



## TITLE INFORMATION

### **THE WASHASHORE**

Christopher Mirabile  
Slack Tide Press (430 pp.)  
\$19.99 paperback  
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## BOOK REVIEW

Provincetown's new police chief must whip the local force into shape while tackling a fatal hit-and-run case in Mirabile's vivid series opener.

Silas Lopez has just settled into his new role as chief of police in Provincetown, Massachusetts, when a fatal late-night hit-and-run accident lands him in the middle of a big case during one of the busiest times of the year. ("This wasn't just a traffic crash. He could feel it. Something was off.") For Silas, the event is a chance to prove himself as a detective and a leader, a trial by fire in which Silas must simultaneously win the trust of both his new police force and the community while training a mostly inexperienced squad in real police work. Clues are hard to come by in this quiet small town, but those he finds hint at a darker crime that could make or break Silas' career. Silas remains undeterred and uses a combination of unconventional police methods and the grit he's developed as a rancher in the American Southwest to crack the case, bring his force together, and maybe find love in the process. Silas is a looming physical presence with a folksy charm that will endear him to readers. While many detectives in crime thrillers are hardboiled and jaded, Silas projects a quiet determination; his emphasis on fairness and providing service to the whole community stands in welcome contrast to standard action-packed thriller fare in which criminals are simply evil and must be punished. Moments of introspection are expertly sprinkled throughout, giving the socially awkward protagonist opportunities to outline his reasoning and provide commentary on the action. Mirabile's prose is clean and clear and lovingly paints an eclectic, vibrant community in a way that suggests the expertise of a Provincetown local. Such fine detail, however, can become laborious when whole chapters depict workaday scenarios that serve as interludes during the main action. Still, this series opener is a worthwhile read and will make a fine addition to any mystery-thriller collection.

A quiet but engrossing fish-out-of-water story / crime thriller with vibrant details and memorable characters.

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