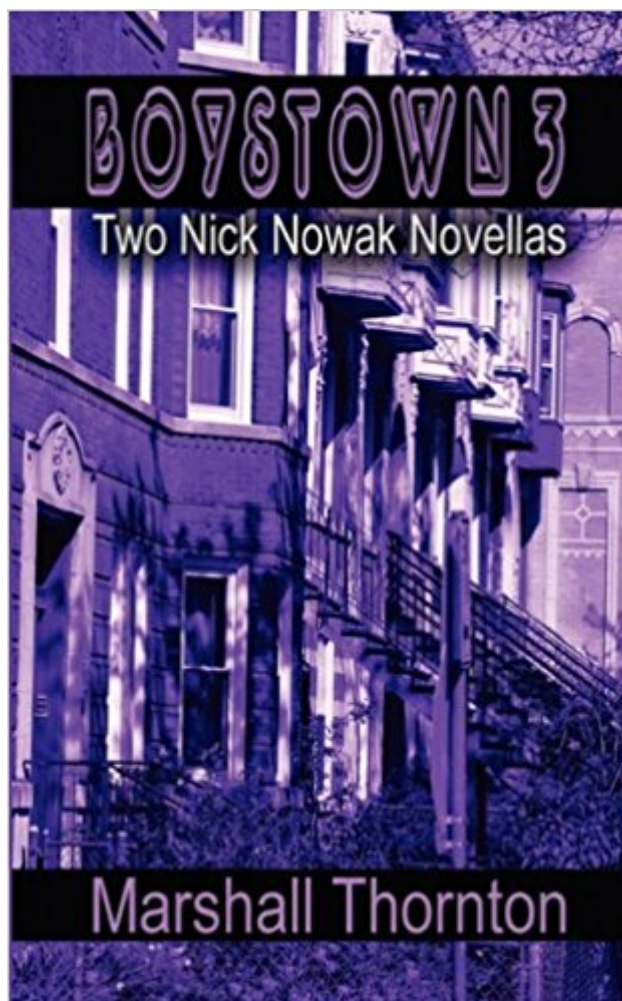


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# Boystown 3: Two Nick Nowak Novellas



## Synopsis

Private Investigator Nick Nowak is back in two novella length mysteries set in Chicago during the early 1980s. In *Little Boy Boom*, Nick's car explodes when a thief attempts to steal it. Realizing the bomb was meant for him, Nick sets out to discover who wants him dead only to find that the list of possible suspects is longer than he'd like. When he begins to run out of suspects he wonders if the bomb was truly meant for him. In *Little Boy Tenor*, Nick is asked to find the murderer of a church choir's star tenor, while at the same time his friend Ross asks him to find out the truth behind his lover, Earl Silver's mysterious death. As he juggles the two cases, he becomes increasingly disturbed by what he learns. Marshall Thornton is an award-winning author, playwright and screenwriter living in Long Beach, California. Author of the *Boystown* detective series, he holds an MFA in screenwriting from UCLA. While there he received the Carl David Memorial Fellowship and was recognized in the Samuel Goldwyn Writing awards.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Marshall Thornton has created a striking and enjoyable saga." -- Chocolate Minx, *Literary Nymphs*  
*Boystown 3: Two Nick Nowak Novellas*, poses the most mysterious cases yet, but also examines, with great delicacy and surprising, precise emotional authenticity, the changes in Nick's personal life, and his persona. This is compelling stuff on two levels, both as detective stories and as dramatic literature. Kilian Melloy - *Edge on the Net*  
"Marshall Thornton is an excellent writer and if you love MM stories and mysteries, you cannot go wrong with Marshall Thornton's *Boystown 3*" -- Elise - *Sensual Reads*  
"If you're new to this series, as I am, grab *Boystown* and *Boystown 2* right

away for a complete collection. You'll become addicted to the main character Nick Nowak and hungrily wait for more adventures to come." Sally Parsons, Windy City Times

Marshall Thornton is a novelist, playwright and screenwriter living in Long Beach, California. He is best known for the Boystown detective series, which has been short-listed in the Rainbow Awards three times and has twice been a finalist for the Lambda Book Award - Gay Mystery. Other novels include the erotic comedy *The Perils of Praline*, or the Amorous Adventures of a Southern Gentleman in Hollywood; *Full Release*; *The Ghost Slept Over* and *My Favorite Uncle*. Marshall has an MFA in screenwriting from UCLA, where he received the Carl David Memorial Fellowship and was recognized in the Samuel Goldwyn Writing awards. He has also had plays produced in Chicago and LA, and stories published in *The James White Review* and *Frontier Magazine*. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Detv. NOWAK LIFE from Bk1 thru Bk7 is a painful at time read. Mr. THORNTON;I was not blessed 2envision WORDS in my head onto paper. I constantly wantNICK 2find HIS HAPPY ever AFTER PARTNER though 2 1/2decades B4the 21st century catches up 2 peeps still trying to figure out how 2GAY & Bthemselves.

I enjoy the characters and the storylines. Even if I am not gay I still enjoy these books. I feel and emotional connection to the stories

Great series.. I love Nick! The characters from prior stories appear so it it best to read them in order. Great writing!

It was pretty good but way to short. At less than 200 pages it was expensive at around \$14.00. Really not sure that I'm would read any more of his books.

Book three was over the top for me as a poorly written book. A disappointment. Nick, as a believable character, lost it in book three. The trajectory of the plot is fueled and maintained by Nick' sex scenes. The mystery it's self becomes only a vehicle for them. Otherwise it is secondary.The introduction of the Aides epidemic was an important element and a good one to bring in. Seemingly, Hackert has Aides and is being slowly and monstrously consumed by it month by month. Nick sometimes notices that Hackert should not be totally debilitated for six plus months, but does

nothing but make a mental note of it and then goes on to other sexual encounters. Nick Never converses with him about the symptoms being seriously wrong. Emergency room wrong. Never says your illness doesn't make sense (which doesn't make sense in it's self). It's scary and something needs to be done to get you better. The author writes it so it is ignored. What makes sense is Hacker's illness has to be treated, by the author, as "the silent unknown illness" of Aides coming into the community at that time. It would spoil a plot line if Hackert were to have any kind of medical diagnosis, or even a conversation to bring up the "elephant in the room". You're unbelievably ill and we're all ignoring it for six months. The author handled this detrimentally to the believability of his readers. Why it was handled this way is absurd. Nick's role here is not believable except if he is supposed to be read as a stereo typical gay male of that time period whose life is only a series of sexual encounters. Do nothing for the man living in your apartment whose steady decline is so obvious to the reader. Yet in the last paragraph of the book....Nick professes his love for Hackert. He now realizes Hackert is his lover. Trite. Comes to late. Not believable except Nick can be with him when he dies in the next book. A story line in book 4 where Aides can be openly part of a plot line. But as a reader, I don't buy it. As a character, Nick is not believable due to the author's story thread choices in book 3. Well except for one, he drives the sex scenes and does them well. That is the basis of the books. The series ends here for me. It is not enough.

This review applies to the whole series. First, like Harry Potter, it really is better to read the books in order, at the moment you can get the first three as a package deal, but, like Harry Potter, they (all nine) can stand alone. Second they are written by a man - much gay fiction is written by woman and although romance is romance, gay sex is different from hetero or Lesbian sex, and men, including the author get it right. And this guy very accurately describes the gay sex scene of the early 1980's as AIDS emerged and people were dying of it. But that is all background for well developed mysteries.

I've heaped praises on Marshall Thornton's extraordinary writing skills in reviews of his first two releases in the Nick Nowak series (Boystown: Three Nick Nowak Mysteries, and Boystown 2: Three more Nick Nowak Mysteries). Marshall Thornton did not disappoint me with Boystown 3: Two Nick Nowak Novellas. Once Again, Brad Langer delivered his perfect oral interpretation and narration skills. Once again, Nick Nowak is the swaggering, self-confident, smart-assed, lovable bad-boy. (If I weren't already married to a guy who's somewhat similar to Nick Nowak, I'd be on the hunt for a

man just like him. (My husband has worked in law enforcement all of his adult life.) But wait—these novels are set in the early eighties—back in the days when the president once starred in a series of movies in which a chimp named Bonzo was said president’s co-star, or maybe Ron was the co-star. Near the end of “Little Boy Tenor” (the second novella), we encounter a Nick who’s not so self-assured. A Nick who recognizes which of his two boyfriends he truly loves—after having sex with his client. Oh, that Nick—it’s just one of his foibles I love. (BTW, if my hubby were doing that, he’d find it very difficult to walk with his ass in a sling.) What more can I say? Well, Marshall Thornton is working on Boystown Four. Hoo-yah! Reviewed for Hearts on Fire by Lee

These mysteries keep getting better. The writing is wonderful, precise and evocative, the mysteries good. There are several things that stood out for me in this one: first, the subtle changes in Nick, who usually represses thoughts and feelings he finds difficult, but this time, he has no choice but to start facing some of what’s going on in his life - Daniel, Harker, Harker’s mom, Ross; second, Harker’s mother has become a favorite character, and her relationship with Nick, rendered in just a few words, is a window into both their characters; third, Chicago in the 1980s, it’s terrifying to observe that time and people’s reactions, seen through Nick’s eyes and knowing what we know now - a very powerful and thought provoking combination.

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