

Reviews for the Media Room

Several established and respected reviewers have published reviews of [Deadly Portfolio: A Killing in Hedge Funds](#). Excerpts are reproduced below. For the complete review, please see the referenced web site.

5.0 out of 5 stars **A thriller that'll be hard to put down**, December 4, 2010

By **[Midwest Book Review](#)** (Oregon, WI USA)

[Deadly Portfolio: A Killing in Hedge Funds](#) is a story of successful finance and murder. Detective James Raker is on the force as two people turn up dead in similar ways, only to be shocked when they're dismissed as accidental deaths. Feeling foul play is afoot and more murders are on the way, Raker goes against the establishment in the name of the truth. [Deadly Portfolio](#) is a thriller that'll be hard to put down.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Deadly Delightful Read**, November 1, 2010

By **[Barbara Hightower "BabsBookBistro"](#)** (Taylors, SC USA)

I rather enjoyed this fast paced story. The families and the detective really bring the story to life. I like this authors writing style and he knows his stuff. The story keeps you gripped, and you do not want to put it down once.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Great Mystery Turned to Fascinating Fable with Ending!**, January 13, 2011

By **[Glenda A Bixler "Glenda"](#)** (Pennsylvania)

John J. Hohn takes us on a journey behind the scenes in the potentially deadly high-finance arena where huge amounts of money can be lost, never to be returned. Are you a risk taker? Maybe not for a Hedge Fund, but do you invest your money for the potential of a high return? Then this financial thriller is a must for you!

I especially enjoyed Detective Raker's character as he took pieces of information and arrived at who the responsible individual was. But nobody will be prepared for the ending--unless you peeked! Hohn's final twist takes his book beyond a great murder mystery/police procedural and into a fascinating fable! You won't want to miss this one.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Spiraling loss for hedge funder**, December 26, 2010

By **[RebeccasReads.com "Rebecca's Reads"](#)** (Austin, Texas) -

Reviewed by Enid Grabiner for [RebeccasReads.com](#) (12/10)

In the affluent lakeside community of Heron Lake, NC, the Fourth of July is a time for golfing, sailing, barbecuing and social climbing. Every year at this time financial advisors Matthew Wirth and Morrie Clay host a summer bash, entertaining wealthy friends and clients with the idea of cementing business deals and establishing social position. For Matthew Wirth this year marks hopes for a comfortable retirement, having worked hard to establish old-age security. Morrie Clay, quite a bit younger and more ambitious is eager to take over the client list and firmly establish his own name in financial and social circles. A bit over eager, he crosses ethical lines when he invests a client's money in a hedge fund to make a quick profit. Without client consent he finds himself in career ending position when the fund tanks.

Rene McAllister, wife of multi-millionaire Alan "Mac" McAllister, is the client at the center of this misappropriation of funds. The morning after the party her dead body washes on shore. This begins to look more like a murder than a suicide to Detective James Raker. When young neighbor Jamie Sherman, a suspected drug dealer is also found dead, there is perhaps reason to believe the deaths are related. Adding to the mix is Mac's discovery of mishandling of his wife's funds. Morrie's career is threatened as is his family's comfortable lifestyle. Matthew's reputation and retirement are also in jeopardy. In the midst of the investigation, law enforcement agencies seem to clash in cross purpose as Detective Raker doggedly follows his gut in pursuit of the killer.

"Deadly Portfolio" is a well written, intriguing mystery guaranteed to entertain. It provides study of the impact of acquisition of wealth of those who compromise their values only to discover that greed causes corruption and downfall.

By **Mary Lignor**, Bookpleasures.com

This is a well-written book that really covers the Stock Market Debacle of 2008 in spades. Mr. Hohn knows his subject well and the story is very fast paced with characters that you would perhaps not like all that much and that includes the authorities.

In the summer of 2008, right before an annual 4th of July party at the home of Matthew and Shirley Wirth, Mr. Wirth's partner, Morrie Clay was faced with a real problem. Wirth and Clay are stockbrokers in Charles City, NC and have many wealthy clients. One of the wealthiest, Alan "Mac" McAllister has just informed the firm that he and his wife, Rene, are moving their accounts to another firm. Morrie is having fits because he has put her accounts into a Hedge Fund and is in a lot of trouble if she finds this out. This could mean the end of Clay's career for doing unauthorized trading on this account. Clay does not mention his dealings to his partner, only to his wife.

The big annual party goes on without anyone knowing of the problems that are about to settle on this enclave of riches at Pelican Bay. Rene McAllister is found dead on the beach the day after the party. The authorities say that the tragic death was an accidental drowning as Mrs. McAllister was very drunk and this was reported by many people who attended the party. A few days later, Jamie Sherman, a neighbor, was found in his boat dead of a drug overdose. While investigating these two deaths, Detective James Raker hears from Mr. McAllister about the funny business in his wife's account and begins to suspect that the two deaths are related and are also homicides. Raker plunges in with both feet and stories start to surface that involve at least four members of the rich society folks on this beautiful lakeside property that had both motive and opportunity to commit these killings. When Raker stumbles into an investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation's Drug Squad that is looking into Jamie's drug use he is told to close his cases and let them take over. Raker refuses because he still thinks that at least one other person is in jeopardy.

The end of this wonderful story just proves that murder does not avoid wealth and privilege. This story takes place in a fictional community called Heron Lake a small, prestigious place filled with doctors, lawyers and stockbrokers and their families who are about to be subjected to scandal that they are just not used to and what happens to all their lives as a result.

I'm very impressed with Mr. Hohn's writing. He worked for many years in the financial world and really knows his subject. For a first novel, this is exceptional. I would certainly recommend this book to all mystery, suspense and action readers. Having it take place during the financial problems of '08 on Wall St. it certainly helps the layman to understand what took place.

4.0 out of 5 stars **A good yarn**, November 17, 2010

By **Steve Moore** (New Jersey) Bookpleasures.com

Deadly Portfolio is a pleasant mixture of mystery and suspense that will entertain you by the fire with your sherry during a few fall or winter evenings. It is pleasant in the sense that an Agatha Christie mystery is pleasant. There is a deadly undercurrent in these pages that illustrates the evil that lurks beneath the veneer of civilized society, an evil caused by the greed and corruption of capitalism run amok.

I found the book slow going at first. Character study and background take precedence over hook and action. However, be patient. The story will grab you. Rene McAllister, the very unlikable wife of multi-millionaire Mac McAllister, washes up on the stockbroker Mathew Wirth's beach when a Fourth of July bash is winding down. You, the reader, already know that this is no accident, although the privileged guests want the authorities to call it that way. Detective Raker, full of doubts, steps in, going against the Sheriff, who panders to those privileged guests, and the state's CBI rep, who doesn't want another investigation he is following tainted by this "accident."

Raker is a main character, of course, but portraits of the other principal characters are more tightly drawn. Wirth and his partner and their wives are not stereotypes. Wirth, McAllister, and Raker all wrestle with existential and universal questions.

In fact, Mr. Hohn treats some of life's pithy questions with a wisdom and candor that belie his background in the financial services industry. (I feel brotherhood here--we probably both should have been professional writers but were afraid that writing couldn't support our families.)

Two quotes will serve as examples of the author's wisdom and candor. On retirement: "No more income...just social security for the rest of our lives. We'll need to live on what we've saved. Like pushing off from the dock. We'll need to get by with what's in the boat because our stores will not be replenished along the way." And on death: "I don't believe in a heaven or a hell. Once we go to sleep, it's for keeps. The only real miracle about humankind is that we are here at all, surviving on a speck of a planet spinning through an infinite universe." One might argue about the word "infinite," but this is a succinct summary of Jean-Paul Sartre's philosophy!

4.0 out of 5 stars **"Inflation is as violent as a mugger, as frightening as an armed robber and as deadly as a hit man."** **Ronald Regan**, November 24, 2010

By **Michael A. Draper** (Guilford, CT)

This is a novel that looks at the lifestyle of wealthy, carefree, society members and a greedy financial advisor who places his interests before his clients. Although the novel is fiction, it could be taken from the financial section of today's news.

At age sixty-eight, Matthew Wirth is ready for retirement from his investment advisory firm. He's been moving in that direction for years and giving up the day to day functions of the job to his partner, Morrie Clay.

A client, Mac Mc Allister, with eighteen million dollars invested in their firm, wants to move their money to another firm. Though Mac has been a client for years, his wife, Rene, is pressuring him to make the change.

Morrie Clay storms out of the office when he hears the news. Morrie put almost \$750,000 of Rene's money into a hedge fund and borrowed over \$600,000 by using \$4,000,000 assets in her account as collateral. All of this was done without Rene's authority. Morrie told his secretary to

sign Rene's name to the papers.

Matt, Morrie and McAllister all have homes on the lake. One of their neighbors is Dr. Tom Sherman and his wife, Joyce. The Sherman's are having their own problems. Tom's son by a former marriage, Jamie, is a known drug dealer and is under investigation.

Things turn ugly when Rene's body is found floating in the water, the morning after Matt Worth's annual July 4th bash.

The sheriff knows of the influence these wealthy people have and wants the case closed quickly and listed as an accidental drowning. However, Detective James Raker disagrees with his boss. He convinces his boss to give him a little time to see if there is more to it.

Then the Shermans' son Jamie is found dead on his boat. The sheriff wants this case closed too but Raker feels that the cases are related.

The author is presenting a number of areas for his readers to consider. The stock market has made millions for some people but there is still greed and some people are not satisfied.

The author, John J. Hohn has put together a contemporary, suspenseful story. In former times, this would be considered a morality play. The characters of the story are engrossing as are their motives and changing loyalties.