

# Seattle Book Review

## **The Washashore**

By Christopher Mirabile

Slack Tide Press, \$19.99, 433 pages, Format: eBook

Star Rating: 5 / 5

*The Washashore* by Christopher Mirabile pulled me in right away with its moody, coastal atmosphere and a mystery that feels quietly unsettling. From the very beginning, there's this sense that something is off. It's not just because of the crime itself, but because of the environment and the people living in it.

The story follows Police Chief Silas Lopez, who's new to Provincetown and barely settled in before he's called out during a storm. What starts as a fairly routine situation, a stray boat blown into the road, quickly turns into something much darker when a body is discovered. The way the storm mirrors the chaos of what's unfolding felt very intentional, and it immediately sets a tone that carries through the rest of the book.

One of my favorite things about this novel is how vivid the setting is. You can feel the wind and salt in the air. The town itself feels small and close-knit, but also a little isolating, like everyone knows each other, but not really. That tension adds a lot to the mystery because it makes you question how much people are actually telling the truth.

Silas is a strong main character, but what I appreciated most is that he's not overly polished. He's experienced and sharp, but he's also adjusting to a new job, a new town, and a team that doesn't quite operate the way he expects. His thought process during the investigation is one of the highlights of the book. He doesn't jump to conclusions, and I liked how often he pauses to reconsider what he's seeing, especially when something doesn't quite add up.

There's a moment early on when he's examining the victim and starts to question whether this was really just a hit-and-run. That scene stood out because it shows how much attention he pays to detail. It also reinforces one of the book's main themes: things are rarely as simple as they seem.

I also really enjoyed the smaller character interactions. The conversation with the elderly neighbors, for example, adds a bit of personality and even a touch of humor, but it's also important to the case. It highlights how investigations often rely on imperfect memories and small observations.

*The Washashore* is a thoughtful, well-paced mystery that leans just as much on character and

atmosphere as it does on plot. If you enjoy mysteries that are a little more reflective, with a strong sense of place and a detective who actually thinks things through, this is definitely one worth picking up.

Reviewed by Samantha Olsen

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### **OUR STAR RATING SYSTEM**

1 star: Reviewer wouldn't recommend this book at all.

2 stars: Reviewer wouldn't read it again. Needs work.

3 stars: Reviewer enjoyed the book.

4 stars: Reviewer liked and would recommend the book to friends/family.

5 stars: Reviewer considers the book to be something that everyone should read. Reviewer would definitely read it again.

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