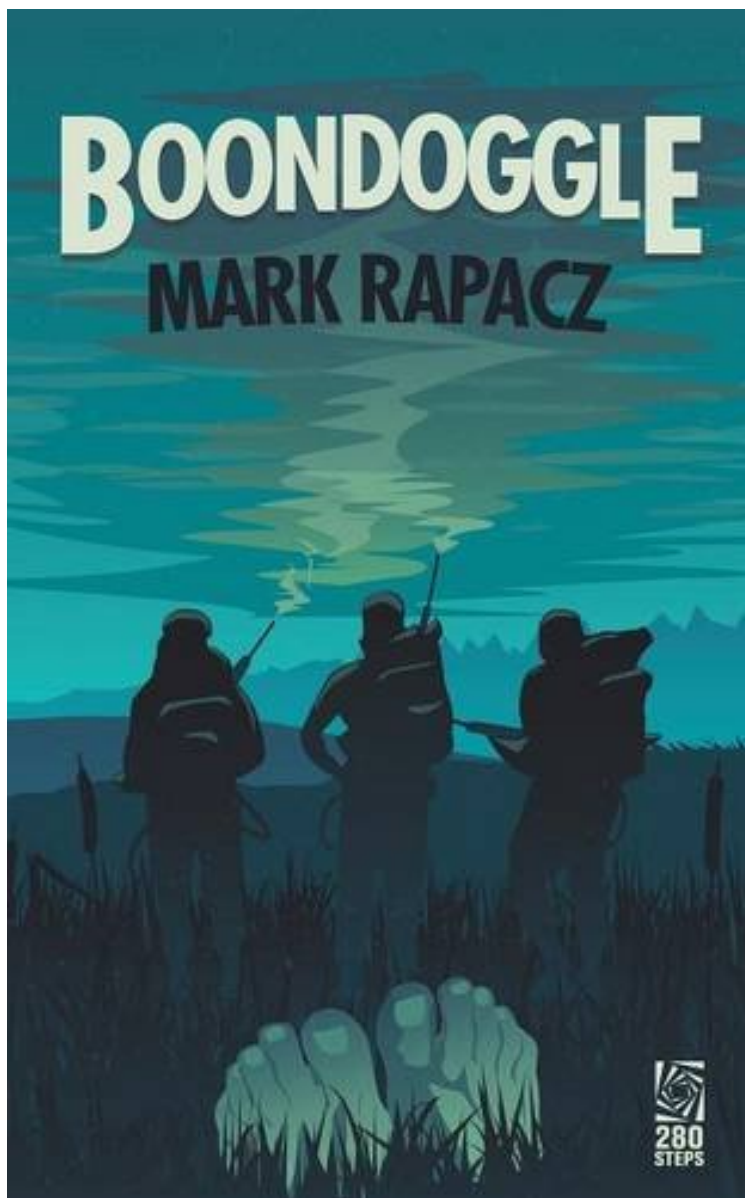


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## Boondoggle

Mark Rapacz

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**Mark Rapacz : Boondoggle** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boondoggle:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Forbidden Triangle of the CorruptBy David P. NemethWhen I first started reading Mark Rapacz' Boondoggle (280 Steps), I did not have a good feeling. I did not want this book to

go all cliché on me — if I wanted something like that I'd watch an Angelina Jolie movie. But it didn't take Rapacz to show me that wasn't going to happen. Note: I should have a little more trust in the publisher 280 Steps. Mack, the main character, has joined a company that kills mosquitos in Minnesota. He is an aimless twenty-something, grieving over his father's sudden death and he lives with his mother who has been stuck in housecoat shock for months since the death of her husband. Rapacz opens Mack's inner dialogues to the reader as we learn of his anxiety about . . . well, everything. "He was always reminded of that when he and his parents went southside to visit his uncles on his mother's side. He couldn't even keep up with those men. They all had blue-collar jobs, spoke blue-collar ways, and hand opinions about sports, politics, and women. Mack didn't have opinions about any of that. He knew his uncles thought he was soft, thought he was too rich, living in that rich neighborhood, with a dad who had a rich job and friendly face and who seemed to get along with everybody. It was all weakness to them. The only thing that protected Mack from his uncles was his mom and his aunts. They all adored him. He was their Little Mack. Sweet and quiet and when he was young, the cutest kid in the room. He grew up, sort of. Got to be about an inch taller than his aunts, which seemed manly enough. His uncles were all six-foot something. His dad was also six-foot something. Mack didn't know how he missed out on that." Boondoggle focuses on a few mosquito-killing teams who bust "their a\*\* so folks could comfortably roast pig parts." But then they discover a body of a young woman in the swamps off the interstate — it's not the first and it won't be the last. Even though they helped the police, they knew there was something amiss, they knew they were in deep s\*\*\*\*. As one co-worker said, "It's the forbidden triangle of the corrupt. Mob. Government. Corporation. And we're the pawns. Don't you see it? We're the henchman." Boondoggle could have gone down the road of a New York Times Best Seller, but it did not. It was better than that. Rapacz has written a wonderful character study of a man who has difficulties in connecting with society though he continually tries to do so. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Crime Fiction With Heart By Customer In BOONDOGGLE dead bodies and humorous, big hearted ennui pile up in equal measure. Rapacz has written a well-crafted crime novel with heart, set in the unique environment of mosquito control. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful, disjointed, disorienting and angry By Paul J. Garth Excellent - incredible writing lain over a schizophrenic story that leaves more questions than answers. If you're looking for a clean, straightforward story, look elsewhere; if you're looking for a beautiful, disjointed, disorienting, and movingly angry novel, check out Boondoggle.

A tale of murder, conspiracy, heroics, and mosquito eradication for fans of Fargo, The Big Lebowski and The 39 Steps. Young women keep showing up dead in the swamplands area of Oslo, Minnesota and nobody seems to care-- except for Mack Harrison and his crewmates working as mosquito eradicators; aspiring hit man Jerry, stoner burnout Smokey, absent-minded Sid, and yoga-practicing foreman Lorne. The more the bodies pile up the more they start to think they should do something about it. Maybe. This is just how things are in Oslo. Dead girls in swamps are like the rising sun. Still, Mack seems to be the only guy bothered by it all, but he's new to the crew--recently moved from Chicago--and those big town ideals don't always mesh well with Oslo values because there's plenty he just doesn't understand. Mack and the crew are pretty sure they know who or what is behind these deaths. They have theories. Could be Sheriff John. Could be the new med-tech giant MedSci. Could be Metro Area Vector Control itself--Mack and the crew do have the midnight task of disposing of these bodies. Someday, they might put theory to action, but they are getting a pretty good paycheck for not doing much of anything. So, not a big deal, really.