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The Phantom Lady, William Irish, 2008, Fiction, 188 pages. A killer can't just vanish! Henderson knew it, as he waited in the death house. Frantic searching had produced no other suspect, not even the tantalyzing girl in the bar. She

Blacklisting Myself Memoir of a Hollywood Apostate in the Age of Terror, Roger Lichtenberg Simon, 2008, Biography & Autobiography, 201 pages. Blacklisting Myself details Academy

Award-nominated screenwriter Roger L. Simon's odyssey from financier of the Black Panther Breakfast Program to darling of the political

Losers Blues, Paula Gosling, Jun 1, 1992, Fiction, 419 pages. .

The big fix, Roger Lichtenberg Simon, 1973, Fiction, 183 pages. .

The lost coast a Moses Wine mystery, Roger Lichtenberg Simon, 1997, Fiction, 249 pages. Having abandoned his radical image for a lucrative corporate investigations practice, private eye Moses Wine must confront his own past as he races against time to help his

A MOSES WINE MYSTERY It's not a good time to be Moses Wine. After the events of "California Roll," his life seems to have taken a turn for the worse-he's lost his high-paying security job at the Tulip Computer Corporation, his kids don't pay any attention to him, his love life's a mess, and his career as a top gumshoe is on the downslide. He's bored and depressed. So what...more A MOSES WINE MYSTERY It's not a good time to be Moses Wine. After the events of "California Roll," his life seems to have taken a turn for the worse-he's lost his high-paying security job at the Tulip Computer Corporation, his kids don't pay any attention to him, his love life's a mess, and his career as a top gumshoe is on the downslide. He's bored and depressed. So what else would a neurotic private eye do but see a shrink?

Unfortunately, his psychiatrist's idea of helping is to get him involved in a case. A comic-the straight man in the country's most popular comedy team-has jumped off a building to his death. But was it suicide? His wife thinks not, and the trail of clues soon leads Moses from the swank beaches of Los Angeles to the mean streets of the South Bronx, bringing him into contact with some of the toughest, sexiest, weirdest characters he's ever encountered. Well, if anything is guaranteed to end Moses' depression, it's this case. There's only one problem: it might also end his life....(less)

Simon's own experiences in therapy, as a writer for Richard Pryor and as a freelance prober of charity campaigns, furnish the plot in the new detective Moses Wine saga. Taking his psychiatrist's advice, Moses attacks depression by investigating Mike Ptak's death, on behalf of his widow Emily. Mike was the straight man for the famous, manic black comic Otis King, now a virtual prisoner in Dr. Bannister's clinic for drug addicts. With permission from the doctor, Moses questions Otis but the meeting is brief, wild and unproductive. The detective begins to share Emily's doubts that her husband was a suicidethe official verdictand follows other clues to the case. When Otis escapes and flies from Los Angeles to New York City, Moses follows him into frightening territory. The comic's brother is King King, powerful drug lord, and his soldiers send the sleuth posthaste out of town. Back home, he attends a benefit for Cosmic Aid, to feed the world's starving, the climax to the chilling, disturbingly realistic events that Simon spikes with earthy humor. Paperback rights to this and four previous Wine novels to Warner's.

I should have known this book would be bad from the first page. But the reviews were quite good so I gave it a chance. I now regret that decision as this is probably the worst book I have ever read. The plot is predictable, the style reminds me of a junior high-school essay, the characters are straight out of a bad episode of Law and Order Special Victims Unit.

Before a lip can be curled at a private eye who would resort to psychiatric help for depression, rather than the standard fifth of Jack Daniel's, Simon tosses in his first plot twist. The psychiatrist, who is himself crippled and confined to a wheelchair, asks Wine to take on the investigation of a possible murder.

It's one of those did-he-jump-or-was-he-pushed cases. The dead man, Mike Ptak, was the husband of a woman the psychiatrist is treating. Ptak was also the straight man and white half of a famous black and white comedy team that recently split up. The widow is convinced her husband did not commit suicide. She is less sure that his former black partner, Otis Pike, isn't responsible for his death.

Otis Pike, it turns out, is none too well wrapped either. Wine locates him in the Malibu Colony under the around-the-clock care of yet another psychiatrist who has all the earmarks of a charlatan. A drug- and booze-ridden wild man, Pike is trying to get himself sane and clean enough to fulfill the multimillion-dollar movie contract he has recently signed. As for his ex-partner, Pike feels only contempt, dead or alive.

With what the seasoned reader will recognize as several prime suspects already in view, Wine plunges into his investigation not only for the money, but also as a kind of occupational therapy. It takes him all over Los Angeles, which Simon describes in fresh and cunning detail, and to New York where the plot is seasoned with King King, Otis Pike's brother and putative emperor of the dope trade.

There are also some evil Koreans; a scam involving Bibles for Bucharest, and a refreshing new assistant for Wine in Chanta Barrault, a pretty French-Canadian and failed stand-up comic, whose secret longing is to be a private detective. Also back is Wine's septuagenarian Aunt Sonya, the irrepressible and unreconstructed Trotskyite. And as usual, there are enough dead bodies to keep things lively.

This may be the best of the recent adventures of Moses Wine, back-slid '60s radical and bemused traveler through the '80s, whose last steady job provided him with a BMW that he guiltily adores. All too conscious of the recent past, he is, \o7 Angst \f7 and all, a most contemporary and entertaining detective. As it must have been remarked before, Moses Wine ages well.

Roger Lichtenberg Simon (born November 22, 1943) is an American novelist and screenwriter. He was formerly CEO of PJ Media (formerly known as Pajamas Media). He is the author of ten novels, including the Moses Wine detective series, and six screenplays. He has served as president of the West Coast branch of PEN, a member of the Board of Directors of the Writers Guild of America, and was on the faculty of the American Film Institute and the Sundance Institute.[1]

Simon served as CEO of PJ Media until 2013. PJ Media is a media company and operator of an eponymous conservative opinion and commentary website. Founded in 2004 by a network primarily, but not exclusively, made up of conservatives and libertarians led by Simon, it was originally intended as a forum "with the intention of... aggregating blogs to increase corporate advertising and creating our own professional news service" but now includes an online television service, PJTV, as well.[2] PJ Media's name, formerly Pajamas Media, is derived from a dismissive comment made by former news executive vice-president Jonathan Klein of CBS during the Killian documents affair involving then-CBS anchorman Dan Rather in the fall of 2004: "You couldn't have a starker contrast between the multiple layers of checks and balances at 60 Minutes and a guy sitting in his living room in his pajamas".[3]

Roger L. Simon began to develop the idea for Moses Wine when Alan Rinzler, who was working as an editor at Straight Arrow Books, a venture by Rolling Stone, suggested that a book Simon had written about a veteran of the Bay of Pigs Invasion who goes crazy and kidnaps the son of a radical lawyer, had poor commercial prospects. Rinzler suggested that Simon do something "more Rolling Stone."[4]

In response, Simon, who had recently been exploring the works of Raymond Chandler and Ross Macdonald came up with the idea of updating the private-eye genre with a "hip, "political," and edgy "longhair." Six weeks later, Simon had finished the first Moses Wine novel, "The Big Fix." At the time, Simon was living in Echo Park, California, where many of the stories in the Moses Wine series take place. Moses Wine was different from other fictional detectives that Simon saw as devoid of ethnicity, family, friends, or interests outside of work. In Moses Wine, Simon created a character that was proudly Jewish, divorced, and given to smoking marijuana. The cases taken on by Moses Wine were also unconventional. "The Big Fix" focused on the case of an Abbie Hoffman-like radical prankster who attempts to derail the presidential candidacy of a liberal democrat. "The Big Fix" won several awards and became a best-seller. It was later turned into a popular movie starring Richard

Dreyfuss in 1978 for which Simon wrote the screenplay.[4]

Responding to speculation that he had uncovered information related to the killing of Alex Odeh, a regional director for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination League who had spoken out regarding the takeover of an Italian cruise-ship by Palestinians, Simon said that while he had visited Israel twice and talked to Jews and Arabs in the West Bank, he had not made any inquiries about the case. Simon said, "This is not fact, this is fiction. If I had accidentally uncovered any information, I would have gone right to the FBI. It's a capital case."[6]

At the start of California Roll Wine is feeling his age and recovering from a mid-life crisis when he is invited to Silicon Valley by Alex Wiznitsky, a young genius known as the Wiz, who wants him to become head of security for Tulip, a computer company that rose from backstreet obscurity into the Fortune 500 in only three years. Soon after, one of the Wiz's collaborators, another genius known as the Last Nerd, has disappeared. Wine eventually follows the case to Japan where roughly half the story takes place.[7]

In "The Straight Man" Wine has quit his posh job in corporate security and is back in West Los Angeles where he is half-heartedly doing private detective work from his apartment while trying to cure his mental angst with regular visits to a psychiatrist. This psychiatrist, himself disabled and using a wheelchair, asks Wine to investigate a possible murder. The dead man, Mike Ptak, was the husband of a patient being treated by the psychiatrist.

Simon says that the books are partially autobiographical. He said, "the series reflects where I was and where I am. It's my diary. I have to have some new thing happening in my life that engages me. I wrap a mystery around that. That's why there aren't more books. I've always been told that I should be doing one every year-and-a-half. I can't. I can't treat it like a television series, every week a new mystery."[4]

Among his other screenwriting credits are Bustin' Loose, with Richard Pryor, My Man Adam which Simon also directed, and Scenes from a Mall, with Woody Allen and Bette Midler. Simon also received story credit on A Better Life, a movie about an undocumented immigrant working as a gardener in Los Angeles while struggling to keep his son away from gangs. The film was directed by Chris Weitz;[8] lead actor Damian Bichir was nominated for a 2012 "Best Actor" Academy Award.

Simon remained conventionally liberal until the 1990s when he began asking questions in response to events such as the O.J. Simpson murder trial. Simon, a former civil rights activist in the 1960s[citation needed], said he was shocked by "the kind of essential dishonesty to justice" of Simpson's acquittal. Simon said, "I found the use of racial politics in the O.J. trial so repellent to me, morally, but also, I couldn't believe it was happening right there in front of my eyes. It started to shake up some things. And then came 9/11."[11]

Simon experienced a political transformation in which he felt alienated from what he saw as the excesses of the Left after the realities of the September 11 attacks affected him. He jokes, "I may be the first American writer who was profiled both by Mother Jones and National Review." He supports same-sex marriage and the War on Terror, and contends that those issues are linked.[12] He also edits a weblog. In 2005 he founded, with jazz guitarist Charles Johnson, webmaster of the Little Green Footballs weblog, a startup company called Pajamas Media. Pajamas Media expanded in 2008 into Internet television with Pajamas TV, now known as PJTV. Simon, with screenwriter Lionel Chetwynd, hosts PJTV's "Poliwood" show, covering the intersection of politics and Hollywood.

Born in New York City, New York, on November 22, 1943, Simon is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the Yale School of Drama. He has been married three times. He is currently married to Sheryl Longin, who wrote the screenplay for Dick, a film spoof of Watergate. In 1997, Simon directed the feature film Prague Duet[14] from a script he and Longin wrote.

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