

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

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David Benjamin novel, *Three's a Crowd*, features sexpots, murder plots... and an insider's guide to Paris

MADISON, Wis. — *Three's a Crowd*, a “noir comedy” by David Benjamin, just published by Event Horizon Press, is punctuated by a trio of grisly murders, but leavened by the commission of these crimes in Paris, regarded by many discriminating travelers as the world's most beautiful city.

The murderers in the story, three amoral high-tech businessmen who share their disillusionment with marriage, plot the killing of their wives while meeting annually at the gigantic Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas. But when it comes to actual doing their bloody deeds, they choose secluded spots in the City of Light — because, simply, it's a lovely place to kill your wife.

As one character, Chip Wendelstedt, explains to his co-conspirator, Bud Hochuli, “You're going to be there, on this hill, underneath a little temple, and it'll be just about sunset. The sky will be beautiful, and the last thing Donna sees, off in the distance, as you choke off her last living breath, is the steeple of Sacre Coeur, bathed in orange twilight.”

The bonus for reader of *Three's a Crowd* is that author David Benjamin, a Parisian *proprietaire* since 1995, provides a slightly macabre mini-travelogue that includes several of Paris' more elegant bars and bistros, as well as three of the city's less-traveled scenic treasures.

Three's a Crowd begins in the historic literary café, La Coupole, on boulevard Montparnasse, and from there leads the reader casually to the Paris Catacombs, to the breathtaking vista atop the Parc des Buttes Chaumont, through a labyrinth of ornate tombs and crypts in the Cimetière Montparnasee, and on a stroll along the tree-lined Allée des Cygnes in the middle of the Seine. Meanwhile, there are stops

for refreshment at another great literary café, Le Select, at the legendary Rosebud Bar and at the Brasserie Le Grand Colbert, with a peek into the fashionable Left Bank restaurant, L'Itineraire.

As Benjamin noted, “One of the pleasures of writing this novel was wandering through the city I love, seeking out really charming places to kill three wives and dispose of their bodies.”

Indeed, any reader who chose to follow the path of Benjamin’s characters in *Three’s a Crowd* would enjoy a tour of Paris more offbeat, eclectic and stimulating than anything available in your standard guidebook.

Technology journalist Tekla Nee calls *Three’s a Crowd* a “rollicking mystery [that] 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.”

Three’s a Crowd is the first release in a collaboration between Event Horizon Press and David Benjamin. Benjamin’s novel, *A Sunday Kind of Love*, will be published by Event Horizon Press this winter. Billed as a “romantic comedy with football,” Benjamin describes *A Sunday Kind of Love* as “a love triangle involving an unmarried woman, a married man and the Green Bay Packers.”

Benjamin is also author of *The Life and Times of the Last Kid Picked* (Random House, 2003), honored as a notable book by the Wisconsin Library Association and described by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as “richly hilarious... [Benjamin] retains a little boy’s flair for spinning epics from anecdotes, and he applies to it an adult’s taste for irony. Don’t read this at bedtime — your laughter might wake up the kids.”

Among Benjamin’s other books is *SUMO: A Thinking Fan’s Guide to Japan’s National Sport*, a product of his residence in Tokyo for more than seven years. Originally published in 1990 and revised in 2010, *SUMO* is the bestselling book ever written about sumo and one of the funniest books written about any sport.

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