

Book Views

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Borderlands: Riding The Edge Of America

By Derek Lundy

The year he turned 60, investigative reporter Derek Lundy embarked on a unique adventure to take a firsthand look at the borders of the United States and her

neighbours, Mexico and Canada, from the vantage point of his trusty motorcycle. In his new book, *Borderlands*, he traces this odyssey, looking at the shared interests and vast differences between the three countries and examining the U.S. preoccupation with border security and safety which has changed since the events of 9/11.

This was a personal, life-affirming trip for Derek as well. Three close friends had died the previous year and he needed to get out in the world and grab onto

something challenging to his sense of adventure and his interest in history and journalism. By riding a bike he found more accessibility to places and people but also, sometimes, a wariness of an “outsider” riding into town. The trip was difficult both in terms of the terrain, with some off-road biking, mountains and deserts, and the weather which varied from freezing rain and snow to baking hot temperatures in the south. The book is a fascinating story of his personal journey and also his

reporting of the politics of the border.

Lundy has written several other books including *Godforsaken Sea*, an account of the Vendee Globe around-the-world single-handed yacht race and *The Bloody Red Hand*, his look at the history of Northern Ireland from the point of view of his ancestors.

Knopf Canada, 2010, \$32

Reviewed by Catherine Randall of Curiosity House Books & Gallery, Creemore

Bruno – Chief of Police & Bruno – The Dark Vineyard

By Martin Walker

Great wine, sumptuous food, idyllic location, and a body or two – well who could ask for anything more in this new page-turning series of crime books.

Captain Bruno Correges, Chief of Police in sleepy, little St. Denis, a town in France's beautiful Dordogne region, is a gentle, caring and respected policeman but make no mistake, he is unflinching and decisive with his investigative skills.

Bruno – Chief of Police, the first book in the series, deals with resentments left over from World War 2 when a local Algerian man is murdered. Marry the his-

torical detail with the atmospheric smells and tastes of market stalls in rural France and you'll be salivating for the next book.

Eco-commerce, winemaking production and a body in a vat of wine challenge Bruno in the second book, *Bruno – The Dark Vineyard*, which is just hot off the press. And to top it all off, there is a Canadian connection with one of the main characters!

Author Martin Walker has imbued this charming series with engaging characters and interesting storylines. See for yourself why the staff at BookLore choose Bruno as a favourite hand-sell.

Harper Collins, *Chief of Police* \$13.9;

***The Dark Vineyard* \$27.99**

Reviewed by Nancy Frater of BookLore, Orangeville

How to Paint with Acrylics

By Peter John Reid

Landscape artist Peter John Reid has collected years of teaching notes into one comprehensive self-published volume of lessons, exercises, observations and demonstrations using acrylics to produce striking art. Illustrated throughout with full colour examples of his own art, *How to Paint with Acrylics* is not only an excellent compilation of acrylic techniques, it also provides a unique perspective on painting. The author, a well-known local artist, reveals step by step how he produces his own award-winning works.

“A big part of this book is about seeing colour,” says Reid. He discusses hue, value, saturation and contrast and describes how to use this information to match every possible

colour with acrylic paints. Colour charts are included as well as heavy paper worksheets for applying mixed paints to create hands-on colour samples. He also describes the importance of developing critical skills and includes a list to consider when analyzing and evaluating paintings, followed by perceptive critiques of two of his own works.

“You can do a lot of things incorrectly in a painting,” he muses. “This book is intended to help you maximize your ideas, know how to fix things that aren't quite how you envisioned, and know what you did right when it does work.” *How to Paint with Acrylics* is more than a personal perspective on creating art. Reid, who was formally trained, reveals how he paints and encourages readers to try a wide variety of approaches to enhance their own artwork. Combining painting techniques with insight into one artist's approach to his work, *How to Paint with Acrylics* is an excellent addition to every artist's reference library, from beginner to advanced.

Self published, 2009, \$35

Reviewed by Maryann Thomas of The Ginger Press Bookshop and Café, Owen Sound