

Book Review San Francisco

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Indiscretion

By M.G. Crisci

Orca Publishing Company, \$15.95, 380 pages, Format: Trade

★★★★ /5

The protagonist of M.G. Crisci's novel, *Indiscretion*, Martin Ruff – is a straightforward, type-A business man with a wife and two adult sons. He tells his story in a frank and easy manner, connecting the dots for his reader and presenting the world in a simple, direct manner. The plot, which twists and turns in and out of the corporate world, is just the backdrop for Ruff's struggling desire to emotionally connect with *someone* in the midst of family crisis. The ensuing legal repercussions Ruff faces after reaching out to a female coworker in “friendship” chips away at the already crumbling foundation of his personal life.

Crisci's narrative is written in a first-person narrative, with Martin Ruff as the voice of the story as well as the protagonist. Ruff is direct, straightforward, and seemingly objective - revealed primarily through passages of exposition that move quickly and simply with a perverse attention to the *facts*. Yet, I found him to possibly be the most deceptively untrustworthy narrator. Ruff's opinions and conclusions of his family members – and others – are passed through his description of his life's events with the tone of fact, rather than presumption. In the end, I was left feeling as though I knew very little of the truth about anything.

Although Ruff's narration and personality kept me emotionally distant from his crises it was a delightful novel as a whole. I felt, once finished, as though I had been able to take a sneak peek into the mind of someone else and experience a different reality than my own. I found Ruff to be prickly, judgmental, and a bit closed off emotionally – he is not a character that I will put down in my favorites out of allegiance or love – however, Crisci's deft handling of such an untrustworthy narrator definitely affected me as a lover of various perspectives.

If you want a fun, twisty mystery for travel during the holidays, I highly suggest it. If you like a narrative that focuses on an introspective, psychological character sketch, I also suggest this novel. It will appeal to all types of readers.

