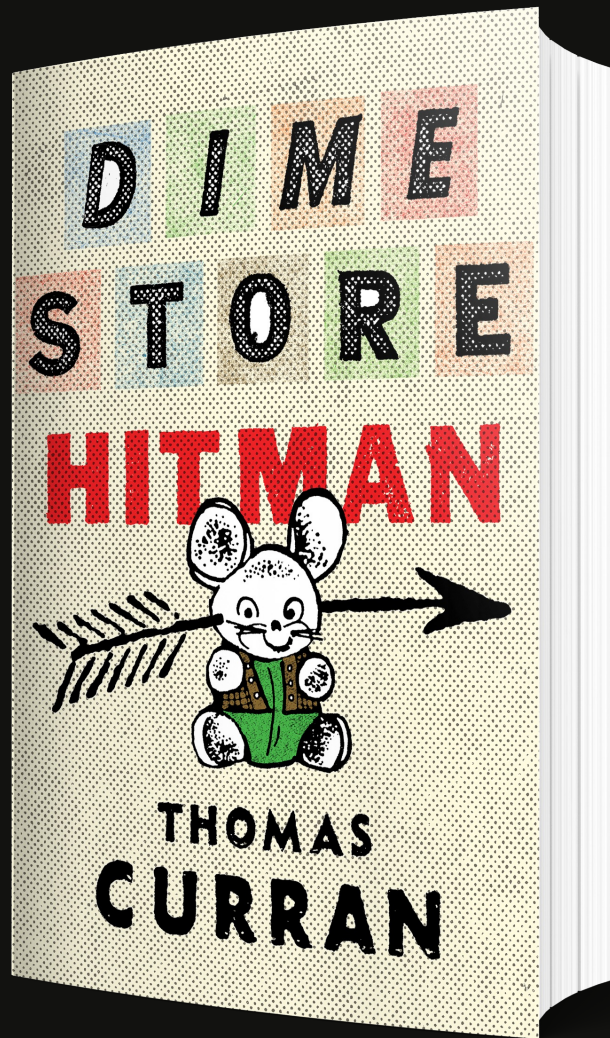


DIME STORE HITMAN | PRESS KIT

THOMAS CURRAN

LOW BUDGET. HIGH BODY COUNT. PREMIUM SNARK.



ON SALE AUGUST 31, 2026

AUDIOBOOK OCTOBER 13

01 Author Biography

Chef turned trans-continental walker turned novelist.

Thomas Curran is an author, chef, and one of the few people crazy enough to walk more than 3,200 miles across America ocean to ocean.

Before turning to fiction, he spent nearly three decades leading fine dining restaurants and multi-unit culinary operations across the United States.

His first novel, *Death, Discovery and Carne Asada*, blended a fictional tale of murder, love, and revenge with his real-life walk across America and became an Amazon bestseller in multiple categories.

His newest novel, *Dime Store Hitman*, launches a darkly comic crime trilogy following Eddie "The Cowboy" DelDuco, a low-budget Los Angeles hitman with a talent for bad decisions and clearance-bin murder weapons. It is book 1 of the *Dime Store Hitman* trilogy.

When he's not writing, Thomas is the co-owner and COO of The Hood Kitchen Space in Southern California, where he helps food entrepreneurs bring products to life through commercial kitchens and small-batch co-manufacturing.

He believes the best stories come from uncomfortable roads, overheard conversations, and people who absolutely should not trust each other.



Thomas Curran, San Pedro, California

IN HIS OWN WORDS

"The scariest person in Los Angeles is not a hitman. It's somebody with a ring light and a grievance."

02 Book Details

AUTHOR	Thomas Curran
CATEGORY	Crime fiction · Dark noir · Satire
SERIES	Book 1 of the Dime Store Hitman trilogy
ON SALE	August 31, 2026 · Audiobook October 13, 2026
FORMATS	eBook, paperback and hardcover at launch
ISBN	979-8-9973377-0-4 (PB) · 978-1-7346748-9-7 (HC) · 978-1-7346748-8-0 (eBook)
ASIN	B0HDXY9F7R (PB) · 173467489X (HC) · B0GPSHZ35N (eBook)
PAGES	316 print / 78 Kindle
PRICE	\$5.99 eBook · \$14.99 paperback · \$24.99 hardcover
COVER ART	Stewart Williams

LOW BUDGET. HIGH BODY COUNT.

PREMIUM SNARK.

Some thrillers give you a polished assassin in a tailored suit. Dime Store Hitman gives you Eddie “The Cowboy” DelDuco, a bargain-bin contract killer whose weapons come from garage sales and whose professional standards are negotiable.

When fame-hungry beauty influencer Jessica Starling decides her wildly popular boyfriend is standing between her and social-media stardom, she doesn’t want a breakup. She wants him gone. Unfortunately, Jessica can’t afford the kind of hitman who drives a sports car and carries sophisticated weaponry. She can afford Eddie.

What begins as a cheap contract quickly spirals into something much bigger, stranger, and more dangerous than either of them bargained for.

Set in the wonderfully seedy corners of Los Angeles, Dime Store Hitman is a darkly comic crime thriller packed with snarky characters, questionable decisions, absurd schemes, and people whose moral compasses stopped working a long time ago.

Fast, irreverent, and gleefully twisted, it’s for readers who like their crime novels suspenseful, their heroes morally ambiguous, and their murder served with a very dark sense of humor.

03 Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Chef and transcontinental walker Thomas Curran launches a darkly comic crime trilogy about a bargain-bin hitman who becomes 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. It follows the success of his first novel, *Death, Discovery and Carne Asada*, an Amazon bestseller in multiple categories.

The book 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.

JESSICA: How much to disappear a boyfriend?

UNKNOWN SENDER: Depends. Does disappear mean dead or relocated to Omaha?

04 Story Ideas

- 01 *Chef, Trans-continental Walker and... Hitman Novelist?*
- 02 *The Most Famous Man in L.A. Who Can't Show His Face*
- 03 *A Killer Who Shops the Clearance Aisle at Target*
- 04 *What 3,235 Miles on Foot Taught Me About Pacing a Novel*
- 05 *Is True Crime the Real Crime? Ask the Novelist Who Put a Podcaster in the Book*
- 06 *Influencers, Infamy and the Business of Being Seen*

ANGLES BY DESK

Crime fiction podcasts · True-crime podcasts · Food & chef desks · Travel / thru-hiking · Los Angeles culture · Indie publishing

05 Sample Interview Questions

Suggested questions for interviews, podcasts and Q&As.

- 01 *Who is Eddie "The Cowboy" DeDuco and why should anybody root for him?*
- 02 *He kills people the way other guys unclog sinks. Where did that come from?*
- 03 *The book turns on a Craigslist message and a one-line reply about Omaha. What's the deal with Omaha?*
- 04 *The villain in this book is an influencer. Why is that the scariest person in Los Angeles right now?*
- 05 *There's a true-crime podcaster in the book chasing clicks and the now infamous Garden Gnome Killer. Are you making fun of true crime, or of us for listening to it?*
- 06 *You were a chef. What do a kitchen and a crime novel have in common?*
- 07 *You walked 3,235 miles across America. What did it teach you about writing?*
- 08 *What is the dumbest weapon in this book?*
- 09 *Who taught you to write dialogue?*
- 10 *It's book 1 of three. What's harder, book 1 or book 2?*
- 11 *Who is this book for?*

06 Main Characters

EDDIE "THE COWBOY" DELDUKO

A low-budget Los Angeles hitman who treats murder like a discount hobby. No tuxedos, no silencers, and a strict no-guns policy... mainly because he can't afford one. Eddie takes jobs for cash, Del Taco gift cards, and vintage concert T-shirts, and prefers murder weapons found at garage sales and clearance aisles. He's surprisingly likable for a guy whose solution to most problems involves relocating someone to Omaha.

JESSICA STARLING

A beautiful, ambitious Los Angeles influencer with barely enough followers to get pity clicks from a retinol brand, and a carefully curated life built on aspiration rather than arrival. Jessica is desperate to break into real fame, and unwilling to let anyone stand in her way. When human obstacles appear, she doesn't hesitate to outsource the problem to The Cowboy.

NYXX / NORA LANE

A brilliant hacker operating online as Nyxx, Nora Lane can find almost anyone, erase almost anything, and manipulate the digital world in ways Eddie barely understands. Smart, sarcastic, and several steps ahead of everyone around her, she becomes Eddie's unlikely partner and the one person capable of making The Cowboy disappear.

BLAKE WILDER

Jessica Starling's secret boy-toy and perpetually failing get-rich-quick schemer who is always one bad idea away from his next "big break." Blake drifts through scams, pitches, and half-baked hustles with confidence but no success. He unknowingly becomes The Cowboy's accidental sidekick, completely unaware that the man he's tagging along with is a professional hitman.

SKYLAR CHARLAMAGNE

Host of the wildly popular true-crime podcast LA Grrrit, Skylar Charlamagne is smart, relentless, addicted to cheap Merlot, and very good at turning Los Angeles tragedy into must-listen entertainment. As bodies pile up and rumors of a mysterious killer spread, Skylar becomes obsessed with uncovering the truth behind the man the city will come to know as The Cowboy.

07 Target Audience

READERS OF DARK NOIR, CULT CRIME & STRANGE AMERICANA

Readers who enjoy dark comedy, noir fiction, cult crime stories, morally messy characters, indie-film energy, strange Americana, and sharp dialogue - stories that balance absurdity with emotional honesty.

FOR READERS OF

Elmore Leonard

Get Shorty

Jonathan Ames

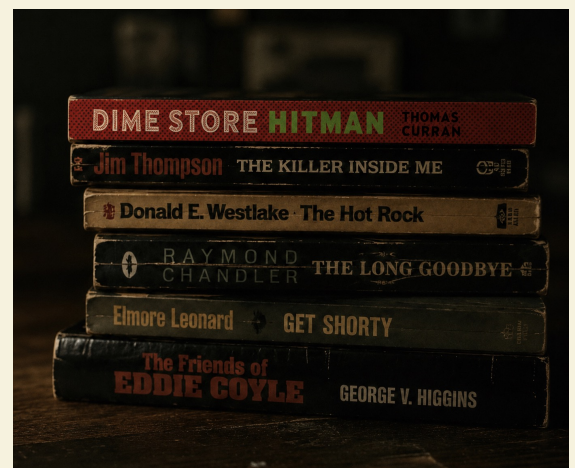
A Man Named Doll

Rob Hart

Assassins Anonymous

Carl Hiaasen

Skin Tight



EARLY PRAISE FOR *DIME STORE HITMAN*

"Fast, weird, violent, and laugh-out-loud funny." - J. Martin

"...a brilliant medley of adrenaline, humor, and absurdity." - BookishBoyle

"Quirky, hilarious and full of personality." - Author Michael Neeb

08 Press Assets

High-resolution images, copy and press-ready downloads.

COVER ART

High-resolution front cover

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AUTHOR PHOTOS

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09

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