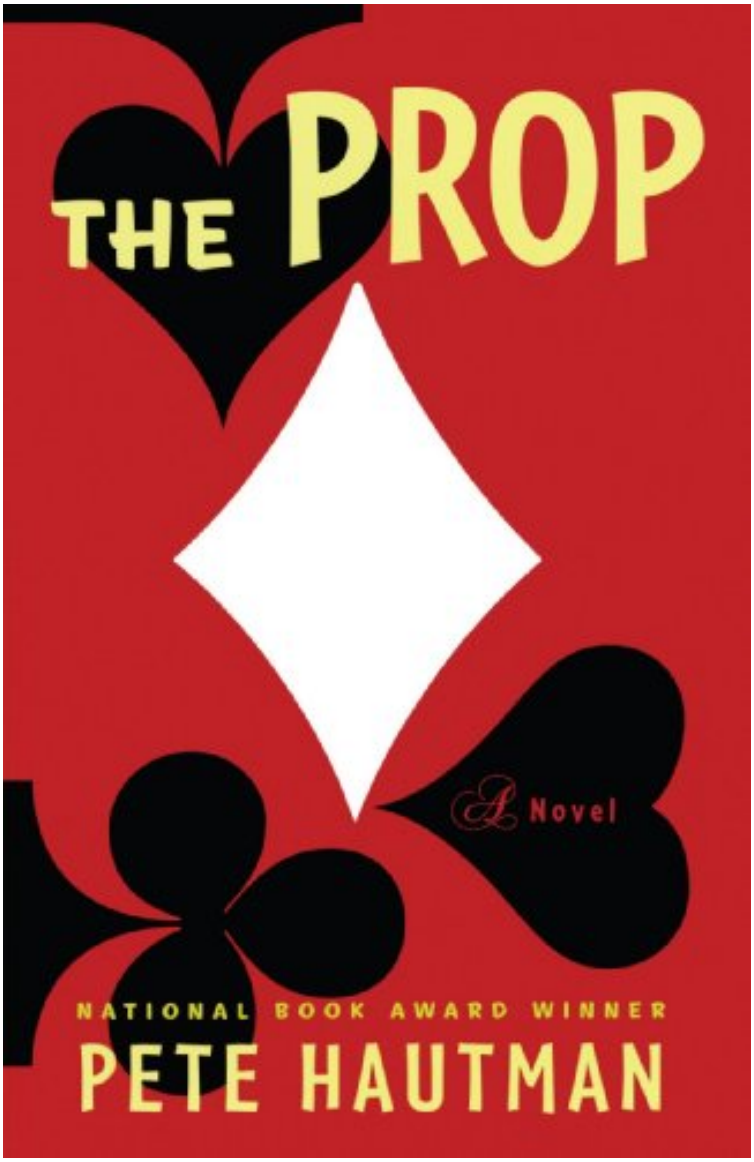
[Read download] The Prop: A Novel

The Prop: A Novel

Pete Hautman
*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD READ ONLINE

#2448437 in Books Pete Hautman 2006-04-03 2006-04-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.44 x .80 x 5.50l, .64 #File Name: 0743284658320 pagesThe Prop | File size: 77.Mb

Pete Hautman : The Prop: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Prop: A Novel:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hang On - This is a Good One!By John R. LinnellThis is my first Pete Hautman book in some time and it was well worth the wait. I enjoy books that involve gambling and are well written and this one surely qualifies. It is right up there with James Swain's numerous books involving Tony

Valentine.In using Patty Kane as the narrator, Hautman does a difficult thing. I could find no place in the book where I felt "Peekey" as she is called, was anything less than authentic.I spend half the year in Tucson, so I was familiar with the venues she described which were not fiction. However, the Casino Santa Cruz has yet to be built (which is probably a good thing) and while Hautman may live in Minnesota, he has certainly spent a fair amount of time in The Old Pueblo.If you like a book that is fast paced, has a lot of interesting characters and spins a yarn that keeps you turning the pages, this is for you. I loved it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very cool.By UbetcherassI will definitely read more Peter Hautman. This was a surprise--a recommendation by an author I respect who posted on Facebook. Very cool. One of the best pieces of crime fiction I've read in a good while. I just ordered another.2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not up to Hautman's standardsBy Dave SchwinghammerIn THE PROP, Pete Hautman spurns his usual Minnesota setting for Arizona. Also gone are the Fargo-esque characters, Joe Crow and Sam O'Gara. Poker also takes on a prominent role here; whereas usually it's only mentioned referentially. The main character here is also a woman, "Peeky" Kane, who works as a "prop" at an Indian gaming casino. A prop is a player employed by the casino to fill in when there aren't enough players. The action starts when Peeky becomes unintentionally involved in a cheating scam, then is witness to a casino holdup. A subplot involves Peeky's daughter who's addicted to crack cocaine. Patricia "Peeky" Kane is a very likable character. Hautman does a nice job with a woman's voice. When she's feeling stressed, she turns to Cherry Garcia ice cream and Vouvray (wine). She keeps thousands of dollars hidden away in shoe boxes and cookie jars. Cisco, the Santa Cruz elder who founded the casino, is also very well drawn. We're not quite sure the Santa Cruz indians ever existed; yet Cisco is able to convince the government to give him land upon which to build his casino. The subplot involving the daughter gets old after awhile; Peeky and her son-in-law, Eduardo, whom she calls "The Black Prince," keep trying to save Jaymie, the daughter, from herself, but she keeps running away. The secondary characters also leave something to be desired. Jaymie is a stereotype; Eduado doesn't do much except fight, and Peeky's lover, Buddy, just isn't believable. I would imagine Hautman wrote this because of the popularity of Holdem poker on TV, but I think he would have been better served if he'd stayed with his tried and true characters, some of whom have played poker professionally.

National Book Award winner Pete Hautman delivers a fast-paced mystery set in the torrid, unforgiving Southwestern desert, where the stakes are sky high and all bets are off. Peeky Kane is a prop player at an Arizona casino owned by the Santa Cruz tribe. Her job is to play poker. She makes a handsome living off the suckers who populate the card room. Life is sweet. But something's not right at Casino Santa Cruz. When Peeky inadvertently finds herself in a fixed game and comes away a couple thousand dollars richer, she finds herself drawn unwittingly toward the dark side of professional poker. Peeky has always thought of herself as a straight shooter, but now things aren't so clear. And they're about to get a lot murkier. When a band of clown-masked robbers makes off with millions of the casino's dollars and leaves behind four corpses, Peeky recognizes one of the robbers as a casino employee, and fears that one of her closest loved ones might also be involved. That same day, Peeky's son-in-law turns up to tell her that Jaymie, her beloved daughter, has been stealing money from Peeky for years to feed a crack habit. Numb from these revelations, Peeky is compelled to action by an unlikely source when the most powerful member of the Santa Cruz tribe calls upon her to help him save his troubled casino. Peeky must draw on her years of reading poker faces and playing the odds to save the casino, her daughter, and herself.

From Publishers WeeklyHautman's Godless (2005) won a National Book Award for Young People's Fiction, but his impressive, sharply written new crime thriller is definitely for adultsespecially those who would rather play poker than do anything else. Peeky Kane, an attractive woman in her 40s, is a prophired to keep shorthanded poker games going at a casino owned by a Native American tribe near Tucson, Ariz. She gets paid $110 per eight-hour-shift plus health insurance, keeps any money she wins at the tables (and must make up any losses out of her own pocket). Because she's shrewd and talented, Peeky has managed to put together a small nest egg, some of which goes to her troubled 21-year-old daughter, Jaymie. Peeky's lover, Buddy Balcomb, is also a poker addict, whose own winning streak may be over. Peeky's life takes a few sharp turns after some crooked dealers find a new way to steal money and make her an unwilling accomplice. As this short but action-packed novel shows, Hautman is the kind of cool, expert player who keeps the cards coming. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From Booklist*Starred * Hautman won a National Book Award for the YA novel Godless (2004), and he plays a lot of poker, so it's no surprise he's an assured storyteller who knows his way around the felt. His latest poker-themed crime novel, with its crisp pacing, slick plot, and canny characters, will have readers already caught up in the Texas Hold 'Em craze nodding along with knowing pleasure while it lights a fire under everyone else to buy a rack of chips. Patty "Peeky" Kane works as a "prop" at an Arizona Indian casino, which means she fills out shorthanded poker games on behalf of management but plays--and wins--with her own stake. A cop's widow who was briefly on the force herself, Peeky is cruising into middle age when she notices a couple of dealers scamming jackpots. She keeps quiet, but then an insane posse of clowns steals a million bucks from the cage and kills several people in the process. Signs point to an inside job, and Peeky finds herself both under suspicion and roped into investigating the crime--even as she

must track down her troubled daughter with a potentially violent son-in-law. There's a lot of muss and a little fuss, but Peeky maintains her wry, letting-it-all-hang-out vibe come hell or bad boyfriends. As an addition to the mystery game, she's as welcome as pocket aces. Frank SennettCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "With The Prop, Pete Hautman has fashioned a kick-ass, corkscrew crime thriller that's as addictive as the dizzying, go-for-broke gambling milieu it portrays. The heroine, Peeky Kane, is tough, engaging, and wonderfully flawed, and I hope to see a lot more of her in the years to come." -- Dennis Lehane, author of Mystic River