

A Pure Double Cross: Book One of the American Spy Trilogy

John Knoerle

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Tough, you say you want tough? Tough as nails? How about Mike Hammer on steroids tough? In *A Pure Double Cross* (Blue Steel Press, 978-0-9743199-1-9), even tough guy Hal Schroeder's landlady is tough. When he tracks bloody footprints through the hallway, she offers to make him a nice breakfast. "Then," she says, "you'll get down on your hands and knees and scrub the carpet. Clean."

This is a minor diversion for double-crossing ex-spy Hal, who's busy infiltrating the Cleveland mob-the Cleveland right after World War II being darker than Gotham City. His target: the mysterious Mr. Big (yep, that's his moniker). With author John Knoerle's snappy, sometimes comic book approach, THIS IS FUN STUFF, sometimes funny, and sometimes unintentionally funny.

DICK CADY (July 15, 2009)

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