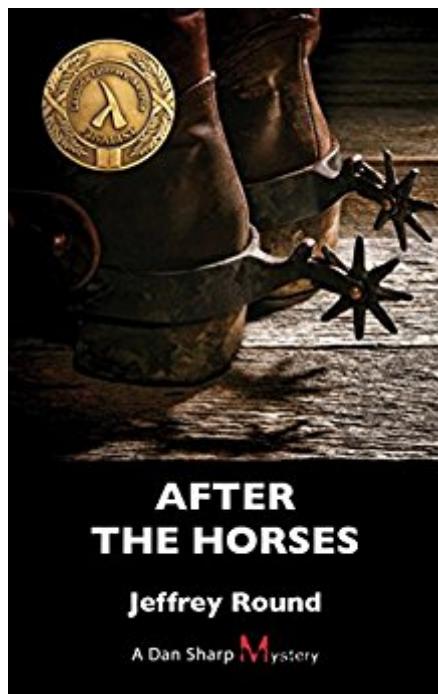


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# After The Horses: A Dan Sharp Mystery



## Synopsis

2016 Lambda Literary Award for Gay Mystery • Shortlisted

Dan Sharp scours Toronto's seamy underbelly after the murder of a notorious nightspot owner, and finds his own life on the line. When Yuri Malevski, owner of notorious country-and-western bar The Saddle and Bridle, is found dead in his Parkdale mansion, missing-persons investigator Dan Sharp is reluctant to interfere in what he sees as police business. At first, Malevski's sleazy lifestyle and shady associates make the murder look like an open-and-shut case, but Dan reconsiders after being approached by a couple who say Malevski was killed by cops over protection money. When vulnerable people who had frequented the dead man's bar begin to disappear, Dan feels compelled to jump in feet first. Following a lead, his investigation takes him into the heart of Toronto's gay community, where he confronts its down-and-outs • transients, drug dealers, and con artists • and soon finds his own life threatened as his search brings him closer to a killer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have only recently found Jeffrey Round's books and boy was I pleased. After I delved into his opening words, I was instantly hooked. Mr. Round has skills beyond measure, when it comes to spinning a tale and carrying the reader into the story he is a master wordsmith. I was amazed at the level of talent this author shows, and he quickly climbed to the top of favorite author list.. In a genre that is often over-romanticized and generically shallow he has shown his readers the depths that he will plumb to in order to provide an intriguing story filled with suspense and mystery. Please consider adding this book to your stack . You will not be disappointed and may find a writer you'll turn to time and again to be entertained by. Kudo's Mr. Round, what a pleasurable read you have given us.

I love Dan Sharp, Jeffrey Round's main character with a complex and somewhat dark past. He develops and changes over the course of these four highly literate books (please let there be more!) and the cast of supporting characters are equally interesting. Good, good writing! Start with the first one and you'll be addicted. My only complaint is that it will probably be awhile before the next installment shows up. I tried to pace myself, but once I started it, I couldn't put it down

big fan of this author. was not disappointed.

I enjoyed the book and looking forward to the next.

This is the fourth novel in the series featuring Toronto private investigator Dan Sharp. In this book he is investigating the death of a prominent nightclub owner with alleged corrupt connections. Dan is hired by a lawyer to investigate the murder despite the ongoing criminal investigation. This adds a layer of complexity. Dan not only has to find the killer, he has to question the motivation of his client. Dan, his client and the victim are all gay. The investigation takes Dan through Toronto's different gay venues, quarters and cultures and his personal life becomes mixed up in the investigation. Many of the characters are also immigrants and so we see the city from their perspective. Dan is quite reflective on issues of social justice and the sometimes conflicting beliefs of minorities. I have a couple of reservations about the book. Dan is an interesting character but he has a lot of views, on everything from traffic flow to the intergenerational housing crisis, and he sometimes expresses them at length when they don't really add anything (you suspect these are the hobby horses of the author rather than the character). I

didn't find the relationship between Dan and his teenage son convincing. Dan speaks to him like a school counsellor. There is no sense in their dialogue of the distance between what a person means, and what they say, when love or fear or just plain tiredness get in the way. A potentially interesting subplot fizzled out rather quickly. And just as I was convinced that Dan was a sensitive and caring guy (albeit an opinionated one) he goes and checks his phone during a funeral! Still, it's very readable and engaging. I found some of the minor characters interesting and would have liked to know more about them. The story kept me guessing till the end. Okay, so a significant clue came from a minor character speaking in riddles, and the police were amazingly co-operative with Dan, but I'd say those are both permissible within the rules of the genre. All in all, it's an entertaining mystery with a strong contemporary setting.\*I received an ARC from the publisher via Netgalley

After the Horses Excellent! Another excellent story in this gritty and engaging mystery series!!! received this ARC some time ago but when I realised that it was part of a series I decided to first read the three earlier books in the series and although it took a bit of time, I am really glad I did. Jeffrey Round, the author, knows how to weave together a solid murder mystery which grips the reader right through to the very end. Dan Sharp, the private investigator in this series, is tough and determined, yet somehow vulnerable. He knows the streets of Toronto having lived on streets, as a young man. His childhood in the hands of a violent, alcoholic father, has left him a somewhat hardened and edgy adult. At the same time he is caring and vulnerable especially towards his son, close friends, former lovers and the mother of his child. He knows what it is to live with darkness and the never ending need for light. So he does his best to hold onto that light and seek it out not just for himself but for missing people. Dan is a PI and he is sometimes able to find that light for other people but sometimes it is too late and the darkness has swallowed them up. Dan also knows how to get to the bottom of the most perplexing mysteries even where the people are untouchable or just plain dangerous. I am so glad I took the time to work my way through all the previous books in the series because now I am a committed fan. This author has two LAMDA nominations and I am not surprised because he knows how to rock a great mystery! There is more to the series than murder, there is also hope and love of family and friends. Reading these books enabled Dan to grow on me as I followed him through changes to his age and his personality. Seeing his relationship with his son, his friends and his colleagues helps the reader understand Dan and the ups and downs of his emotional life. This adds a certain kind of richness to the stories. But the best part for me is the way the story held my attention to the very end and the surprises. I can never guess the 'why' or the

'who' until the big reveal at the end and this ramps up both the tension and the pace. And there is plenty of tension and pace in this story and some deeply emotional moments and I thoroughly enjoyed the way these aspects of the story are woven in. It is just really great storytelling. This story sees Dan investigating the murder of a local gay night club owner. Yuri Malevski, owner of a somewhat seedy and notorious bar, is found dead in his mansion. Dan is reluctant to take the case. Malevski is both sinner and saint having helped the gay community struggle against AIDS but at the same time making money from his sleazy club, drugs and shady deals and Dan feels that the police should be left to get on with the investigation. As Dan digs further he realises that there shady pay offs involving the police and this is where things become darker and more dangerous than Dan first envisaged. The darkness seems to reach out and touch Dan when he is attacked. Of course the ending just wasn't what I thought it would be and this unknowable ending is what makes the story that much more edgy and deeply satisfying. A great read for anyone who likes a good murder mystery. Copy provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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