

Gillespie Field Groove: A Rolly Waters Mystery

Corey Lynn Fayman

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Gillespie Field Groove is a thrilling mystery novel in which a man seeks to right the wrongs committed by greedy executives.

Set against the backdrop of the corrupt, scandal-ridden music industry, Corey Lynn Fayman's gripping mystery novel *Gillespie Field Groove* follows the exploits of a private investigator and part-time musician.

Rolly Waters, the former guitarist of a successful band, now works as a private investigator. His services are requested to retrieve a missing guitar believed to have belonged to Jimi Hendrix. With only an old photograph featuring a mysterious man with the guitar to guide him, Rolly sets out to solve the mystery of the item's whereabouts. The case exposes him to dangerous, unsavory music industry machinations.

Rolly is a flawed yet moral hero. He acknowledges his former problems with drugs and alcohol, as well as unthinking transgressions against women. To redeem himself for these misdeeds, he works to be a protector of women, and lets his client, Lucinda, use him as a pretend boyfriend to ward off unwanted advances from her superior. At Rolly's opposite is a producer, Roger—a misogynist who uses his power and status to harass and mistreat women; he dismisses the women he works with as dispensable, valuing them for their physical features alone. That these behaviors are so prominent makes him less dimensional than Rolly, though. Further, the book's secondary characters are underdeveloped in comparison to Rolly and Roger.

The story is involving in part because of its realistic atmosphere, which includes real-life San Diego restaurants, landmarks, and venues. And Gillespie Field, San Diego's largest airport, becomes the book's central location, with Rolly returning to its grounds multiple times as he learns more about the dangerous circumstances and people connected to the missing guitar. Music history is also infused into the prose, making its turns seem more plausible. When Rolly begins his investigation, for example, he recalls the story of how John Lennon's guitar, which was presumed lost after a Beatles performance in England in the 1960s, was discovered in San Diego in 2015. Such thoughtful inclusions of select facts are complementary to Rolly's continued evolution and to the sense that he is an expert in his field.

Exciting, compelling, suspenseful, and reflective of the realities of the music industry and San Diego culture, *Gillespie Field Groove* is a thrilling mystery novel in which a man seeks to right the wrongs committed by greedy executives.

GAIL HOFFER-LOIBL (March 14, 2023)

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