

Threshold

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Threshold ISBN 978-0-595-49758-4 by Bonnie Kozek, iUniverse, 118 pages, paperback, \$11. 95.

This novel is subtitled "A Hard-boiled Thriller", and if this translates into a depiction of an attempt to find a killer on the streets of a depressed neighborhood peopled by drug addicts, pushers, prostitutes, mentally retarded and grossly mentally disturbed people, I believe the subtitle is aptly applied.

The main character is Honey McGuinness who works in a mission run by an apparently dedicated minister. As a child she was raised by a mother who provided "practice runs" with the child for a final attempt at "flying" off a tenth story balcony, which she finally accomplishes. (We can assume LSD, or other "aid" was involved in these episodes.) The child survives, but obviously in a greatly disturbed mental condition and there are allusions to many drug, prostitution, and other episodes previous to the time period of this story. A fellow member of the neighborhood is a mentally retarded man for whom Honey develops an attachment. The man is killed and Honey decides to find the killer. A new police officer in the area befriends the woman and attempts to help. The story develops some unusual twists, does not provide answers to a number of questions, and provides answers to others (e.g. results of a gunshot to the head) that a person with knowledge of such matters finds difficult to accept. Nevertheless, Bonnie Kozek has provided an interesting plot and a fast-moving vehicle for readers who like, or at least don't mind, the base conditions and acts depicted.