

# CHRIS ORCUTT

A Truth Stranger Than Fiction

"Dakota Stevens is thoroughly likable and appealing with his rich mix of chivalry and clever mischief." — IndieReader

# <u>A Truth Stranger Than Fiction The Dakota Stevens</u> <u>Mysteries</u>

**Chris Orcutt** 

# A Truth Stranger Than Fiction The Dakota Stevens Mysteries:

**A Truth Stranger Than Fiction** Chris Orcutt, 2015-01-01 A Truth Stranger Than Fiction is a clean fast paced mystery thriller packed with unexpected shifts Our hero and narrator Dakota Stevens is a witty and charming PI detective This story is highly entertaining and fun in its action and humor but beholden to a deeper focus In an adrenaline fueled case that races to the woods of Upstate New York to Boston and the shores of Maine to the Badlands by foot train truck boat and private jet a seemingly simple missing persons investigation quickly becomes the most difficult and personal case of Dakota's career A Missing Author G Men Mobsters and More Manhattan PI Dakota Stevens and his associate Svetlana Kr sh have just moved into new offices on Fifth Avenue A pink and blue haired teenage girl walks in with a problem her older brother and guardian a famous science fiction author has been missing for a week Before Dakota even has a chance to take the case he and the girl are accosted by a horde of people all searching for the brother government agents thugs mobsters and two mysterious Chinese men What could her brother possibly be into A Secret that Could Change the World In their search for the missing author Dakota Svetlana and the girl must navigate a bizarre interconnected world of foreign spies and fangirls mobsters and murderers government bureaucrats and corporate profiteers In the end Dakota exposes a secret that literally has the power to change the world And the truth is a truth stranger than fiction A Truth Stranger Than Fiction is a clean fast paced mystery thriller packed with unexpected shifts Our hero and narrator Dakota Stevens is a witty and charming PI detective hailing from Manhattan A Truth Stranger Than Fiction is definitely worth the read Between the fast pace and the clean fluid language this story is hard to pause and it s thought provoking in its real world relevance This story is highly entertaining and fun in its action and humor but beholden to a deeper focus The Portsmouth Review Readers Say Orcutt has combined a classic hard boiled with the page turning frenzy of a Dan Brown novel PI Dakota Stevens is a cross between Philip Marlowe and Jason Bourne and his partner Svetlana Krush is a chess Grandmaster with the body of a Victoria s Secret model Just when you think you ve solved the mystery Orcutt surprises you with another unexpected twist As for the characters perfection Flawed funny heroic and developed fully from the first page until the final page I read A Real Piece of Work in three days Didn t get much sleep but it was well worth it Dakota Stevens and his indispensable sidekick chess champion Svetlana Krush are a delightful modern take on the noir detective style The author's ability to paint a picture or scene with words is astounding This book is ripe for adaptation to film Orcutt weaves a story that keeps you hanging on until the very end People in the reviews keep mentioning Spenser Robert B Parker and they re right but add a good streak of John Le Carr turn the roaster up a notch and maybe you re getting in the ballpark Reading Orcutt is like chasing a lit fuse into a dark tunnel I am now stalking this author on Amazon anxiously awaiting the release of his next book in the series Fans of Mickey Spillane's more over the top Mike Hammer adventures will welcome Orcutt's third Dakota Stevens outing after 2014 s The Rich Are Different The PI has just moved into a new Manhattan office when a desperate prospective client 18 year old Kelsey

Wright asks him to find her missing brother Conover a famous science fiction writer who was working on a mysterious new work of nonfiction But even before Dakota can agree to help Kelsey who s also upset that she s being tailed a string of intruders to his office including FBI agents thugs from Nebraska and two mobsters insist on learning what Kelsey knows about Conover's whereabouts Dakota and Kelsey later go on the lam aided by an eccentric group of allies headed by Svetlana Kr sh a former U S chess champion who plays the role of Velda Mike Hammer's secretary to Dakota Readers should expect plenty of bloodshed and action en route to an unexpected resolution of the mystery Publishers Weekly Booklife A Truth Stranger Than Fiction is a clean fast paced mystery thriller packed with unexpected shifts Our hero and narrator Dakota Stevens is a witty and charming PI detective hailing from Manhattan A Truth Stranger Than Fiction is definitely worth the read Between the fast pace and the clean fluid language this story is hard to pause and it s thought provoking in its real world relevance This story is highly entertaining and fun in its action and humor but beholden to a deeper focus From the strategic Mark Twain preface to the surprising climax Orcutt takes a truth and hides it in plain sight 4 5 stars The Portsmouth Review The Man, The Myth, The Legend Chris Orcutt, 2013-07-08 Chris Orcutt serves up a deliciously cheeky and ironic collection of short stories that offer glimpses into the perilous lives of ten men from vastly different walks of life and eras An IndieReader Best Book of 2013 From the emotionally poignant to the outrageously humorous this varied collection of stories dramatizes the lives of a wide range of fascinating men including The Last Great White Hunter learns that on the African savanna the most dangerous predator is Woman The Bootlegger goes to extraordinary lengths to provide for his family during the Great Depression The Speechwriter contends with something all men have since the beginning of time gut wrenching temptation The Dogcatcher earns his living finding the lost dogs of uber wealthy clients The Civil War General reveals the pitiful but hilarious depths of his own self deception Brimming with action adventure ample humor and clean picturesque writing The Man The Myth The Legend combines the compelling narrative drive of great movies What happens next with the gemlike beauty of the short story form Readers Say Chris Orcutt's writing is a surprise at every turn of the page The writing is impeccable and filled with underlying humor and wit I would recommend The Man The Myth The Legend to anyone who enjoys suspense romance intrigue and humor So pretty much anyone Orcutt s glib use of language and deft ability to switch into multifarious voices and writing styles captures the nuances of time setting and mentality of each protagonist making each story unique engaging and insightful I absolutely loved this collection of short stories Each story is unique and has a different feel to it I personally loved the story Seven Whole Grains on a Mission It s just incredibly clever and made me laugh out loud through the entire thing Again I was thoroughly engaged in Chris's beautiful use of our language Let this book take you away from the ordinary and whisk you away to other worlds of interesting lives You ll find yourself engrossed in every chapter thinking about the stories you ve read days later This book is like a mahogany box of sample liquors and cigar on the side each bottle providing a new flavor and a memorable aftertaste Author Chris Orcutt

serves up a deliciously cheeky and ironic collection of short stories that offer glimpses into the perilous lives of ten men from vastly different walks of life and eras Whether it is a hunter in Africa or a feisty General of a Civil War era army a gentlemanly writer a senior road engineer dogcatcher or an artist daring to live outside New England Orcutt highlights the tongue in cheek intrigue danger and adventure in each man s life Orcutt s fresh lively descriptions preserve the irony of the stories as with the description of Nick Carraway s mean little bungalow that quaked in the shadow of Gatsby s mansion like a tick beneath a Burmese elephant Orcutt s glib use of language and deft ability to switch into multifarious voices and writing styles captures the nuances of time setting and mentality of each protagonist making each story unique engaging and insightful The Man The Myth The Legend is a stimulating and entertaining collection of stories about the adventure in every man s life work and passion 5 stars IR approved IndieReader

The Perfect Triple Threat Chris Orcutt, 2016-11-24

The Rich Are Different Chris Orcutt, 2012-06-21 The Rich Are Different brings back the smooth Dakota Stevens with his wisecracking and witty shtick Stevens narrates with insightful and humorous observations that bring the nostalgia of the detective noir style Dakota returns with his sexy and brilliant associate Svetlana Kr sh to follow a trail of clues from the sophisticated setting of The Great Gatsby to the forbidding land of Pale Rider The Hunt for A Killer A Long Island heiress hires Dakota and Svetlana to investigate the mysterious death of her brother living in Montana The brother a wealthy eccentric owned an Old West resort and Dakota and Svetlana must go undercover as actors in a make believe mining town straight out of 1885 Like Bullets from a Gatling Gun The suspects come fast and furious greedy CEOs angry Native Americans mysterious mobsters menacing mercenaries kinky housewives and contract killers And while on the case in Montana Dakota and Svetlana discover a motherlode of a motive The Rich Are Different brings back the smooth Dakota Stevens with his keen eye for detail gentlemanly behavior and general wisecracking and witty shtick that make him both charismatic and agreeable Stevens narrates with insightful and humorous observations that bring the nostalgia of the detective noir style Orcutt s writing is succinct clear and smooth Though clues are artfully revealed the plot has several twists that keep the reader guessing in this charming sequel to A Real Piece of Work IndieReader Readers Say Had I paced myself I could have milked at least a week out of the book But no My will power waned and I was done in 2 nights Dakota Stevens is thoroughly likeable and appealing with his rich mix of chivalry and clever mischief The Rich Are Different is an excellent seguel and has been well worth the wait This series is quick paced with its twists and turns that you won t be able to put down the book until you and Dakota solve the crime I ll read anything Orcutt puts out Anyone who reads this should make sure to have a defibrillator nearby The characters are so real the storyline so compelling that real life took a backseat during the 2 days I was reading each of these books The writing is excellent The story moves at a good pace What I like most is the characters are just spot on Great book Great writer There are no wasted words no extraneous chapters no unnecessary passages just good old fashioned mystery and suspense without being melodramatic or over the top Grab some coffee a

Snuggy and a fresh pair of Depends because you won t be able to stop reading once you start A fantastic journey through beautifully described landscapes with an exceptionally well written cast of characters The attention to detail Orcutt achieves while still keeping the story moving at a guick pace is genius The Rich Are Different brings back the smooth Dakota Stevens with his keen eye for detail gentlemanly behavior and general wisecracking and witty shtick that make him both charismatic and agreeable Stevens narrates with insightful and humorous observations that bring the nostalgia of the detective noir style Orcutt's writing is succinct clear and smooth Though clues are artfully revealed the plot has several twists that keep the reader guessing in this charming seguel to A Real Piece of Work 5 stars IR approved IndieReader Brainy stylish imaginative and a great deal of fun 5 stars National Bestselling Author Dave King **Perpetuating Trouble** Chris Orcutt, 2017-10-06 Dear Reader have you ever wished you could earn a living by making stuff up Have you ever fantasized about living the life of a writer If so PERPETUATING TROUBLE is the humorous cautionary tale you need to read I avoided writers very carefully because they can perpetuate trouble as no one else can wrote F Scott Fitzgerald In this memoir novelist Chris Orcutt shows how true this is Debunking the myths Orcutt reveals that the writing life is really one of crushing solitude chronic dissatisfaction mood swings and self doubt and where successes when they come are like diner mints sweet but short lived And everyday life is equally stressful with callous urologists curmudgeonly painters flirtatious receptionists personal feuds and petty thefts For the writer all of this leads to one thing perpetual trouble Yet Orcutt's deep love of language his saintly wife and his indomitable sense of humor keep him going Whether picking up two female hitchhikers who later turn out to be aliens from another planet or divesting himself of a hoard of tacky paintings or using philosophy to get out of a traffic ticket Orcutt finds the humor and the art in his trials It s also a life of love and sadness as he recounts a whirlwind love affair with a ravishing redhead and the death of his beloved writing companion his cat In the end Orcutt discovers that to be a writer he must be part adventurer crusader humorist lover philosopher and of course troublemaker PERPETUATING TROUBLE is Orcutt s tenth book and by far his most personal work to date One Hundred Miles from Manhattan Chris Orcutt, 2014-03-30 From Chris Orcutt critically acclaimed author of the Dakota Stevens Mystery Series comes a rich and descriptive modern novel about a rarefied Upstate New York town where readers can eavesdrop on the lives of the uber rich and those who cater to them An IndieReader Best Book of 2014 Welcome to Wellington New York where the hills and the seemingly quaint village conceal lives of love lust adultery tragedy and small wars A trophy wife undergoes a shocking transformation A medical doctor attracts his own destruction A local bachelor steals a dog and has an epiphany A town Casanova goes on a personal odyssey to make amends And a Manhattan book editor reveals what it s like to be a first time visitor to this rarefied world of wealth horses and equestriennes High Thread Count Dirty Laundry To this exquisitely written novel Chris Orcutt brings his meticulous craft and his talent for writing in multifarious voices and styles all while exposing a world of massive estates rolling green hills hilltoppers townies celebrities hopes dreams sex and the fleeting promises of love

In the rarified town of Wellington N Y the absurdly wealthy ride horses live well and turn to the community s less affluent for diversion and recreation Journalist turned novelist Orcutt the Dakota Stevens series gives nine Wellington residents plus one visitor each their own chapter in this novel Insulated by their wealth these idle rich knowingly embrace the all too foreseeable consequences of their actions revealing a town where selfishness is a way of life Publishers Weekly Booklife Welcome to Wellington New York where in this loose novel readers can eavesdrop on the lives of the uber rich and those who cater to them Think of a very very upscale Winesburg Ohio with no inhabitant nearly so innocent as young George Willard Or think John Cheever for this is certainly Cheever country Kirkus Reviews Chris Orcutt s ten short interwoven stories are widely varied in style offering rich and descriptive language The stories offer a lightness and fluidity in writing Orcutt pays tribute to his literary muses often mentioning his inspiration through his literate characters 5 stars IR approved IndieReader May I add that there s also humor delight and fun This is a portrait of a town and its denizens its schools its diner and hardware store its hair salon as you read it you are there hey maybe you really are there In short this book is full of surprises and is totally fun to read Ann La Farge The Hudson Valley News He is so exquisite in his writing that I couldn t wait to finish I cannot tell you the joy it gives me to read literature that is so well defined The prose is exemplary Pam Stack Authors on the Air Global Radio Network A Real Piece of Work Chris Orcutt, 2011-11-28 Action lust danger style and witty repartee Orcutt s A Real Piece of Work is a work of art Critically acclaimed author Chris Orcutt introduces Dakota Stevens a modern PI with the wit and grit of Spenser and the sleuthing skills of Sherlock Holmes In a thrill ride of a mystery that leads from Manhattan to the Catskills to Washington D C what begins as the simple recovery of a painting soon uncovers an international art scam multiple murders and a chilling secret hidden since WWII Introducing His Gorgeous and Formidable Associate Svetlana Kr sh A Ukrainian American chess champion with runway legs predator eyes and fluency in seven languages Svetlana Kr sh is much more than a sexy sidekick bringing worldly sophistication and a razor sharp mind to their cases Forged and Stolen Art Secret Identities and Murder New York City is in the grips of its worst blizzard since 1888 when an art dealer stumbles in from the storm and hires them to find a stolen painting Dakota and Svetlana are soon neck deep in a world of unstable artists seductive gallery owners mysterious collectors deadly henchmen and a stunning femme fatale A Fast Paced and Intelligent Mystery in the Noir Tradition A Real Piece of Work is a pristinely well written page turner for readers who like a great story told with literary style Action lust danger style and witty repartee Orcutt s A Real Piece of Work is a work of art IndieReader Readers Say Orcutt has combined a classic hard boiled with the page turning frenzy of a Dan Brown novel PI Dakota Stevens is a cross between Philip Marlowe and Jason Bourne and his partner Svetlana Krush is a chess Grandmaster with the body of a Victoria s Secret model Just when you think you ve solved the mystery Orcutt surprises you with another unexpected twist As for the characters perfection Flawed funny heroic and developed fully from the first page until the final page I read A Real Piece of Work in three days Didn t get much sleep but it was well worth it Dakota

Stevens and his indispensable sidekick chess champion Svetlana Krush are a delightful modern take on the noir detective style The author's ability to paint a picture or scene with words is astounding This book is ripe for adaptation to film Orcutt weaves a story that keeps you hanging on until the very end People in the reviews keep mentioning Spenser Robert B Parker and they re right but add a good streak of John Le Carr turn the roaster up a notch and maybe you re getting in the ballpark Reading Orcutt is like chasing a lit fuse into a dark tunnel I am now stalking this author on Amazon anxiously awaiting the release of his next book in the series More about A Real Piece of Work The novel contains a password giving buyers access to research bonus material on the Dakota Stevens website The novel is based on over 2 000 pages of articles and government documents including information about the now famous Monuments Men to ensure that elements of the book are historically accurate Action lust danger style and witty repartee Orcutt s A Real Piece of Work is a work of art 5 stars IndieReader This is an extremely well written novel It has all the elements you would want to find in a book of this genre plenty of fast action beautiful women secret wealth and bravery beyond measure But add in a couple of extra ingredients and you have a real winner The extra ingredients The quality of the writing The book moves at a pace and it s a consistent pace It never flags But the ingredient that makes this a winner for me is definitely Orcutt s wit He paints the Dakota Stevens character so well that you cannot fail to like him 5 stars The Kindle Book Review Stylishly written nods to the classics of the detective genre with great characters and plenty of wit and originality 5 stars National Bestselling Author Dave King Chris Orcutt, 2018-11-09 In this thrilling preguel to the Dakota Stevens Mystery Series readers will encounter a younger devil may care Dakota at his charming witty and resourceful best DAKOTA BEGINS Dakota Stevens has just thrown off the shackles of the FBI and launched his own private detective agency But it s not going well His so called cases are limited to tawdry divorce work and his personal life is a shambles In short Dakota Stevens is a hot mess Back to School Enter the Director of the FBI who compels Dakota to go undercover at an Ivy League university His task To rescue a college coed from the clutches of a Svengali like sex researcher Dakota Meets Svetlana While working the case Dakota meets sexy international chess grandmaster Svetlana Kr sh Svetlana bored with her chess career is seeking a new challenge Dakota desperately needs an associate of her caliber but the two get off to a rocky start Learning the PI Trade Can Dakota navigate a minefield that includes flirtatious coeds passionate professors hired thugs and former FBI colleagues Can he repair his personal life Can he learn to trust Svetlana And most importantly can be rescue the girl in time A Devil May Care Dakota A Study in Crimson the prequel to the critically acclaimed Dakota Stevens Mystery Series shows a younger devil may care Dakota at his charming **The Rich Are Different** Chris Orcutt, 2014-05-19 Dakota Stevens the tough and charming witty and resourceful best New York private eye returns with his sexy and brilliant associate Svetlana Kr sh in a case that takes them both into the Old West The Rich Are Different the 2nd novel in the Dakota Stevens Mystery Series delves into the rarefied world of a Long Island heiress and her murdered brother who owned an Old West resort in Montana To hunt down the man's killer Dakota

and his associate Svetlana Kr sh must go undercover as actors in a make believe mining town straight out of 1885 This highly anticipated seguel to A Real Piece of Work picks up a few months after that difficult case Dakota Stevens is depressed He s darker battle scarred and less cavalier He s lost his detecting mojo and hasn t taken a case since A Real Piece of Work Can he get his mojo back and find the killer Like bullets from a Gatling gun the suspects come fast and furious eccentric heiresses greedy CEOs catty thespians sexy henchwomen angry Native Americans mysterious mobsters menacing mercenaries kinky housewives and contract killers It's a classic case of East meets West as Dakota and Svetlana follow a trail of clues that takes the reader from the sophisticated setting of The Great Gatsby to the forbidding land of Pale Rider National Bestselling Author Dave King calls The Rich Are Different Brainy stylish imaginative and a great deal of fun Praise from Amazon Customers Had I paced myself I could have milked at least a week out of the book But no My will power waned and I was done in 2 nights Dakota Stevens is thoroughly likeable and appealing with his rich mix of chivalry and clever mischief The Rich Are Different is an excellent sequel and has been well worth the wait This series is quick paced with its twists and turns that you won t be able to put down the book until you and Dakota solve the crime I ll read anything Orcutt puts out Anyone who reads this should make sure to have a defibrillator nearby The characters are so real the storyline so compelling that real life took a backseat during the 2 days I was reading each of these books The writing is excellent The story moves at a good pace What I like most is the characters are just spot on Great book Great writer There are no wasted words no extraneous chapters no unnecessary passages just good old fashioned mystery and suspense without being melodramatic or over the top Grab some coffee a Snuggy and a fresh pair of Depends because you won t be able to stop reading once you start A fantastic journey through beautifully described landscapes with an exceptionally well written cast of characters The attention to detail Orcutt achieves while still keeping the story moving at a guick pace is genius Forthcoming Books Rose Arny, 2002

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