

## Mary Anne Yarde 5 Stars

Jack Dillon arrested Deja' for first degree murder, then married her. After failing to kill him, she left town. Now he's searching for her needing answers, wanting her love. But then Jack Dillon made a near-fatal mistake — he fell in love with the woman he had arrested for Murder One. After that, his life spiraled out of control, and now he is tracking down a dangerous jewelry thief who has killed once and could kill again. Jack has no idea where this journey is going to take him, but he is determined to find out the truth, or die trying. From the theft of a fei tsui jade necklace on the idyllic Phú Quốc Island to a last yet dangerous liaison in a motel room in Hawaii. Ordinary Suicide by Robert D. Rice II is one of the most magnificently opulent and engaging Historical Thrillers that I have read this year.

Written with a seemingly boundless supply of energy, Rice has presented his readers with a book that is utterly addictive from start to finish. The super-fast narrative and the roller-coaster plot twists made this novel next to impossible to put down. The attention to the historical detail has to be commended. Rice has researched this era with a great deal of skill and diligence. Through the narrative of Jack, Rice explores in passing some of the most notorious criminals of the 20th Century in America. He also has his protagonist become an unlikely suspect in the murder of two police officers in the British Pavilion at the New York World Fair. Rice's dedicated hours to research has certainly paid off. His depiction of 1940s America was simply marvelous.

I have to applaud Rice's tenacious determination to find his own unique voice, and I think he has done so admirably. In doing this, Rice has penned something extraordinary. From shark attacks to murder, this is a story that will keep you sitting on the edge of your seat and asking, no begging, for more. It is a fun, thrilling, exciting read where the characters are captivating, and the plot is a tangled web of lies and interlocking stories. There are so many twists and turns in this book that there was no time to catch one's breath. Rice throws his readers straight into the action. If this were a car, you would definitely be advised to buckle up for this is a white-knuckled ride. To keep up this kind of momentum is incredibly hard to pull off, but Rice nailed it — not once does he let his readers pause for breath. The pages seem to fly by while I lost myself in a book that is a cross between a historical fiction thriller and a domestic family saga — the family is, of course, involved in criminal activity! Jack Dillon is an unlikely hero. He is a washed-up ex-detective who finds himself embroiled in a dangerous criminal underworld that involves war, theft, and murder. Despite Jack's sometimes felonious tendencies and his unquenchable love for a woman who tried to kill him, I liked him. Rice's depiction of Jack is sublime. Brilliantly executed and masterfully delivered. There is quite a large cast of full-bodied yet fallible characters in this book. All of the supporting characters have intriguing backstories, and they each bring something fabulously unique to the story. I was particularly enthralled with Winnie's characterization.

If you love Historical Thrillers that are super-fast-paced, and plot-twists that happen so suddenly that you could end up with whiplash, then Ordinary Suicide by Robert Rice II is the book for you. I loved every minute of it. I Highly Recommend.