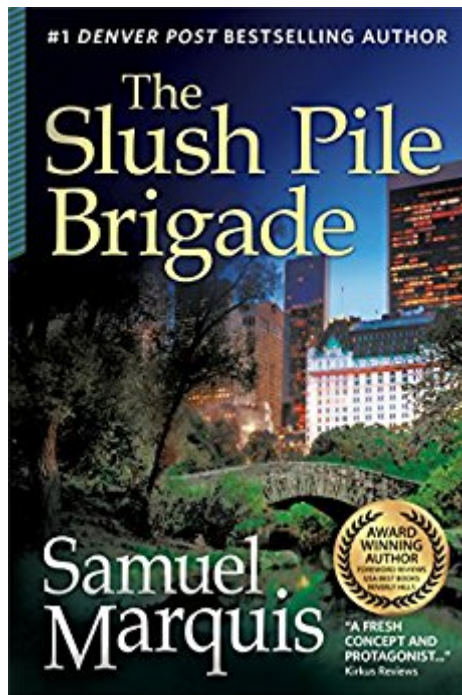


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The Slush Pile Brigade: An Action-Packed Suspense Thriller (A Nick Lassiter Novel Book 1)



Synopsis

Denver Post Bestseller! Finalist, Beverly Hills Book Awards. A fresh concept and protagonist | an exciting actioner. --Kirkus

THE GOOD NEWS: HIS BOOK A BEST-SELLER. **THE BAD: HE'S BEEN BOOK-JACKED!** When he loses both job and girlfriend "oh, yes" and also lands in jail in a few short hours, Nick Lassiter's thirtieth quickly shapes up as Worst Birthday Ever. But Lassiter still has one last hope "the thriller he hasn't yet sold. And then Worst Birthday graduates to Worst Day of His Life. Because he discovers not only has his manuscript been stolen, it was lifted by the Australian answer to James Patterson, and is now set to be the bestseller of the year, as the work of the world's second best-selling author. By anyone's standards, Lassiter's got to do something. Sue, maybe; at the very least kick the thief's audacious posterior. But, actually, all he really wants is an apology. As a high-level CIA official puts it: "He's either the most principled person on the planet" or the most naive. Next thing you know he's barging into forbidden publishing circles with a brigade of intriguing and offbeat buddies, trying to get his mea culpa from the illustrious Cameron Barnaby Beckett IV, and Beckett's deliciously unctuous agent, Anton De Benedictis. But unbeknownst to Lassiter and his slushpile brigade, his simple need to hear "I'm sorry" is seriously bollixing-up a long-planned CIA operation. Something else he doesn't know: the high-level spy who's running it is none other than his estranged father, only one of many amusing connections that make this satirical thriller a complex and many-twisted page-turner.

Marquis is the kind of artful and wily author who seems at first to be taking you on a nice walk in the garden, when suddenly you notice you're actually on a towering cliff overlooking jagged rocks with a 16-wheeler barreling towards you. You never know what twist he's going to take, what daunting prospect lies ahead, but, since his story, bolstered by fine and compelling writing, barrels along at the speed of that 16-wheeler, you're not only happy to be along for the ride, you can't stop anyhow. Among the many delights you'll encounter "not only the requisite thrills and surprises (more than usual if we do say so!), but lavishly applied sly wit, including a laugh-out-loud skewering of publishing-as-we-know-it. Readers of both humorous thrillers and their more butch cousins, hard-boiled thrillers, will eat this one up, especially fans of the late great comic spymaster Ross Thomas, and the ever subtle Thomas Perry. Those who love Timothy Hallinan, Don Winslow, and Harlan Coben will find themselves hooked as well; even aficionados of the more hard-boiled guys like Barry Eisler and Daniel Silva will find much to admire. And all will want to move on to: **SPECIAL READING BONUS** "THE BOOK WITHIN THE BOOK! Fortunately, Author Marquis didn't stop with The Slushpile Brigade. He also wrote the pirated book within the book "the one those New York

slickers stole from Nick Lassiter. Get Blind Thrust to see what all the fuss was about!

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Customer Reviews

Five days in June. For novelist Samuel Marquis, that's all it took to spin a fast-paced novel set in New York City. With exploding cars and car chases, intriguing historical references, made-in-Colorado characters, trigger-happy plot lines and rich descriptions of New York City's nooks and crannies, this is an entertaining adventure packed into 373 pages. The book's central thesis — that 30-year-old Colorado writer Nick Lassiter's novel has been stolen and plagiarized by a world famous author — quickly evolves into a break-neck chase through Manhattan streets and landmarks (some real, some created in the author's rich imagination). The Russian Mob, a CIA director (Nick's estranged father), an ex-girlfriend and Nick's childhood chums all get into the act and keep the story rolling through the pages. It is quite a cast of characters — and character development is a strong suit of Marquis's. Whether it's CIA operative Austin Brewbaker, Aussie bestseller Cameron Beckett (suffering from writer's block), or Squelch, the pony-tailed,

enigmatic professor of Anarchy Stories, Marquisâ€™s characters literally leap from the page. Marquis also has the great writerâ€™s skill of grabbing a readerâ€™s attention at the end of a chapter and compelling them to further reading. While this led to many late nights reading by headlamp while my spouse snoozed, I raced through the story in five days, keeping pace with the bookâ€™s chronology. In short, I found it difficult to put down *The Slush Pile Brigade*. One of my favorite scenes took place the evening that Beckett was to be feted for the success of the novel he had stolen from Lassiter.

An Australian novelist, said to be second most popular author in the world, steals a manuscript from the slush pile in his agentâ€™s office when he has writerâ€™s block. He picks the right book, because he turns it into a best seller, but more importantly he picks the wrong book, because three years later the writer who was plagiarized comes looking for an apology, setting into motion a chain of events that brings death and destruction to everyoneâ€™s world, especially the agentâ€™s. The protagonist loses his job and girlfriendâ€”she actually brings a new guy to same restaurant he always took her toâ€”not cool, girl. He snaps and is forced to run from the police to Noo Yawk, where he plans to confront the agent, and the author who happens to be in town. Before itâ€™s over his deep-CIA father, a Russian mobster, his three best buds, and the girl from his past that got away are sucked into the conflict as well. Though Noo Yawk is one of my least favorite cities, the author showcases it lovingly, citing some old famous buildings as well as plenty of Central Park; my favorite was the walk through the dinosaur area in the museum, which fit the conversation perfectly. Big twists abound, like when he finds out his fatherâ€™s involved in the whole mess. The first half is more comedic than anything else, and itâ€™s fun to read the shenanigans, in a butt monkey kinda way. But then it gets serious spy in a hurry, with people dying or being maimed, and some maybe dying or maybe not. There was one part that annoyed the hell out of me. Not wanting to spoilerâ€”is that a real verb?â€”suffice to say that the protagonist finds himself in trouble that wasnâ€™t foreseen, but ends up surviving it differently than we were led to believe.

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