

The Do-Right

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Winner of the 2015 Dashiell Hammett Prize and 2016 Shamus Award

1959. Delpha Wade killed a man who was raping her. Wanted to kill the other one too, but he got away. Now, after fourteen years in prison, she's out. It's 1973, and nobody's rushing to hire a parolee. Persistence and smarts land her a secretarial job with Tom Phelan, an ex-roughneck turned neophyte private eye. Together these two pry into the dark corners of Beaumont, a blue-collar, Cajun-influenced town dominated by Big Oil. A mysterious client plots mayhem against a small petrochemical company-why? Searching for a teenage boy, Phelan uncovers the weird lair of a serial killer. And Delpha on a weekend outing looks into the eyes of her rapist, the one who got away. The novel's conclusion is classic noir, full of surprise, excitement, and karmic justice. Sandlin's elegant prose, twisting through the dark thickets of human passion, allows Delpha to open her heart again to friendship, compassion, and sexuality.

Lisa Sandlin's story "Phelan's First Case" was anthologized in Lone Star Noir and was later re-anthologized in Akashic's Best of the Noir series, USA Noir. The Do-Right is her first full-length mystery. Lisa was born in Beaumont, currently lives and teaches in Omaha, Nebraska, and summers in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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"[Lisa] Sandlin blends pathos, humor, and poetic prose in a strong debut." --Kirkus, Starred Review

"Sandlin's clipped prose style is pleasingly eccentric, and can become downright Chandleresque." --Publishers Weekly, Starred Review

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"Lisa Sandlin's The Do-Right is something akin to a rusted nail through the foot: it's dirty, it hurts, and it'll have you jumping up and down -- or possibly just on the floor. ... Sandlin makes fantastic use of familiar, archetypal characters and brings new life into them by crafting narrative that, past the surface of an exciting detective story, seems to search for a sense of grace or forgiveness." --Killer Nashville

"The book is alive, its people are living, and the city is its own messy self." --The Beaumont Enterprise

The Do-Right won the Hammett Prize from the International Association of Crime Writers.

The Do-Right won Best First Private Eye Novel - Shamus Awards, by The Private Eye Writers of America.

Other Books

The Bulletin of the Guild of Catholic Psychiatrists.

Ⓜ Ⓜ Ⓜ Ⓜ Ⓜ . The average parent is more likely to do right, if he merely follows his own good judgment and leaves psychology to the professors. Our duty is not dependent on its palatability. Dating customs have changed. Without giving any applause ..."