



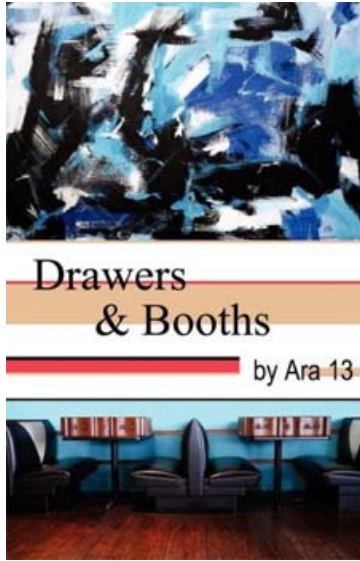
# Book Love Affair

All for the love of a good book!

28 March 2009

## Review: Ara 13

To be quite honest, I've been putting off reviewing this particular book for a week or two now. Now, I wasn't putting it off because I didn't like the book, but instead because Drawers & Booths is just blasted hard to describe.



"The stench of burnt rubber mingled with the queer smell of cooked flesh," begins Drawers & Booths. This innocuous enough beginning seems to be a simple and straight forward military story. However, perhaps it's better to begin with saying that nothing is as it seems in Drawers & Booths. The title, in fact, is admittedly a nonsense title that is very difficult to pronounce correctly. From this initial delving into a standard military story, the story fragments and becomes a complex journey into metafiction.

Here it's important to understand exactly what is all encompassed by the term "metafiction". Metafiction is--basically--a work that does not allow the reader to forget that they are reading a book. The lines between literary device and reality are prodded and tested.

Drawers & Booths will indeed test any reader. The story requires quite a lot of thought and labor on the part of the reader. One cannot simply sit back and enjoy Drawers & Booths, because Drawers & Booths will either amuse, offend, or ask a question of the reader that requires both time and consideration.

This disjointed journey of fiction is not for everyone. In fact, if you're a reader who prefers only pleasure reading or is somewhat lazy, then steer clear of Drawers & Booths. However, if you're interested by a story that is approached with wit, satire, irony, cynicism, and some arrogance while asking questions of morality, the conventions of literature, and belief then I advise trying Drawers & Booths out, even if you aren't familiar with metafiction. Just sit down and give Ara 13's book a try--just keep your trust that the fragmented pieces will all come together. Honestly, revealing any of these twists seems highly detrimental to the enjoyment of any person who would be interested in reading Drawers & Booths.

Instead of spoiling these things for the prospective reader, I'd like to say a few things about 13's book instead. Drawers & Booths was awarded the "Outstanding Book of the Year Award" in the 2008 Independent Publisher Book Awards--an award that I feel was justified by the intensively creative debut from 13. Secondly, 13's humor is well-evidenced in his "about the author" blurb located on the back cover of Drawers & Booths

## Book Love Affair



TJ  
DAVIS, CA, UNITED  
STATES

**Book Love Affair** is for anyone who falls in love whenever he or she opens the cover of a new book, for people who are always looking for the next read, and those who generally just enjoy books!

A perk of **Book Love Affair** is that the reviews include books that have yet to be released, books that are old, books that are new, books that are well-known, books that are obscure, and books from all genres (however, mostly Book Love Affair focuses on adult fiction, with an exception here and there).

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## Contacting Book Love Affair

### Book Bloggers:

If you're a book blogger and would like to exchange blog links, you may contact me by emailing spiffyish [at] hotmail.com to be considered. (Only book review and book related blogs, please.)

### Publicists, Authors, and Others Promoting Books:

Generally, I'm willing to consider reviewing almost any work of fiction; however, I may have to decline if I lack the time (or will). Additionally, I never promise a positive review--I can only promise an honest one. Email me at spiffyish [at] hotmail.com for consideration. (At this time, Book Love Affair is only considering fictional books or related nonfiction such as literary criticisms, books about books, or specific other topics of interest.)

## Half-Formed Thoughts & Updates

I always commit to too much reading! (I know, "too much reading", what's that?)--currently have to finish three books within the week! [3 days ago](#)

Still thinking about action heroes? [3 days ago](#)

So far "The Angel's Game" by Carlos

and may give the prospective reader a good indication if one will "get along" with 13's style:

"Ara comes from a long line of primates. His ancestors are directly responsible for the fashioning of the wheel and the discovery of fire. One of his ancestors was even he first recorded *Homo sapien*. Therefore, the pressure for Ara to succeed is enormous."

However, as previously stated, this disjointed journey of fiction is not for everyone. In fact, if you're a reader who prefers only pleasure reading or is somewhat lazy, then steer clear of [Drawers & Booths](#).

**Final Score: 3.75/5**

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| <p><b>Author:</b> Ara 13<br/><b>Format:</b> Trade Paper<br/><b>Available Formats:</b> None<br/><b>Page Count:</b> 224<br/><b>Genre:</b> Metafiction<br/><b>Publisher:</b> CovingtonMoore, Inc.<br/><b>Pub. Date:</b> Sep. 13, 2007<br/><b>ISBN-13:</b> 9780979863608</p> |  <p><a href="#">Drawers &amp; Booths</a><br/>Ara 13<br/>Best Price \$4.00<br/>or Buy New \$13.50<br/></p> <p><a href="#">Privacy Information</a></p> |
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Posted by TJ at 1:00:00 AM 

Tags: [author: ara 13](#), [genre: metafiction](#), [reviews](#)

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Ruiz Zafón is by far the best book I've picked up this year. [6 days ago](#)

Speaking of action heroes, who's the best? Personally, I have to give that credit to James Bond. Martinis, guns, and girls--just perfect. [7 days ago](#)

The Michael Connelly winner have been announced. Thank you, Hachette, for making the giveaway possible. The Lee Child contest tomorrow! [8 days ago](#)

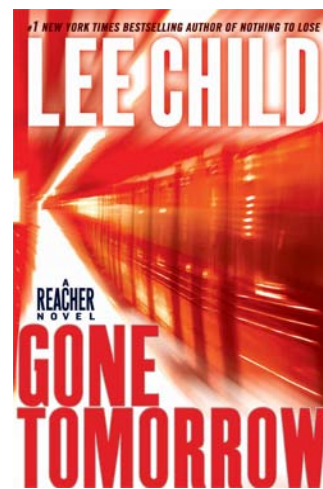
Last call for the Michael Connelly "The Scarecrow" giveaway! Winners will be announced at 9am tomorrow. [9 days ago](#)

I'm overly excited for the Lee Child giveaway! This one should be interesting (not just a dull "give me your email" one). 06/10/2009! [9 days ago](#)

The Lee Child event recording has been uploaded as an mp3 that can be downloaded from Book Love Affair. [10 days ago](#)

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## Great Book Blogs!

### **Bellas Novella**

Sookie Stackhouse Reading  
Challenge  
*2 hours ago*

### **Smart Bitches, Trashy Books**

One Week as Lovers, Two ARCs  
*3 hours ago*

### **A Circle of Books**

Winners - A Summer Affair by Elin  
Hilderbrand  
*7 hours ago*

### **Lesa's Book Critiques**

Beyond the Grave: Book 4: The 39  
Clues by Jude Watson  
*13 hours ago*

### **As usual, I need more bookshelves**

Getting them started early.....  
*1 day ago*

### **Number One Novels**

Kristina Riggle: Real Life & Liars  
*2 days ago*

### **Look At That Book**

Lemony Snicket Appreciation Post  
(Part 10)  
*3 days ago*

## Terminology Glossary

**Antagonist:** The "bad guy" or conflict-creating character of a story

**ARC:** Advance reader's copy

**BLA:** Book Love Affair, an amazing book-review and discussion blog.

**ISBN-10:** 10 digit identification #; every book is assigned an individual code.

**ISBN-13:** 13 digit identification #; every book is assigned an individual code.

**Mass Market (MM):** Small format paperback

**Protagonist:** The "hero" or focal character of a story

**Trade Cloth (TC):** Hardcover





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