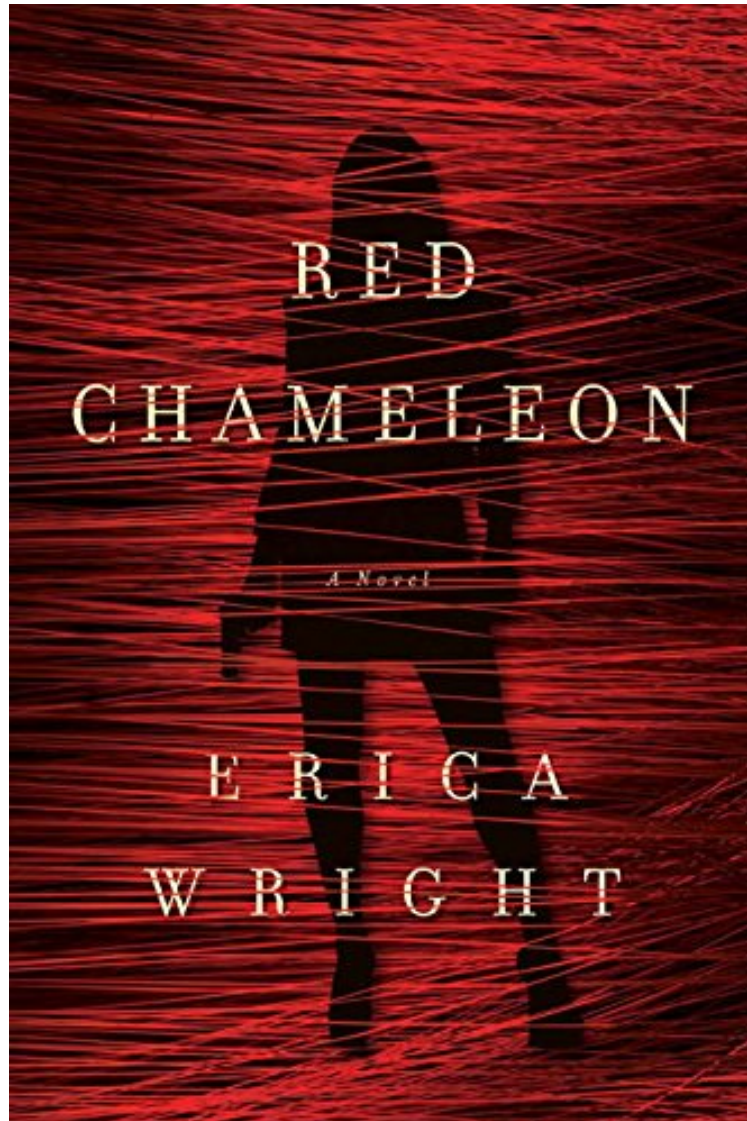


[Pdf free] The Red Chameleon: A Novel

The Red Chameleon: A Novel

Erica Wright

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Erica Wright : The Red Chameleon: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Red Chameleon: A Novel:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Erica Wright's first novel is a cut above the typical first novel in the mystery genreBy Paige EllenAh, the first novel by a new author. I bought this novel because I am a bit OCD when it comes to authors. Erica Wright has asked me to review her second novel. Since it involves the same characters, i felt, yes, compelled to read this predecessor to "The Granite Moth," her second novel, which I am now nearly finished

reading. But to the task at hand. First novels are a achievement, even in this day when self-publishing is so easy. Having the guts to put one's work out there and say, 'there it is. I believe this is worth your time.' In this case, I am happy to say, it is well worth the time. Erica Wright writes as if she was born to it. Her prose flows easily. I did not find this novel to be a "page turner", but the characters and the story line held my interest such that, despite losing no sleep, I read quickly and with enjoyment. One of my requirements in any protagonist is a snarky attitude. Ms Wright's lead character, whose given name is Kathleen Stone, goes by more names than I can count, mostly female names and personae, with the one exception of Keith, her one male persona. Kat is a former undercover police person, whose "big" case ended with a cloud of doubt hanging over her head. She was so worn out from the assignment that she took a break from policework that became permanent. Like so many other protagonists in mystery novels, she is a former cop now working in the private sector. As to snark, she is very snarky but tends to keep it to herself, in her first person narrative. That is the challenge, how to take a (sorry) tired premise and draw the reader in. She does this with skill and aplomb. I found myself fascinated by the cast of characters (and characters they are) with whom she surrounds herself. Her best friend is Dolly, a drag queen who is the star at the city's leading drag club. They met at the workplace of the wigmaker they have in common, who working out of Brighton beach is, of course, a character herself. Dolly and Kat agree on one thing for sure, their wigmaker is the best in town. She can handle the needs of Dolly, which are, of course, outrageous, as well as she meets the needs of Kat, who is a master of disguise, with identities ranging from her cover as a real estate agent to soccer mom, and so forth. Another character to whom we are introduced is Meeza, who moves from being a secretary for all the tenants on the floor to taking a job as Kat's personal assistant, and whom starts to become a P.I. in her own right. The plot involves something typically mundane for a run of the mill P.I., which quickly becomes more complicated and draws Kat into a possible brush with "the one that got away" from her undercover case. He is a mobster and he is a danger to Kat and her loved ones. The story unfolds with some lovely twists and turns and ends in a way that is mostly satisfying but clearly sets up a sequel. It's all good. If I have one criticism, there are times when, as the text flows, I felt that Ms Wright was struggling for the right word, and I believe sometimes did not come up with the word she wanted. That is a minor thing, believe me, as it does not interfere with the story in any way. In truth, given that this is a first novel, I would have given it 4.5 stars but the ratings systems don't allow for that. Here is why I found it a cut above most first novels. Ms Wright's prose flows easily as I have said. To her credit, despite the sometimes seamy settings and characters, her language is spot on without indulging in trying to demonstrate her "street creds" by utilizing foul language, graphic violence or drawn out, overly detailed sex scenes. This is a very good novel by an up and coming author. I recommend "The Red Chameleon" highly and look forward to her next book. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Perfect Summer Reading By Deborah Hauser The Red Chameleon is the perfect summer read and a real page turner. It has just the right amount of twists and turns, but never gets too complicated to follow. It's sexy, but not sentimental and doesn't have an ending that ties up too neatly. It's a cut above the usual crime novel with a well-developed and complex heroine who feels very true to life. Kat Stone makes errors and suffers the consequences instead of having things work out magically. I can't wait for the sequel. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Short on Excitement By D. McDonald Here is a shaggy dog story, long on asides with a meandering story line. Written in the first person, we tag along while our heroine considers from moment to moment what she should do, what she will or won't do and what she's doing (perhaps wrongly). Some of these thoughts are humorous, but eventually I tired and began wishing for a more clear forward momentum. This book lacks a thrill, any mystery or a clear denouement. Just nothing here to recommend.

Kathleen Stone's ability to blend in makes her an ace private investigator, but when a cheating spouse she is tailing ends up dead she fears that someone from her past has seen through her disguises. As a private investigator, Kathleen Stone relies on her ability to blend into the background. Aided by her street-smart drag queen friend and the best wigmaker in New York City, she feels confident that her camouflage is up to snuff. But when a cheating spouse she's been trailing ends up dead under suspicious circumstances, she fears that someone she angered in her past job? busting gangs and drug dealers as an undercover cop? has seen through her disguises. Now she must work with her former colleagues in the NYPD to solve the case before she's the next victim.

From Booklist Private Investigator Kathleen Stone is a 25-year-old former undercover cop with a talent for disguises. Investigating philanderers seems like safe work after living undercover with drug dealers until one cheating husband ends up dead in an upscale bar. Unfortunately, Stone is the most likely suspect, but former police academy partner turned detective Ellis Dekker would rather work with her than arrest her. After her apartment and her office are broken into and vandalized, Stone is asked to unofficially join the investigation. There is some chemistry between her and Dekker as well as between her and her former undercover lover. Her closest friends, a drag queen and a gifted wig maker, help with her disguises and add some humor to the mayhem. Stone is an engaging character with a disturbing background that adds another layer to this first novel. Wright is a little darker and not quite as over the top as Janet Evanovich, but aficionados of humorous mysteries like the Stephanie Plum series and the Lucky O'Toole series by Deborah Coonts will want to add this to their reading lists. --Stacy Alesi "Kathleen Stone is a private investigator well

versed in the art of disguise. Her wigs, costumes and varied personae come in handy in the fight against a revenge-minded villain from her days in the NYPD.” - O Magazine (featured in 'Killing It: The Summer's Best Thrillers')“At the start of this riveting crime novel from poet Wright, PI Kat Stone, a former NYPD undercover detective, discovers the dead body of Stephen Kramer, the unfaithful husband she’s been tailing, in the men’s room of an Upper East Side bar. When Kat begins to look like the most likely suspect in Kramer’s shooting murder, Det. Ellis Dekker, who’s in charge of the case and a friend of Kat’s, vouches for her innocence and brings her unofficially into the investigation. After someone breaks into both her home and office, Kat begins to think that her former undercover activities might be catching up with her. Painful repressed memories start to surface that touch on the reason she resigned from the police force at age 25. A possible romance with Ellis adds to the intrigue, as does the appearance of a past lover. Readers will want to see more of the humorous, thoroughly engaging Kat.” - Publishers Weekly“The Red Chameleon introduces us to a thrilling new hardboiled world. Wright has created a rich and nuanced protagonist, as well as a gripping plot, and she writes in a style agile enough to veer into surprising pockets of emotion.” - Justin Kramon, author of Finny and The Preservationist“A complex tale filled with humor and sharply drawn characters, Erica Wright takes the reader on a thrilling ride where confronting evil can scare you into hiding or help you come out of the shadows.” - Melodie Johnson Howe, author of City of Mirrors“The Red Chameleon is a fast, exciting read that mystery lovers will consume in huge gulps.” - Carolyn Haines, author of The Darkling and The SeekerAbout the AuthorErica Wright is a senior editor at Guernica Magazine. Her first novel featuring P. I. Kathleen Stone, The Red Chameleon, was published by Pegasus Books in 2014. Erica lives in Florida.