

PublishersWeekly.com



By calling the incoming chief of police in Provincetown a “washashore,” Mirabile establishes the tension between this New England coastal town’s distrustful insularity and the cowboy swagger of Silas Lopez, an outsider who’s expected to adapt to entrenched local customs. Mirabile opens *The Washashore* by tossing Lopez directly into his first hurricane, which highlights how the windswept shores of Massachusetts are a world away from the dusty Southwestern ranches of his youth. This clash of iconic American imagery perfectly launches the Lopez series, and Mirabile’s debut mystery also establishes the detective as stoic, principled, and carrying the kind of damage that surfaces at inconvenient moments.

Lopez’s first case is the fatal hit-and-run of a local near Town Hall, a routine investigation that spirals into something far uglier. Beneath the briny air and shingled cottages lies a world of human smuggling, drug trafficking, and gang activity. Mirabile’s pacing is patient and relentless, and he maintains momentum even as numerous subplots compete for breathing room. And his Provincetown isn’t simply a sun-drenched tourist backdrop: the rugged breakwater, the floating historic houses, the wharf in all its working grit—the town breathes.

Along with an intimate sense of place and a protagonist worth following, Mirabile digs into Provincetown society, which includes artists, fishermen, and a vibrant LGBTQ+ community (on the same spot where Puritans landed the *Mayflower*). Lopez must navigate all of these diverse populations while managing an inexperienced staff, his short fuse, and unexpected feelings for Wren Bradford, a sharp-eyed social worker and photographer. Their romance is warm and unhurried, and her presence adds a welcome tenderness to this gritty, small-town noir. Contrasting an idyllic setting with a dark underworld, *The Washashore* finds its moral center in shoot-from-the-hip lawman Silas Lopez, and Mirabile effectively sets the stage for him to return for more wrangling in the future.

Takeaway: Atmospheric mystery series launches with fish-out-of-water detective.

Comparable Titles: Robert B. Parker’s Jesse Stone series; R.J. McMillen’s Dan Connor Mysteries.

Production grades

Cover: **A**

Design and typography: **A**

Editing: **A-**

Marketing copy: **A**