gamely a step-and-a-half ahead of me...

“... Several key scenes are masterfully handled, including one where the three wives pack into a tiny Parisian water closet to bond, *pisser*, and plot. The ending managed to pack a surprise, a fireworks-like finale of wisecracks, and — like two or three other scenes — a dash of genuine pathos...”

Gaylord Plummer, chemical engineer

“*Three's a Crowd* is a nastily amusing entertainment with an O'Henry twist.”

Tekla Nee, co-founder, Silicon Valley Moms Group (and CES veteran)

“David Benjamin’s rollicking mystery nails the absurdities of CES, Las Vegas, Paris, and — oh yeah! — marriage. With a healthy splash of Tom Robbins and a *souçon* of Peter Mayle, Benjamin’s vivid descriptions carry you through the twists and turns of this clever and cinematic romp. It’s as satisfying as a four-course French dinner or an all-you-can-eat Vegas buffet.”

Peter Brown, international marketing specialist (and CES veteran)

“*Three’s a Crowd* is a masterful tale of *murderus interruptus*. Benjamin has obviously been part of the Silicon Valley infrastructure, anyone who has attended CES, COMDEX, CeBit or any other high tech tradeshow is instantly transformed into that strange demimonde where products and murders are developed. But he takes it further, all the way to Paris where his intimate knowledge of the City of Light is used to best effect to wrap up and deliver a wonderful plot.

“His ambiguous perspective on CES is matched by his obvious love of the City and both are brought out in this wonderful tale of two cities, three bumblers and their equally finely drawn wives.”

Anonymous librarian

“This book is filthy.”

Jon Peddie, technology journalist and consultant (and CES veteran)

“David Benjamin is a storyteller.

“He catches nuances, describes things we’ve all seen but didn’t know how to express until we read his prose. His writing pulls you in and you can’t quit ‘til you find out what happens next.

“*Three’s a Crowd* is a romp, and takes you to strip clubs in Las Vegas, great restaurants and strange graveyards in Paris, and into the inner thinking of three unhappily married men and their wives (equally not thrilled with how things have turned out in their lives).

“The characters are recognizable immediately, you might even be one of them, and if not, you’ve met them. The wives are varied and will surprise you — sure surprised me.

“The story ends well and begs for a sequel, what are these characters going to do next — one thing for sure, their lives have changed, and not all for the good, but I can’t say more without being a spoiler.

“Highly readable, hard to put down, and fun. If you’ve been looking for a good story to take your mind off all the bad news in the world today this is your ticket to some quality time.”

Kihm Winship, writer, author of *The Adirondack Run*

“Any book that weaves together a murder conspiracy, lap dancing in Las Vegas, fine dining in Paris and an allusion to Carl Sandburg has my endorsement.”

Judy Stephenson, technology writer (and CES veteran)

“I didn’t want it to end! It was the weirdest feeling... I just didn’t want the story to be over. I had no idea HOW it was going to end, but GETTING there was half — heck MORE than half — the fun!... I really, really loved it. And I like the Judy character — hee!”

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