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IN A NEW CRIME SATIRE, LOS ANGELES'S CHEAPEST HITMAN SHOPS THE CLEARANCE AISLE AT TARGET

Chef and trans-continental walker Thomas Curran launches darkly comic crime trilogy about a bargain-bin hitman who become the most famous man in Los Angeles who can't show his face.

LOS ANGELES - August 31, 2026 - Eddie "The Cowboy" DelDuco does not own a tuxedo. He does not own a silencer. What he owns is a closet full of clearance-aisle weaponry, a collection of garish lawn ornaments, a rotating supply of burner phones, and a work ethic. He takes people out the way other guys unclog sinks: cheaply, creatively, and usually with something from the clearance bin.

Then a message arrives from a vapidly ambitious influencer who found "the killer for hire." She asks how much to disappear a boyfriend. Eddie writes back: "Depends. Does disappear mean dead or relocated to Omaha?" Allowing nobody to get in the way of her success, she quickly becomes The Cowboy's number one client and he soon becomes the hitman who launched a thousand hashtags.

Dime Store Hitman, out August 31, is the first book in a new trilogy from Thomas Curran - a chef who, in 2019, walked 3,235 miles across the United States over 231 days and twelve states with his dog, Wink. It follows the success of his first novel, *Death, Discovery and Carne Asada*, an Amazon bestseller in multiple categories.

Dime Store Hitman is dark noir with a body count and a target. As rival influencers feud, a cryo-spa owner melts down, and a bibulous true-crime podcaster hunts clicks and fame, Eddie becomes the accidental star of what the jacket calls "L.A.'s dumbest murder mystery."

Dime Store Hitman sits in a tradition that runs from Donald Westlake through Elmore Leonard to Carl Hiaasen: the criminal is the most reasonable person in the room; the real menace is everybody who is trying to be seen. Curran turns that machinery on contemporary Los Angeles, where fame kills faster than Botox and celebrity is currency.

Book two of the trilogy is set for release in early 2027.

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PRESS CONTACT

Thomas Curran

thomas@thomascurran.com | thomascurran.com | @authorthomascurran