

A stake-out caper with a Dallas P.I.

TURNAROUND JACK

By Richard Abshire (Morrow, \$18.95)

By Laurie Trimble

Dallasite Richard Abshire proves in this second Jack Kyle mystery that sometimes a successful novel is more dependent on what you don't do than what you do.

Mr. Abshire has concentrated on a logical, well-thought-out presentation that shies away from the flashy and never sacrifices believability for cheap drama. He also emphasizes the workman-like traits of dependability, thoroughness and intelligence over intuitive, but sometimes illogical, insights.

A 12-year veteran of the Dallas Police Department, Mr. Abshire understands that investigations start with simple facts that, woven together, present a believable picture on which arrests are made and cases solved. After two years as a Dallas private investigator, Mr. Abshire seems more than ready for the big-time mystery circuit.

Mr. Abshire's detective, Jack Kyle, is an all-round good guy with an eye for the ladies, a protective streak a mile wide, and a taste for good scotch.

Kyle's first client in too many months is a foreign millionaire who suspects his wife of cheating on him. He wants her followed, and he doesn't want her to know she's being followed.

Of course, the proof of her escapades must be on videotape, so Kyle hires a space-age, spaced-out photographer with a hooker girlfriend he's worried about. As the surveillance continues, the client's story begins to fray. The stake-out is too easy, the boyfriend is not the man the client described, and soon Jack begins to wonder not only about his job but about



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the client as well.

With the evidence provided and a generous check received from his client, Jack still is not satisfied that he knows the entire story. He's followed the supposedly erring wife all over Dallas, photographed her with an assortment of sleazy types, and is still not sure that she's even married to his client and that he's not getting involved in something much more complicated or dangerous than an extra-marital affair.

When Jack won't leave the case alone, he stirs up an international brouhaha that involves the Feds as well as the Dallas Police Department. It turns into a dangerous, high-stakes investigation of international industrial smuggling that builds to an exciting and unexpected conclusion.

Mr. Abshire not only knows the detective business, he also has captured the peculiar character of Dallas. From the million-dollar North Dallas mansion of his client to the gamy atmosphere of a strip joint, Mr. Abshire has the city down cold.

His setting is accurate to the point of photographic, and his characters have the just off-center charm of the confirmed Texan.

Laurie Trimble regularly reviews mystery novels for The Dallas Morning News.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dick Anderson has published four suspense and hard-boiled whodunits under a different by-line. A fifth novel is well underway. His agent is Dominick Abel.

More significant for this project, Anderson retired in 1979 as a captain in the Dallas (Texas) Police Department, which he had been part of since 1967. He was a private investigator for several years after retiring, then became associate director of campus police at a large Texas university until 1989.

Currently, Anderson is a staff writer for the Law Enforcement Television Network, a nationwide satellite system providing training programs and information to police departments.

The author complemented his degree in criminal justice from Sam Houston State University (Texas) with a master's in literature from Southern Methodist University (Dallas).

Married and the father of five children, he is proud of his three grandchildren. Anderson was born in Paris, Texas.