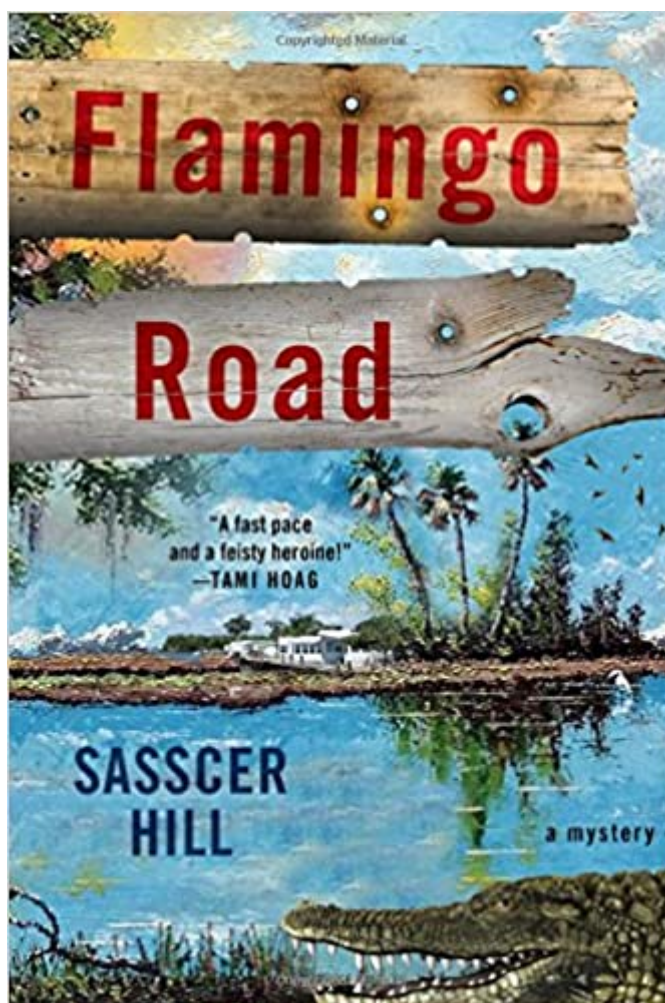




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Flamingo Road: A Mystery (Fia Mckee Mysteries)



Synopsis

Baltimore police officer Fia McKee is put on leave for excessive use of force after interfering in a crime that turns deadly. Given a second chance, she is sent to work undercover for the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau (TRPB) at the Gulfstream Park in Florida, where she works as an exercise rider. Her assignment is to watch and report back on two racetrack workers who have been suspected of illegal activities and whose horses continue to outperform all expectations, winning their owners unseemly amounts of money in the races. To complete her cover story, Fia moves in with her semi-estranged brother, Patrick, who lives near the racetrack. Her investigations are complicated when her niece, Jilly, disappears after a shadow gang takes Jilly's beloved horse. Now Fia must work two angles—first to find out what's really going on with the men who might or might not be gaming the system, and second to bring the men who prey on horses to justice. Along the way, Fia encounters Cuban gangs living off the grid, a (very handsome) do-gooder who's close on their trail, and a cabal of super wealthy gamblers who will stop at nothing to ensure they always win.

Book Information

Series: Fia McKee Mysteries

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Minotaur Books; 1st edition (April 18, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 125009691X

ISBN-13: 978-1250096913

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1.1 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #461,168 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Horses > Racing #6495 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Police Procedurals #9401 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Cozy

Customer Reviews

"This high-octane thriller delivers with a multi-layered plot including horse racing, Cuban gangs, illegal substances and Family dynamics. Fia McKee is a tough, tenacious Baltimore cop turned Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau agent. Her sharp intelligence, physicality and ability to infiltrate groups make her a dangerous adversary for the bad guys. The plot moves swiftly, with

plenty of action and nefarious situations. The author's inside knowledge of horses and horse racing adds rich, authentic details that flesh out the story, and the villains are particularly vicious and merciless, adding an atmosphere of extreme danger and high adrenaline. The first book out of the gate in this series proves to be a surefire winner."--Sandra Martin, *Romantic Times* "The dark and dirty underbelly of horse racing is exposed when a Baltimore cop goes to visit relatives in Florida. Internal Affairs has been very interested in Fia McKee ever since she shot and killed the man who was choking Shyra Darnell, a hot walker at Pimlico who's so afraid of someone that she refuses to answer any questions. When Fia's beloved father, a racehorse trainer, was murdered five years earlier, Fia joined the police and has never given up on his case, which has now turned very cold. Put on leave, she answers a call for help from her brother, Patrick, whose wife has walked out and left him with a horse-crazy teen. Someone's been slaughtering people's horses for meat, and when Cody, her niece Jilly's gelding, becomes a victim, Fia gets mad and plots to get even. The night of the gelding's death, she meets a man named Zanin who runs the Protect the Animals League and is trying to stop the carnage. Zanin is sure the guilty party is a Cuban-American who lives in the dangerous and lawless area known as the C-Nine Basin, but no one's been able to prove that he's involved. Meantime, Fia learns that her problems back home may go away if she agrees to go undercover for the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau at Florida's Gulfstream Park, where horses that shouldn't be winning are suddenly showing amazing talent. Fia eases into a job as an exercise rider for an honest trainer while trying to discover what new, so far undetectable, drug is turning ordinary horses into superstars. Hill (*Racing from Evil*, 2016, etc.) boasts knowledge of horses and the very real problems in horse racing that fill this sound mystery with thrills and hair-raising action from first to last."--Kirkus " . . . will appeal to fans of all things horse racing, strong female protagonists, and Florida noir." --Karen Keefe, *Book List*. "In *Flamingo Road*, Hill proves that she can not only write a great mystery, she can also create a great character... For fans of female sleuths, *Flamingo Road* is an entertaining novel, marking the welcome arrival of Fia McKee."--Rachel Prindle, *Mystery Scene Magazine* "In her never-a-dull-moment account, Hill's unique combination of sharp writing skills and racing knowledge puts the reader in the moment - and in the saddle. Fia McKee is a sleuth with brains, imagination and logic-defying nerve. If getting in on the ground floor of a new series appeals to you, this may be the door to go through."--Fran Wood, *NJ.com*, *True Jersey* "A fast pace and a feisty heroine put *Flamingo Road* in the winner's circle. Sasscer Hill is off to the races with her new character, Fia McKee, and I'm on board for that ride! • • Tami Hoag "Fast paced, suspenseful, and cleverly plotted" • insider Sasscer Hill nails the high stakes world of horse racing.

Her fierce and determined investigator Fia McKee will speed you to the finish line and leave you breathless. A winner!

• Hank Phillippi Ryan • Hill takes her readers on the ride of their lives as high-stakes crime collides with the adrenaline-fueled world of professional horse racing in Flamingo Road • a surefire winner, rich in authentic detail and heart-stopping suspense.

• Andrew Grant • Fans of Kinsey Millhone and V. I. Warshawski, there's a new sheriff in town. Her name's Fia McKee and she's as smart, tough, impetuous, cynical, caring, infuriating, likeable, sassy, sexy, temperamental, and courageous as those illustrious predecessors. As for Sasscer Hill • the woman can flat-out write. She proves it with Flamingo Road, an intelligent and thrilling first book in what promises to be a great series.

• David Housewright • In her new thriller, Sasscer Hill ups the ante on her horses. Could she be the Dick Francis of her generation? Count me among those who would vote yes.

• Margaret Maron • Paced like a roller coaster ride, Flamingo Road is rich with authentic South Florida setting and racetrack detail as it races through a story of betrayal, family loyalty, illicit drugs, and a set of thugs that will keep you reading late into the night.

• Mark Pryor

SASSCER HILL was an amateur steeplechase jockey, as well as a horse owner who bred, raised, and rode race horses for thirty years in Maryland. Her first published novel, Full Mortality, was nominated for both the Agatha and Macavity Best First Mystery Awards. Born in Washington, D.C., Hill earned a BA in English Literature from Franklin and Marshall College. She now lives with her husband, dog, and cat, in Aiken, SC., where she still enjoys horseback riding.

Title: Flamingo Road - Fia McKee Mystery
 Author: Sasscer Hill
 Publisher: St Martin's Press
 Published: 4-18-2017
 Pages: 318
 Genre: Mystery, Thrillers & Suspense
 Sub-Genre: Crime Fiction; Animals; Racing; Murder; Horses; Cozy Mystery
 ISBN: 9781250096913
 ASIN: B01M09EOD0
 Reviewed For NetGalley and St. Martin's Press
 Reviewer: DelAnne
 Rating: 5 Stars
 Hill keeps the suspense level high. The action continues and keeps readers on the alert for what will happen next. Flamingo Road is a fast paced race to the reveal. that you will hope to never end. Pick up a copy of "Flamingo Road" and enjoy an afternoon of intrigue.
 Baltimore police officer Fia McKee is put on leave for excessive use of force after interfering in a crime that turns deadly. Given a second chance, she is sent to work undercover for the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau (TRPB) at the Gulfstream Park in Florida, where she works as an exercise rider. Her assignment is to watch and report back on two racetrack workers who have been suspected of illegal activities and whose horses continue to outperform all expectations, winning their owners unseemly amounts of

money in the races. To complete her cover story, Fia moves in with her semi-estranged brother, Patrick, who lives near the racetrack. Her investigations are complicated when her niece, Jilly, disappears after a shadow gang takes Jilly's beloved horse. Now Fia must work two angles—first to find out what's really going on with the men who might or might not be gaming the system, and second to bring the men who prey on horses to justice. Along the way, Fia encounters Cuban gangs living off the grid, a (very handsome) do-gooder who's close on their trail, and a cabal of super wealthy gamblers who will stop at nothing to ensure they always win. My rating of "Flamingo Road" is 5 out of 5 stars.

The story moves back and forth between Florida and Baltimore, as the main character Fia closes out one chapter of her life for another. There's her family drama with a disgraced female city cop whose racehorse trainer father had died under mysterious circumstances, her cranky brother, and her troubled horse-crazy niece. There's the struggle to save animals from harm, including the ripped-from-the-headlines story of Florida's horse meat black market. There's also the real-life agency charged with protecting race horses with a minimal budget and no powers of arrest. There's even a romance that's not hearts and flowers but hearts in league for a common goal. Author Lynda Sasscer Hill -- who's spent time on the backstretch of racetracks, as well as at the front as an owner -- knows that world well, and shows all aspects as she weaves the racetrack material with the family life. From the grit and beauty of the backstretch to the glitzy entitlement of the owner's box to the violence and horrors perpetrated by those who consider all life cheap, Lynda has seen it all and is showing us that loving horses, let alone working with them and for them, is not for the faint-of-heart. I'm looking forward to the next book in the series.

Like all of Lynda Sasscer Hill's stories Flamingo Road is set in the dark underbelly of the horse-racing world. I stopped going to the track when I saw a horse break its leg in half from the stress of being run too hard before bones were formed. Sickened by the sight of the animal being put down in front of me, I determined never to return even though I love the pageantry and beauty of fine specimens in their prime. But, we learn it is not always what it seems as Lynda shares the inside dope, [no pun intended] on what goes on behind the scenes in the racing world. Her plotting is fast-paced filled with many head-spinning sucker punches that keep the reader riveted. Protagonist, Fia McKee, is an under cover agent who exercises thoroughbreds by day and seduces gangsters by night. Both endeavors are worrisome. In between she is trying to work things out with

her estranged brother and his horse-crazy teenage daughter. They are both trying to deal with the desertion of their mother and the murder of their father. Sasscerhill ties the story together in a pretty bow in the end that makes you feel satisfied, and yearning for more, which IÃ¢Â™m certain is in the offing.

Sasscer Hill uses the experience she has with horses to write a fast paced exciting novel. Her descriptive writing makes the scenes come to life, vivid, realistic believable Life! Her well developed plot and sub plots make the novel flow quickly yet give lots of depth within the details. I am excited about another novel or two with Fia McKee as a heroine. There is lots of opportunity for further adventures and I certainly am looking forward to reading more about her and her family and job.

Just finished "Flamingo Road" and the first word that comes to mind is "WOW"!! The characters are great. Can't wait to read more about Fia and her interesting family. I know nothing about horses, but Sasscer Hill makes excellent use of her lifelong love of the animals and their sport, but never gets bogged down with technicalities. The plot is both well developed and fast paced. I wanted to keep reading, yet did not want the book to end. Run, don't walk to your nearest book store for your copy of "Flamingo Road"! Hope the next of this great new series is in the works even as I type.

Sasscer Hill introduces a new heroine, Fia McKee, whose career as a Baltimore cop is derailed by a shooting gone wrong. She starts a new career working for a racing industry security agency and winds up in the Everglades, trying to stop thugs who use drugging as a race-fixing gambit.

Hill's heart-pounding horse mysteries keep getting better, and in this one, she's more than hit her stride. I literally couldn't put it down. She mixes the elements of a complex plot and characters with plenty of depth and heart deftly and keeps ratcheting up the suspense in all the right places.

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