

Book Reviews

Kathy Campbell, Book Reviews Editor

Donnelly, Keith. (2014). *Three Deuces Down*. Montgomery, AL: New South Books. 272 pages. ISBN: 9781588383105

Three Deuces Down is the first book in the Donald Youngblood Mysteries series. Joseph Fleet's daughter and son-in-law are missing along with nearly three million dollars, and Youngblood, a former Wall Street whiz turned private investigator, is hired to find them. His investigation leads him to Connecticut, New York, Ireland, and Columbia. It seems that the son-in-law, Ronald Fitzgerald Fairchild, is not who he claims to be and appears to be involved in unsavory business ventures to boot. Is Fleet's daughter guilty of stealing from her father? Are the Fairchilds alive? Will Youngblood find them? These questions are all answered in this fast-paced novel that will hold readers' interest from start to finish.

Donnelly peoples his book with interesting characters. Donald Youngblood might live in the small town of Mountain Center, Tennessee, but he has many helpful friends throughout the country (his investment recommendations have made several of these people very rich). His partner is a full-blooded Cherokee Indian with an artistic bent, while Youngblood's mentor is a former TBI agent who, though confined to a wheelchair, still has a taste for investigating. They are aided in their investigation by Joseph Fleet's assistant, a capable man with many talents, a FBI agent friend from collage, and another old college friend of Columbian heritage whose family business interests are not all legitimate. Over the course of the novel, Youngblood also falls in love with a female police officer whose deceased husband might have been involved with Ronnie Fairchild.

Keith Donnelly grew up in East Tennessee and currently spends part of the year in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. According to the author, his goal was to write "to write something that I would want to read myself." (<http://www.amazon.com/Keith-Donnelly/e/B001JP7TBS>). . . . *Three Deuces Down* will appeal to all readers with an interest in mysteries. (The men are manly and the women attractive.) Because of its setting in East Tennessee and its appeal . . . , Donnelly's book can be heartily recommended for public libraries as well as academic libraries with popular reading collections.

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Published in Tennessee Libraries (65.2 and 64.4)

The link for the review in context is:

http://www.tnla.org/?page=TL65_1_bookreviews#Russell