

Library Journal Review 7/1/12

This title publishes AUGUST 2012

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LIBRARY JOURNAL MYSTERY SECTION

Car Wash Blues: A *MICK MURPHY KEY WEST MYSTERY*

ISBN: 9781432825805

Publisher: Five Star: Gale Cengage

Semiretired journalist Mick Murphy has never been one to shy away from action, but even he's surprised when he is accidentally involved in a shoot-out at the local car wash. Suddenly, Key West, FL, has become the hub of the war on drugs, and almost overnight, Mick becomes the target of two Mexican drug cartels. Now the DEA and every other possible law enforcement agency want a part of the action. Having lost one girlfriend to violence years ago, Mick will do anything to protect his current lover, Tita. When Tita gets taken as a hostage, it's personal.

VERDICT: The latest Mick Murphy thriller (*Car Wash Blues*) delivers abundant action, car chases, boat chases, and an alphabet soup of weapons. Toss in some subterfuge and a brewing hurricane, and you've got the perfect beach read. While lighter than T. Jefferson Parker, Haskins explores similar themes.