

Lovers Muggers & Thieves

TREATMENT FOR CABLE SERIES

BY

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Running this show is a mind-blowing business, a bit like being the mayor in the Land of Oz, on acid.

LOVERS, MUGGERS & THIEVES, based on a true story set in 1969 against the backdrop of Boston's gritty Combat Zone, an 18-year-old architecture student finds himself thrust into the role of managing a dilapidated 6-story flop house. Navigating the challenges of overseeing the building amidst the chaos of the red-light district, he discovers a vibrant community of sex workers within its walls, each with a unique story. As he reconciles his academic pursuits with the harsh realities of the Combat Zone, his own story evolves as well. Who has he become?

According to the *Boston Globe* reader's poll, *Lovers, Muggers & Thieves - A Boston Memoir* is one of the best books set in Massachusetts. The Boston Public Library rates it as one of the finest memoirs to tell what it means to be a Bostonian.

LOVERS, MUGGERS & THIEVES follows Jonny into this dark X-rated universe notorious for strip clubs, street crime and prostitution. His evolution to a streetwise building super challenges him in each segment, renting rooms by the week to the dancers, scammers, hookers, mixed-race couples, drug dealers and musicians. This series steps into the dark, fascinating, even humorous world of Boston's red-light district.

Protagonist: Jonny Tudan, a clean-cut college boy. His Goal: Keep everything on an even keel: tenants, landlord, his grades, and his sexuality.

Antagonists: A college professor bent on failing him, maniacal tenants, the allure of strippers and prostitutes, an unscrupulous landlord, Boston's vice squad, and the neighborhood itself.

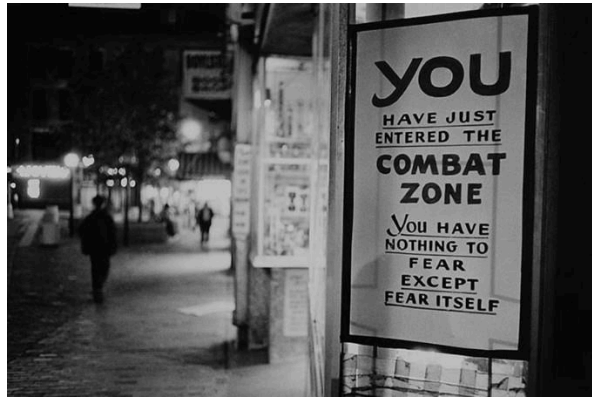
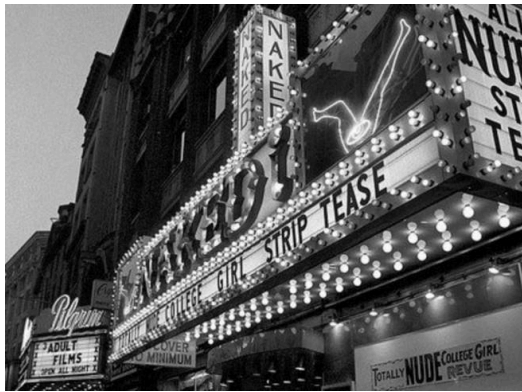
SETTING AND BACKGROUND

The Combat Zone was the name given to the adult entertainment district in downtown Boston, with its strip clubs, peep shows, X-rated movie houses, etc. It becomes the focal point with its Cloud Nine Apartments at the core, along with the adult entertainment venues where bars and strip clubs make up the view on the streets.

LOCATIONS

The Cloud Nine Apartments: A grimy 6-story building wedged between bars and strip clubs. Studio apartments with junk-yard furnishings rent for thirty bucks a week, cash-only. The building borders on a dark section of LaGrange Street, notorious for streetwalkers and drug-dealers.

Washington Street, Ground-Zero of the Combat Zone:



Sparkling lights of the marquees beckon the course of gentlemen drifting along the street. You feel a charge of excitement as you blend into the flow. The sidewalks are brimming with men of all shapes and colors eager to tap into the sexual fantasia that pours from the strip clubs as easily as the liquor inside. And, then there are the girls. Strippers and dancers make up the majority. Trolling the bottom of this sexual swamp are the hookers and their Johns.

The Normandy Lounge: Beneath its brightly lit marquee, incandescent bulbs trim the edges of the letter board featuring glossy black and white photos of girls displayed on panels. Full-body shots of ladies standing naked in high heels, winking at you over their shoulder to step inside. There is an action photo of a girl dancing nude on stage before a circle of men, tassels twirling.



Wentworth Institute: In Boston's Back Bay, Wentworth Institute resembles an old shoe factory, with its all-male, almost all-white student body. The college is as Victorian as its architecture. A strictly enforced dress code keeps the blossoming flower-power of the hippy culture from passing through its stone façade. The regiment inside the college is as close to a military institution one could be, without uniforms. Students in the all-male technical college are cut from a fresh

crop of teenagers harvested from white, middle-class New England.

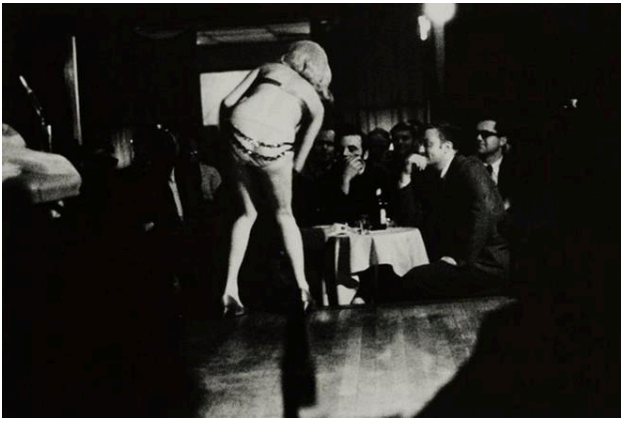
CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jonny has not had any bona fide eye-popping experiences that come with approaching adulthood. After his eighteenth birthday, he leaves his family in Connecticut to study architecture in Boston. A twist of fate changes Jonny's life when offered a job as the building superintendent in downtown Boston. He jumps at it imagining an easy ride to live independent and rent free. His life takes a dramatic twist. He finds himself living among sleazy characters, petty crimes, street violence, and grungy living conditions. Although, he never really becomes a part of it, nor it a part of him, he's able to expose the humanity in a cast of lost souls as he befriends prostitutes and strippers as well as lusts after some of them. In one year, Jonny evolves from an inexperienced teenager into a streetwise adult in good standing inside the neighborhood hierarchy. Ultimately, he realizes who he's become is not who he wants to be.

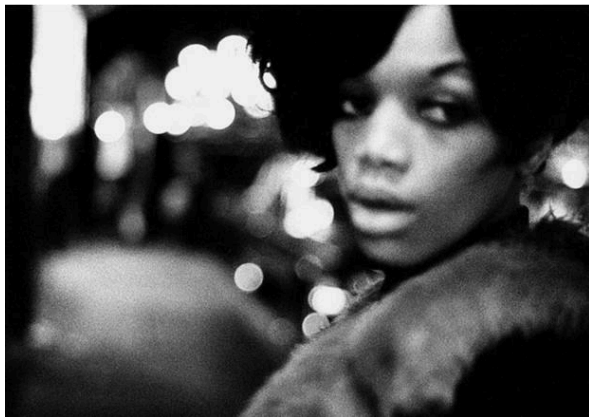
Van Helden, 18-year-old fellow student and friend, becomes Jonny's roommate and co-super. Soon to be a college drop-out, he could be mistaken for a rock star, easily fitting in with the crowd strolling along London's Carnaby Street. Worldly, likable and good-looking, he tries to make it on his appearance. An emigrant from Holland at age twelve, he has a seductive accent from his Dutch father and Indonesian mother. He's Jonny's opposite in many ways.

Sam Dumont, a 21-year-old mysterious female. Jonny's friends all but genuflect before her, calling her slick, good-looking, and wise. Her wisdom comes with a price; Sam has been dumped on so many times she's developed an edge. On weekday afternoons she dances for walking-around money, but the better part of her income flows discreetly from the selling of grass to band members and fellow dancers. Sam displays the hard, outward persona of a seasoned denizen of the street; not needing anything from anybody, but inside she craves affection.

Julie, 28, a shapely, bottle-hair strawberry blonde stripper never makes an appearance on the street without throwing on a pound of makeup, a mountainous blond wig to accompany her satin pantsuit, and a pair of 5-inch stiletto heels so sharp you could use them to cut open cans. Julie is a poor judge of male character, always putting her money on a losing bet, "If I was smart, I wouldn't have a heart." Julie knows her body and good looks have a shelf-life; she saves every penny she makes hoping to leave the stripper-scene and start fresh on a new path.



Kitty Boudreaux, 35-year-old French Canadian, is as smooth and black as polished ebony. She's breathtaking in the art of exotic dance. She looks spectacular walking along Washington Street under the lights of the marquee. She may be the most flamboyant act to ever grace the stage, but like most things offered to those who patronize the Combat Zone, Kitty is an invention. Her fake hair and false teeth are only part of what she conceals. Kitty's morality is deeply conservative, her decency offstage as stunning as her dancing.



Lykos Theodokis, always impeccably dressed when he visits his buildings, he's an oily, 30-year-old slumlord, who thinks grandiose thoughts of himself and his shrewdness in business. He strides into a room with one hand in his pants pocket jingling change, impatiently pacing as if looking for a way out the moment he arrives. He distrusts everyone he meets, never afraid to bend the rules to squeeze every dime owed to him.

LOVERS, MUGGERS & THIEVES EPISODES

Pilot: Unhinged

In 1969, a popular strip club hosts **Kitty**, one of Boston's

finest strippers. Her dancing is as shocking as it is captivating. The stripper's friend, 18-year-old Jonny, is there to enjoy her act. Flashback to the summer of 1968 and trace Jonny's path from his comfortable suburban home to the notorious streets of what is arguably the most wicked neighborhood in America, the Combat Zone. During his freshman year, he takes a job as a building superintendent inside Boston's red-light district. On their first night, after being confronted by a mob of angry tenants, he and roommate, Robert Van Helden witness a gun fight in the street outside their 6th floor window. Fast forward: prostitution has taken over the building. The tenants, a motley crew of strippers, hookers, musicians, and drug dealers, have an impromptu tenant meeting with Jonny to strategize a response to an impending raid by Boston's vice squad.

Episode 1: The Mod Squad

Van Helden has dropped out of school, and begins looking for work as a model. To get better acquainted with their neighbors Jonny and Van Helden throw a housewarming party. On the advice of the landlord, Lykos, the boys confiscate property from a surly tenant who's several payments behind in his rent. The disagreeable tenant threatens the party with a plan to shoot the boys in the head; he later skips out still owing his rent. The boys track him down. Van Helden and Sam become lovers.

Episode 2: Home, Home on LaGrange

Strippers and musicians from local clubs fill the building's vacancies. Jonny and Van Helden rent rooms to prostitutes. The violent energy surrounding the building begins to be felt personally; Van Helden is mugged at knifepoint outside his door. Thieves are breaking into rooms. High school friends visiting the apartment find their car fire-bombed below Jonny's window.

Episode 3: Mister Eyeballs

A room is rented to a college kid who wandered in from the street. He doesn't make it through the night, begs for his money back, after learning that for several days a man lay dead inside the room he rented. Jonny meets up with Mister Eyeballs, a local street hustle Jonny invites a preppy high school girlfriend to spend the night, hoping to lose his virginity, but comically fails. He introduces her to the strippers in his building. Van Helden sleeps with a new tenant after discovering she is a prostitute, he pays her a visit to collect the 'rent'.

Episode 4: College Boys

Van Helden picks up five unsuspecting college girls and brings them back to the apartment for a party. The girls are shocked by the neighborhood scene. Jonny joins an untrustworthy tenant for a night out. They hit on two girls who offer to share their pot. The tenant pulls a stolen Boston Police Detective's gold shield from his wallet and "busts" the girls, who become inconsolable. Jonny fights a hopeless crush on Karen, an attractive, young prostitute. Sam warns him to stay away. Jonny gets a visit from an old friend, who returns home from Viet Nam a junkie. Jonny arranges for one of his tenants to sleep with his friend. It does not go well. Afterward, the friend steals all of Jonny's money.

Episode 5: Appeal to The Great Spirit

A suspicious woman prowling the halls detonates a bomb outside the door of her former lover's apartment. The boys fight the fire and evacuate the tenants. The authorities come to investigate and shut off the building's heat and electricity, fatefully on the cusp of the 'Snowstorm of the Century'. Boston is hit with a traumatizing blizzard, snowing heavily for 101 consecutive hours. The boys struggle for days to bring the power back. Cold, dark and fire damaged, Cloud Nine takes on the character of an abandoned building.

Episode 6: Boston's Finest

Kitty, a popular stripper, bathes in her tub while Jonny awkwardly scrubs her back. She invites him to watch her dance at her club. While collecting rent, Jonny tries to keep his composure when a tenant's girlfriend strips for him behind her old man's back. A junkie steals everything of value from Jonny's apartment. Jonny befriends a jovial cop, who comes to investigate. Three men are shot inside the bar next door. Jonny watches the stretchers carried out including the body of his new friend, the cop.

Episode 7: Break On Through

The boys visit a strip club for the first time. Gaining entrance is a comical achievement. Jonny's tenant, Julie, a popular stripper in the club, joins them for drinks, while another tenant performs a sensational act to the adulation of the crowd. Julie begins to make advances on Jonny. Jonny comically loses his virginity with Robin, a daffy tenant who has the persona of Betty Boop. Robin surprises Jonny by showing him her softer side; but Jonny dismisses her kindness and passes Robin off to his friends.

Episode 8: Julie

A python is loose inside the building. The matriarch of a family of Gypsies brings trouble. Jonny begins to frequent the downtown bars and disassociates with his classmates. A Secret Service agent visits Jonny and enlists his help to track down a fugitive woman. Julie and Kitty, receive roles in a pornographic movie, and Julie 'reads' her part for Jonny in the privacy of his room. They begin an affair; but her old man, a musician in one of the downtown clubs, becomes suspicious and catches them in the act, pulling a gun and threatening to shoot them both.

SUBSEQUENT EPISODES show the Combat Zone taking its toll on Jonny. He's failing and will likely be dropped from school. While cramming for his finals, he hears screams and races to the scene, stops a man from slashing his girlfriend's throat. Jonny begins an affair with her, a 28-year-old stripper.

Jonny gets into a fight with a John, nearly killing him, mostly disturbed that he actually enjoyed it.

A tenant crawls through an open window to sexually assault his neighbor. The male tenants and Jonny hatch a plan to kill him.

In an interlude from this craziness, Jonny goes home to attend the Junior Prom of his 16-year-old girlfriend. Skipping out early, he brings her to Cloud Nine for a party at a tenant's.

Prostitution is out-of-control. The Vice Squad raids the building with Jonny's help to evict the prostitutes.

Jonny escorts a buddy's Black girlfriend for a late-night drink where she refuses the advances of a Black stranger. Jonny intervenes and tensions in the bar explode.

In a final confrontation with Lykos, the landlord evicts Jonny, calls the police to arrest him. Facing criminal charges Jonny makes a run for it, cons money for a bus ticket home.

AUTHOR BIO

According to the Boston Globe and Boston.com reader's poll, *Lovers, Muggers & Thieves* is one of the best books set in Massachusetts (along with *Little Women*). The Boston Public Library rates it as one of the finest memoirs to tell what it means to be a Bostonian. A selection of Jonathan Tudan's memoir was first published as a feature inside *Architecture Boston*, "After Dark - *The World is a Different Place*". Jonathan has enjoyed an extensive career as an architect stretching from Boston to the Central Mountains of Arizona, through the Pacific Northwest and down the west coast to Southern California. He lives with his wife, Mary, in Port Orchard, Washington.