

For More Information:

Contact: Philip Tatham, Monsoon Books

T: +65 6476 3955

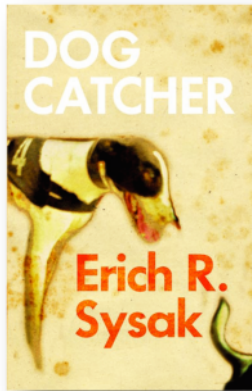
F: +65 6476 8513

E: sales@monsoonbooks.com.sg



**Erich R. Sysak, dubbed “One of Florida’s Most Talented Young Writers”
chooses Singapore publisher for his stunning debut novel that explores
the hostile subculture of Florida greyhound racing**

DOG CATCHER



Singapore, 1 July 2005—To support his graduate school studies in Tampa, Florida, Erich Sysak worked nights and graveyards for an emergency animal hospital and attended classes during the day. “I wasn’t getting much sleep,” explains Sysak. “Night-shift Animal Control officers (ACOs) hung out at the hospital and told stories, some of the craziest stories were about dogmen and greyhounds. Later, when I went to work for another vet I met some of the greyhound people. Turned out the strange stories were mostly true. Knowing there was this whole, carnival-like, sub-culture of ACOs and vets, dogmen and gambling that existed parallel to everyday life hooked me into writing about it.” So, when Sysak began to write his novel, these vivid

stories became the perfect backdrop for a dark exposé of dog racing in Central Florida.

DOG CATCHER (ISBN: 981-05-3374-8; S\$20.95; Paperback; Pages 208pp) is a fast-paced urban noir that explores the hostile subculture of Florida’s greyhound racing. Protagonist Coleman Legget’s voice is at once gritty and realistic and offers an unflinching glimpse into contemporary American Southern culture. In his debut novel, Sysak takes readers on a realistic romp through a countrified Florida landscape of trailer parks and strawberry farms, dog kennels and animal hospitals.

DOG CATCHER is available at all leading bookstores in Singapore. Pub date: 1 July 2005

Endorsements:

“Erich R. Sysak is a splendid young writer showing outstanding promise. With *Dog Catcher* he’s off to an excellent start of what I’m convinced will be an important literary career.”

—**Pulitzer Prize-winning author Robert Olen Butler**

“Erich R. Sysak, one of Florida’s most talented young writers, gets there first with a novel about greyhound racing. It’s handled with the lyric grace of power in motion, strong feeling, and all of the suspense of a well-run race. Sysak’s beasts, beautiful and doomed, rise to the level of tragedy.”

—**Sterling Watson, author of *Sweet Dream Baby***

About the Author:

Sysak’s short stories can be found in *Oxford Magazine*, *storySouth*, the *Paumanok Review*, *Ducts* and *Projected Letters*. His essays and articles have appeared in numerous publications including, *the Bangkok Post*, the *Nation* newspaper, *Antiquarian Book Review*, *Knot Magazine* and *International Living*. Originally from Tampa, Florida, Sysak currently lives in Thailand, where he teaches writing and literature at Webster University in Hua Hin.

About the Publisher:

Monsoon Books is a Singapore-based trade publisher of commercial fiction and non-fiction. Monsoon Books’ titles are sold throughout Asia, Australasia and the United States. For more information please visit www.monsoonbooks.com.sg

Story Ideas for *Dog Catcher*:

- Report on greyhound cruelty worldwide. Every year, hundreds of thousands of greyhounds are bred for the worldwide greyhound racing industry, and tens of thousands of greyhounds that are not fast enough to race or are too old to run any more are slaughtered. They are shot, starved, hung by rope, dumped in landfills and even exported to dogmeat-consuming countries. This has been widely documented; for more info, see <http://www.greyhoundaction.org.uk> or google “greyhound cruelty”.
- Report on greyhound cruelty in Asia. Greyhound racing is big business in Macau, mainland China, Vietnam and Korea, and is just taking off in Philippines and Cambodia. Thousands of dogs are bred locally or imported from Australia. Those that prove too slow to race are killed. For more info, see <http://www.greyhoundaction.org.uk> (be warned the photos are distressing).
- Report on the number of international authors calling Southeast Asia home. Erich Sysak teaches at a university in Thailand and plans to settle in Asia. His next two novels are both set in Asia. Contact the publisher for contact details of other expatriate authors living in Asia.
- Report on the emergence of Singapore-based book publishers exporting quality fiction to the West. Monsoon Books is a young, vibrant publishing house committed to producing quality classic and contemporary crime, literary and pulp fiction, humour, and creative nonfiction for the world market. (Monsoon Books owns worldwide exclusive rights to *Dog Catcher*.)

DOG CATCHER

By Erich R. Sysak

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Monsoon Books Pte Ltd, Blk 106 Jalan Hang Jebat #02-14, Singapore 139527
Tel: +65 6476 3955 Fax: +65 6476 8513 Email: sales@monsoonbooks.com.sg