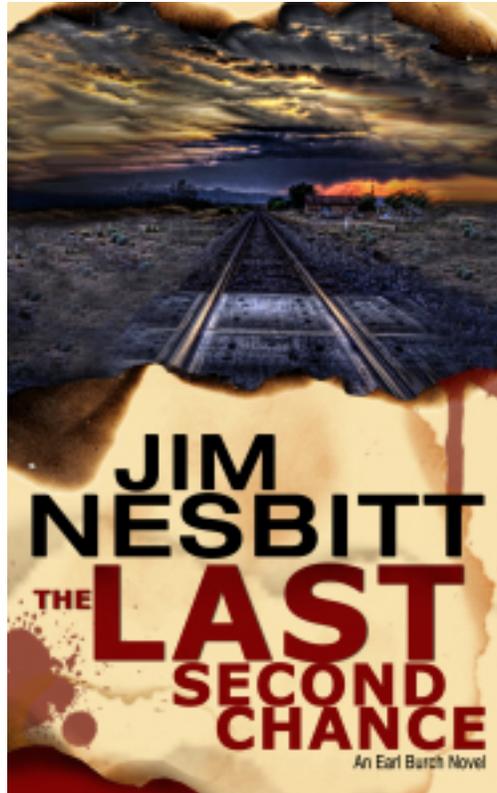


"The Last Second Chance" by Jim Nesbitt



Ed Earl Burch, a cashiered vice and homicide detective, has his life narrowed down to chasing financial fugitives from the carnage of the oil bust and savings and loan crash that scarred Dallas in the mid-1980s. Throw in the occasional wayward spouse and a ready eye for the next round of bourbon, sipped with a boot resting on the rail of his favourite saloon.

Where can I get a copy?:

Amazon links: <https://amazon.com/author/jimnesbitt> & Search for "The Last Second Chance" by Jim Nesbitt through the Amazon store for your country.

Available in both print and e-book formats on 25 April 2016 (pre-order now!)

My Review:

***** Too frequently new authors, particularly self-published authors, are overlooked in favour of the usual suspects. Don't miss out this time!
Ed Earl Burch, drummed out of the police force following the death of his partner, is an overweight and uninspiring Private Investigator. After a less-than-conventional introduction to femme-fatale (with emphasis on the fatale) Carla Sue Cantrell, Burch finds himself dick deep in a shit day. Having been pinned for a couple of particularly nasty murders, Burch is on the run from his former colleagues, and members of a violent gang, and is in search of the man responsible for the death of his former partner. He and Ms Cantrell must make their way across Texas and into Mexico to find the formidable T-Roy.*

I thoroughly recommend "The Last Second Chance" to anyone who loves detective

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genre books, "China Town" style stories, Noir classics, Elmore Leonard, and well you get the picture. It's full of snappy dialogue, sharp one-liners and an edgy plot that will keep you reading until the end. I particularly like the short chapters – great for the time-poor readers who get most of their reading done on the trains/buses. This book contains descriptions of strong violence and sex. It is only suitable for mature audiences – who will really enjoy it!

** Special thanks to Mr James Elroy for adding such a delightful expression to my regular rotation.*

A quick interview with Jim:

Sarah: What inspired you to write a detective genre novel?

Jim: I've always thought hard-boiled detective novels an art form. At their best, they're more than who-dun-its or thrillers, they're vehicles for a writer's observations about culture, politics, philosophy, music, history and a time or a place. Or life, it's ownself. When you read James Ellroy, Dashiell Hammett or James Lee Burke, their stories are always about far more than good guys chasing bad guys. That's the kind of book I wanted to write. When you write, you start with what you know. And I knew a little something about the border, Texas and Mexico from my journalism days. Knew some cops and redneck outlaws, too. And I knew I wanted to write a noirish detective novel. So I started with that and went from there. Out popped Ed Earl Burch, Carla Sue Cantrell and *The Last Second Chance*.

Sarah: Who are your top three authors and how have they influenced your writing?

Jim: Hard to pick just three because if you want to write and write well, you need to read – everything. You pick up clues and tradecraft from other writers, often subconsciously. And some are so good they make you weep with despair because you know you'll never reach their heights – Cormac McCarthy, for instance. When I was a youngster, it was Ernest Hemingway and Hunter S. Thompson. Thompson taught me to push boundaries and to be a wild-ass swashbuckler, which is what one of my editors called my style. Hemingway taught me discipline and the killer instinct – that steely ability to ditch everything but the best. Be willing to kill your word children, even the pretty ones, if they don't measure up and serve the story. These days, I'll read anything by James Lee Burke, Lawrence Sanders, Elmore Leonard and James Ellroy, who you lovingly poached in your review of my book. I love Philip Kerr's Bernie Gunther books for the main character's unsinkable and cynical survival instincts and bitter humor. But the guy who has probably had the most influence on my writing is the late James Crumley, an underappreciated talent. His *Dancing Bear* and *The Last Good Kiss* are must-reads. And his main characters are battered, cynical and wise-ass survivors. They're both deeply flawed, but down deep decent guys who try to stay true to their personal sense of right and wrong.

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Sarah: Is Ed Earl Burch based on any particular person or character?

Jim: Yeah, me. And most of my hard-drinking, cynical, smart-ass journalism buddies. We're a rude lot. And we're nobody's idea of anybody's hero. I think Ed Earl is a guy with whom most people can identify. He's a bit of an Everyman who has been smacked around by life. As a result, he's placed himself in a box of his own making; one he thinks will keep him from getting smacked again. He's dead wrong, of course. And when the shit hits the fan, he's surprised to find the grit and determination that made him a good cop are still there, giving him the strength to answer the call and survive. He's also cynical as hell and a smartass who can't help taking a whack at folks he doesn't like – even when he knows they'll whack him back.

Sarah: The book leaves the reader hanging, wondering what will become of Burch. I notice that you a second novel in the series nearly ready to go, when can we expect to see that 'on the shelves'?

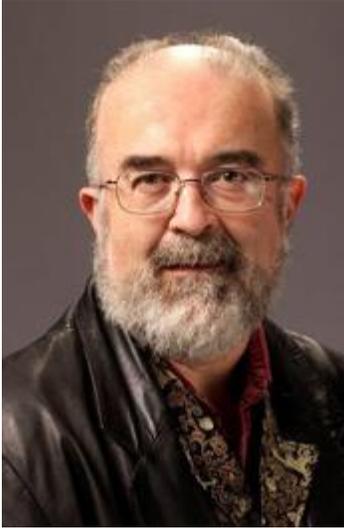
Jim: Well, you've put up with me bitching and whining about the nightmarish logistical process to get this book out the door. I originally wanted to get it released before Christmas – I'm lucky it's out before Easter. I've still got some editing to do on the second book, titled *The Right Wrong Number*. It's another Ed Earl yarn that I hope to have out by fall. I've learned a lot about the logistics of getting a book out the door – mainly because I stepped in every pothole possible getting this one out.

Sarah: Before we go, do you have any tips for up and coming authors?

Jim: There's no magic bullet or easy shortcut. You just slap your butt down in the chair and get the words in your head down on paper. And when the words won't come, get up, take a walk, get a drink, get laid – then sit your butt back down in that chair and write.

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About the Author: Jim Nesbitt



For more than 30 years, Jim Nesbitt was a roving correspondent for newspapers and wire services in Alabama, Florida, Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Washington, D.C. He chased hurricanes, earthquakes, plane wrecks, presidential candidates, wildfires, rodeo cowboys, ranchers, miners, loggers, farmers, migrant field hands, doctors, neo-Nazis and nuns with an eye for the telling detail and an ear for the voice of the people who give life to a story. He is a lapsed horseman, pilot, hunter and saloon sport with a keen appreciation for old guns, vintage trucks and tractors, good cigars, aged whiskey and a well-told story. He now lives in Athens, Alabama.

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