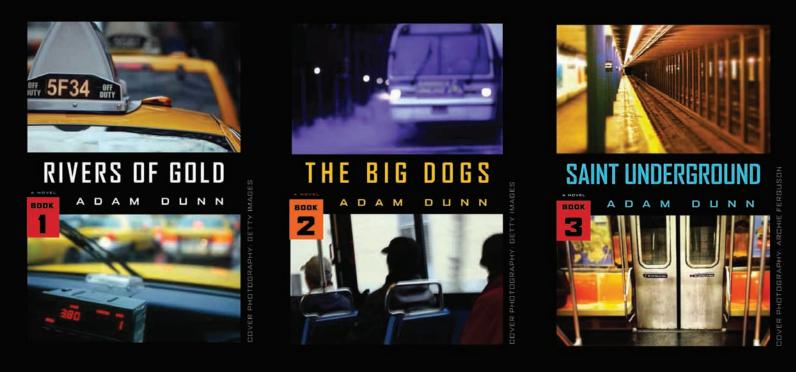
## Book Review



## "...LIKE PICASSO ON CRACK."

Story by Susan Heller

hat little "gem" (from Sterling Seagrave about Adam Dunn's new triple book release; The More Series) is a hugely accurate way to describe the author and his ability to torque and twist nightmare elements of beauty and terror, dirty sex and rascally narcissistic politicos all served with a heaping helping of intrigue and Origami plot twists.

The thing about gemstones is that it takes deep knowledge and great expertise to cleave them in unusual patterns, from pinicoidal to prismatic, the lines of fracture that play out in in this futuristic technoire yarn are dark, and kinky and fun.

In the interest of full disclosure, at the time of this writing I am in rehearsal and recording mode, directing actor Thomas Eldon Anderson, who will voice all three novels of the Dunn Books imprimatur.

Tom's response to RIVERS OF GOLD, the first book in the series says it well. "So redolent of NY (I can smell the steam pipes on the Avenues) and that evocative and intimate one-on-one feeling I always

had with the City walking or driving the streets. So personal. And dangerous. I lived all over that city. And bought our apartment in Audubon Terrace. Tom Valenti, chef at Ouest was a friend and neighbor. This shit's personal."

As you may have inferred from the above, New York City is a central character in each of the books. This however, is an alternate universe. One that takes the stark, ham-fisted corruption and dissolution of Manhattan from the 1970's and creates a throughline of that broken city to today's high-tech setting, as New York Noire. That's New York using the feminine form with an e, if you see the city as a masculine ziggurat, it's noir.

As a freelance journalist (CNN, BBC, San Francisco Chronicle, etc.) Adam has seen and chronicled much of the madness in many of its forms. Although he now hails from New Canaan he was living in the city when the neutron bomb that was Bernie Madoff detonated. From his apartment Adam said he could hear people in buildings all around him, sobbing, literally keening. It was, he said, "like hearing sirens from space."



"This grim but raucous future-noir is interspersed with hilarious sex, and mellow passages revealing a brilliant writer, with his devilment in the details."



## From his apartment Adam said he could hear people in buildings all around him, sobbing, literally keening. It was, he said, "like hearing sirens from space."

So he left the city and brought with him to Connecticut an extensive network of contacts and insiders from the intelligence, military, law enforcement, and financial communities, and he sat down to write. About how utterly interrelated crime and politics are, even in ostensibly legitimate activities. About how governments and politicians do the; eyes cast upwards, rocking back and forth on the balls of their proverbial feet, hands thrust into pockets (usually yours) and whistling while looking the other way thing, when it involves power and money.

The More Series explores the blurring of the lines between traditional economies and those of the world's swiftly evolving shadow economies, set within the context of three of New York's classic modes of transportation; taxi cabs, buses and subways. Adam's characters are a masterful mash-up of born sociopaths, carefully crafted geniuses, people like us just doing their best to get by and those set dancing by the marionette strings of mental illness. In reference to Book 2, THE BIG DOGS, Sterling Seagrave goes on to note that, "This grim but raucous future-noir is interspersed with hilarious sex, and mellow passages revealing a brilliant writer, with his devilment in the details."

Which brings up a really interesting point. The details. My experience with Adam has led me to the conclusion that he is truly prescient. He began writing the More Series in 2008. Since that time, every incident he chronicles as twisted and outrageous storyline, has played out across the headlines of: The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, politico.com, The Washington Post, Reuters, and every other iteration of media that covers planet-wide bad behavior at the highest, (and lowest) levels.

It may be because Adam has such a ridiculously deep and broad knowledge of history which, when combined with a sophisticated understanding of international finance, helps him predict the greed, the double dealing, the collusion and chicanery, the corrupt power matrix that is the reality of our world today. You don't have to take my word for it, high end financial analyst, James McTague, author of CRAP-SHOOT INVESTING and former "DC Current" columnist for BARRON'S, says "Dunn's meticulously researched novel is required reading for any members of the investment community."

In Adam's world the concepts of honor and cooperation, regency instead of ownership are not merely simplistic, they're suicidal. The power of authority figures in the worlds of finance, law enforcement and the sale of sex, are presented in both their most finessed and naïve forms. The characters of Everett More, a feral 42 year-old CIA operative with "Dark Secret" clearance and 26 year-old Sixto Fortunato Santiago a detective, third grade, represent both ends of the spectrum.

But it's the women you have to watch out for. In Adam Dunn's New York, The shadow world has its own puppet masters.

Starving city budgets breed a toxic environment of desperation and an air of dangerous improvisation. The gaping holes of need are filled with intelligent, wary, and intensely ambitious criminal minds. Some of the talent is homegrown; some has been drawn from around the world by the sight of a city that is punch-drunk and staggering wildly to stay on its feet.

The firestorm of Wild West financial opportunity also brings the male versus female battle zone to full boil. Beginning quietly in Riv-

ers of Gold, the sotto voce manipulation and influence of very smart, very tough women begins to unfold, finally becoming mano a mano in Book 3, Saint Underground.

Their battles range across the planet, re-inventing the ancient spiral of opportunity, money, very dirty politics and those who gamely try to police the toxic results of that combination. As one shadow-world character puts it, "Where you got politics, you got big money and then you got guys like you and me – we make sure the money keeps going round and round. Without us, there is no them. And they know it."

The dirtier and darker the city becomes, the shiner its Jewel in the Crown appeal for those who are drawn by -- what in physics is called the intermolecular force -- the strength of the attractive force between molecules, a.k.a. like attracts like.

Sometimes with tongue-in-cheek, often with great satiric effect, Adam Dunn offers an uncensored look into the most current iterations of darkness rippling across the world today, through the lens of New York, Tech Noire. The City is for sale; it is not an overstatement to name the buyers, they're the 21st century's version of The Four Horsemen of The Apocalypse: Greed, Terrorism, Corruption, and Technology. The heart of Manhattan is where each one finds the others, in the crosshairs.

