



Horse Latitudes

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Danny DiMedici's ex-wife Laura is missing, there's a corpse in her blood-spattered beach house, and Danny is the prime suspect. Desperate to get to Laura before the cops, Danny returns to the underworld he had known as a drug-dealer, a world of fast sex and hard drugs, casual violence and sudden death. Danny walks the knife-edge between law and order and dark dealings, but as the line begins to blur he must decide, once and for all, where he stands.

Horse Latitudes Details

Date : Published June 5th 2003 by Arrow (first published March 1st 1990)

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Author : Robert Ferrigno

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Crime, Thriller, Suspense

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From Reader Review Horse Latitudes for online ebook

Chuck says

Offbeat murder mystery. Ex-drug dealer's ex-wife's boyfriend is murdered in her home.

LJ says

HORSE LATITUDES - G

Ferrigno, Robert - Standalone

Retired drug dealer Danny Dimedici passes the days by swimming, spending what's left of his ill-gotten capital, and mooning over his divorce. When ex-wife Lauren disappears from her beach home and a dead scientist is found hanging naked from her ceiling, Danny is dragged into a silly extortion scheme over a pop-science miracle drug.

It starts off well but then becomes a bit of a mess.

Tony says

HORSE LATITUDES. (1990). Robert Ferrigno. ***1/2.

This is a re-read for me. I was lucky enough to be at a reading/signing back in the day when the author was on his first book tour. So, of course, I have a signed first. This was Ferrigno's first book of fiction, and I was suitably impressed. We managed to meet a few times at signings, and I became a fan of his work. He is particularly good at creating settings for his characters to play out their lines. The actual plot of this novel has pieces of lots of other good crime novels in it, but it is Ferrigno's settings and dialogs that set it apart. It is always fun to go back and re-read an author's early work, and this book was clearly worth it. I believe that if you read this novel you will soon be on the look-out for other books by Ferrigno.

Canavan says

☆☆☆½

Ron says

I thought this was a great little thriller when I first read it, full of delightfully gruesome tales from history. Sadly, no one has been able to download a cover image for this little gem (which is the same as the pink hued HC edition).

Alex Marshall says

Great shoot-'em-up (in all senses), carve-'em-up thriller from the 70s. Can't remember a thing about it, but I really enjoyed it. Did he write anything else? Ah, yes, about 15 more. If I see one on the \$! shelf, I'll pop.

Scoats says

This is another book on our shelves that I have no idea how long I have owned it or how I obtained it. I never heard of the book or the author prior to reading this. I suspect I paid next to nothing for this book.

Sometimes the best things in life are free (or close to it). *The Horse Latitudes* is one of them. After three books that in order were disappointing, given up as not worth reading, and given up on until reading the prequel first, this one really hit the spot.

I was hooked from even before the book started. Before the story begins, there is 1/2 page description of the Horse Latitudes.

The Horse Latitudes was an area of the Atlantic Ocean where the trade winds died, becalming sailing ships on their journey to the New World.

To get underway, it was necessary for the sailors to lighten ship by throwing part of their load overboard - furniture, bolts of cloth, crates of china, even the cannon. The most severe and profound doldrums could be escaped only by abandoning their most precious cargo - horses.

Once the frightened animals were pushed over the side, the sails began to fill. The horses swam after the ships for miles before they drowned. Their screams haunted the superstitious sailors for the rest of the voyage.

Wow. This book never let up. A great plot, well drawn characters, a great pace. This book is a masterful mystery thriller. I'm giving this the full 5 stars since I can't imagine how this book could have been better. It's masterful.

Written and set in 1990, this book covers the same ritzy ares of metro LA that T. Jefferson Parker writes so elegantly about. Ferrigno and Parker's writings remind me of each other. I almost wonder if they are the same person. Based on what I remember of a newspaper interview with Parker decades ago, I suspect they aren't.

Jim says

Read this when I was living in the setting, in Huntington Beach. That was the only reason why I read it.

Tim says

was just packing this book off to a charity store when I decided to take a look at it to see if it had held up ... was struck anew by the title and the author's preface/explanation:

"The Horse Latitudes was an area of the Atlantic Ocean where the trade winds died, befalling sailing ships on their journey to the New World.

"To get under way, it was necessary for the sailors to lighten ship by throwing part of their load overboard....The most severe and profound doldrums could be escaped only by abandoning their most precious cargo--horses.

Once the frightened animals were pushed over the side, the sails began to fill. The horses swam after the ships for miles before they drowned. Their screams haunted the superstitious sailors for the rest of their voyage."

Haunting indeed. A fine SoCal noir novel from 1990.

March 21, 2012: Getting the book off the shelf prompted me to read it again. Excellent!

Maddy says

RATING: 2.75
