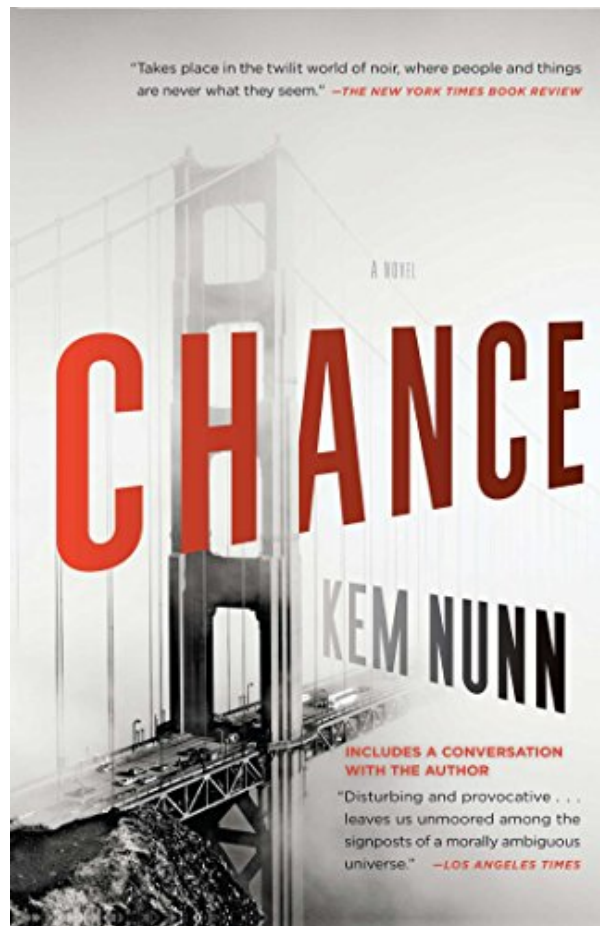
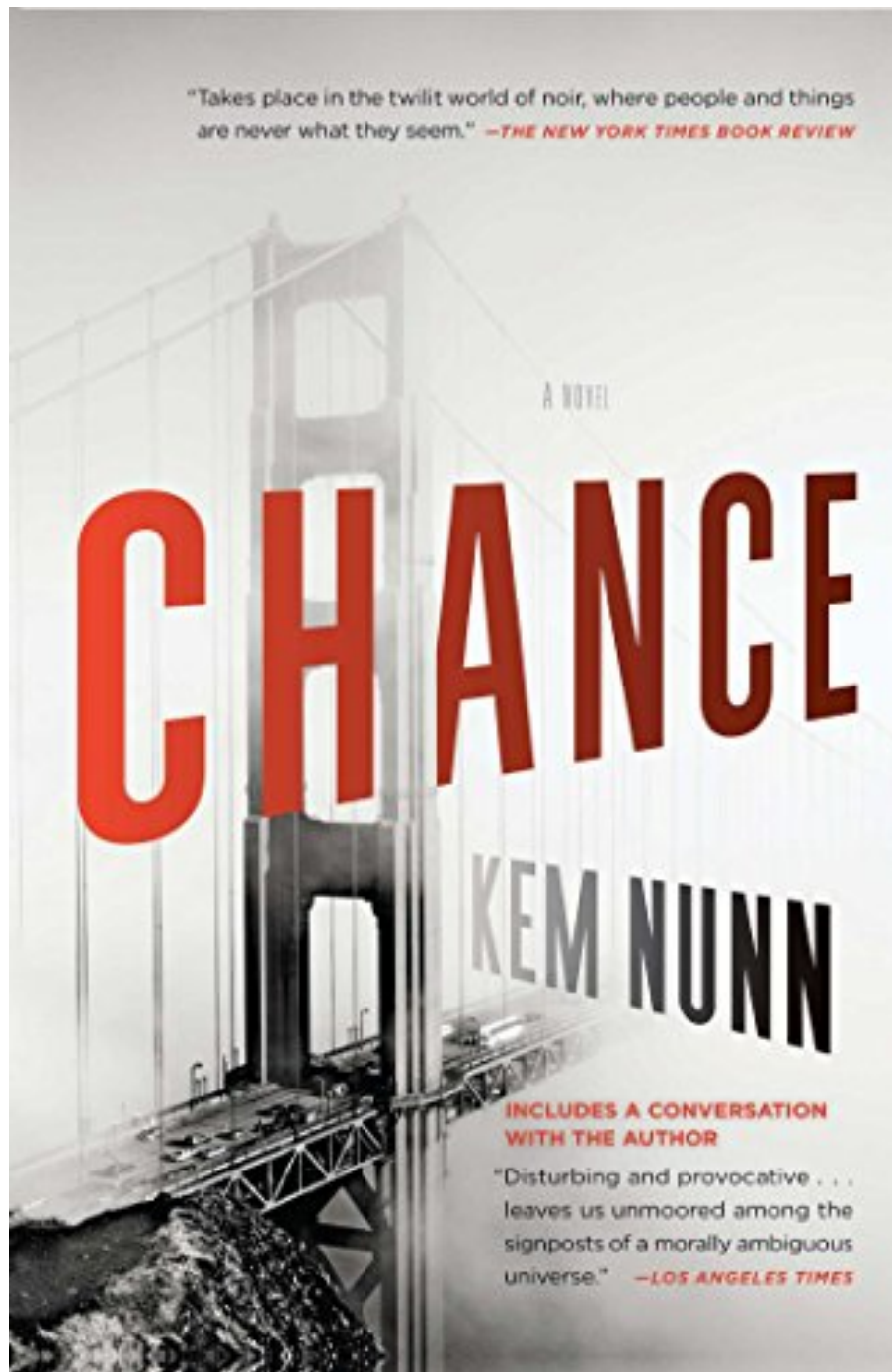


CHANCE: A NOVEL BY KEM NUNN



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CHANCE: A NOVEL BY KEM NUNN PDF

From Los Angeles Times Book Prize winner Kem Nunn and “principal heir to the tradition of Raymond Chandler and Nathanael West” (The Washington Post)—an intense psychological suspense novel about a San Francisco neuropsychiatrist who becomes sexually involved with a woman suffering from multiple personality disorder, whose pathological ex-husband is an Oakland homicide detective.

A dark tale involving psychiatric mystery, sexual obsession, fractured identities, and terrifyingly realistic violence—Chance is set amid the back streets of California’s Bay Area, far from the cleansing breezes of the ocean. Dr. Eldon Chance, a neuropsychiatrist, is a man primed for spectacular ruin. Into Dr. Chance’s blighted life walks Jaclyn Blackstone, the abused, attractive wife of an Oakland homicide detective, a violent and jealous man. Jaclyn appears to be suffering from a dissociative identity disorder. In time, Chance will fall into bed with her—or is it with her alter ego, the voracious and volatile Jackie Black? The not-so-good doctor, despite his professional training, isn’t quite sure—and thereby hangs his fascination with her. Meanwhile, Chance also meets a young man named D, a self-styled, streetwise philosopher skilled in the art of the blade. It is around this trio of unique and dangerous individuals that long guarded secrets begin to unravel, obsessions grow, and the doctor’s carefully arranged life comes to the brink of implosion.

Amid San Francisco’s fluid, ever-shifting fog, in the cool, gray city of love, Dr. Chance will at last be forced to live up to his name. Chance is a twisted, harrowing, and impossible-to-put-down head trip through the fun house of fate, mesmerizing until the very last page.

- Sales Rank: #95912 in Books
- Brand: Nunn, Kem
- Published on: 2014-12-09
- Released on: 2014-12-09
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .80" w x 5.25" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 336 pages

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27 of 32 people found the following review helpful.

Kem Nunn's Homerun

By christopher horn

Kem Nunn is not as prolific as a James Patterson (frequently co-authored) or a Michael Connelly, churning out a book annually or biannually. This is a calculated, measured, researched, mystery novel. At times, laugh-out loud funny. This novel is a microcosm of life in the second decade of the 2000's. Addressing divorce, psychotherapy, bureaucracy and America's ever changing ethnic landscape. Peeling back layers of when the formerly well-heeled find themselves down at the heels. Much like Mr. Nunn's other novels, e.g. Tijuana Straits, the locales (Cali/Mex Border v. San Francisco) are as much characters, in these novels, as well as the main protagonists Fahey & Chance, respectively. For the money, Mr. Nunn's releases are a must read. There isn't a writer I've read who understands the complexities and undercurrents of the male psyche and what men will do to redeem themselves for their transgressions. Simply said, This novel is worth your time and money.

17 of 20 people found the following review helpful.

In the tradition of Robert Stone

By Rob

I love the story line of an American male getting himself in over his head. Embracing noir but not limited by it, Nunn guides the reader to an exciting conclusion, but the protagonist has no guide, except a dysfunctional paramilitary under life hero, a shady antiques dealer and the classic office assistant. The hero is a sinner and the reader is a voyeur. It's a train wreck, page by page. Dr. Chance, who you might catch yourself thinking is a hapless detective rather than a neuropsychiatrist, lets himself descend into a bottomless pit, populated by evil characters, and in a twist that achieves some kind of grandeur, the anti-hero Blackstone surprises us all. This is a good story well told. It's not a work of location fiction, as were Dogs of Winter and even Tijuana Straits, but the characters are superb.

16 of 19 people found the following review helpful.

Not one I would recommend

By bionichands

I'm kind of blown away by all of the five star reviews on here. My reaction to CHANCE was basically, "meh". I came close to not finishing it, and it's definitely not one I would recommend to a friend. I gave it three stars, because even though I didn't really love the story, Kem Nunn is obviously a talented writer. Much like his other books, the characters are fascinating and I love how bits of them are revealed over the course of the story. The characters of Dr. Chance and Big D in particular are what kept me going through this book. Every time I was ready to bail out, something would happen with those two that kept me reading.

I just read TAPPING THE SOURCE a week or two ago, and that book truly was a five star novel from start to finish. Maybe reading them back to back, I was more disappointed by CHANCE than some other readers.

So what specifically didn't I like about the book? For starters, just from my personal taste, there are three plot devices that I hate: time travel, amnesia and split personalities. This book unfortunately involves the last one, and I'm not sure what it really adds to the story. My bigger criticism though is that the story just seemed to go out of focus so much. There is a pretty clear and sometimes interesting plot in here involving a misguided love interest and a dangerous bad cop/husband. I think if the book had stayed with that story more clearly it would have been more enjoyable. Instead it strays at times into musings or events happen in unclear ways.

Anyway, it's not a bad book, but in all honesty I've read many better novels lately, and this isn't one I would be quick to recommend to anyone.

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