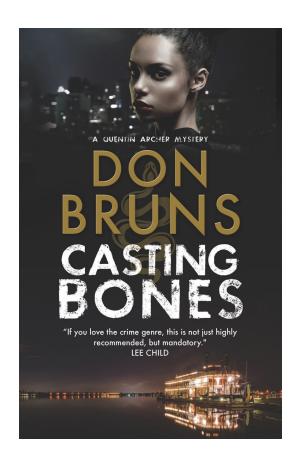
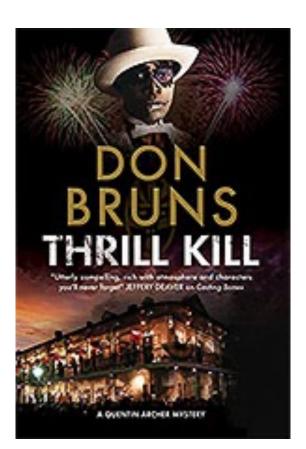
Quentin Archer

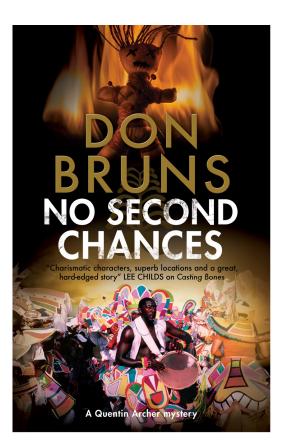
A Murder-Mystery Series by Don Bruns

A Discovery of Witches meets NCIS New Orleans

Mix the Big Easy with the eerie presence of spirits and voodoo, charismatic characters, and horrific murders, and the viewer gets a front-row seat to action, adventure, and supernatural phenomena during a vacation in the Crescent City.







MEET THE PROTAGONIST: QUENTIN ARCHER

Detective Quentin Archer uncovers a drug ring within the Detroit Police Department. When he threatens to expose the rogue cops, his wife becomes the victim of a hit and run incident. Archer leaves town and joins the New Orleans homicide department. He finds corruption in that city as well. Solange Cordray, whose mother was a voodoo queen, has become a practitioner, taking after the elderly lady who now has severe dementia. Solange approaches Quentin and, through spells and supernatural experiences that he doesn't quite believe, she helps solve crimes involving crooked judges, human trafficking, and gang violence.

WELCOME TO THE BIG EASY

Set in the Murder Capital of the World, the Quentin Archer series brings the culture and ambiance of New Orleans to life, from the hustle and bustle of the French Quarter to the palpable anxiety that exists inside the New Orleans Police Department. The mystique of voodoo to solve murders creates a suspenseful backdrop in this vibrant city of eclectic cuisine and colorful characters.

Quentin goes back to his bungalow, a former slave quarter tucked behind the Cat's Meow on Bourbon Street, a karaoke bar. Someone has moved furniture on his porch. It happened a lot. A dead rabbit, a broken window...he's certain it's because of the drug ring he uncovered inside the Detroit Police Department including his two brothers' involvement.

Intimidating him, he believes that police were behind the hitand-run death of his wife in Detroit. Someone in New Orleans is keeping tabs on him, letting him know they're watching.



VOODOO AND MURDER

From the book, "Casting Bones"

Voodoo practitioner Solange Cordray, a young, attractive black lady is volunteering at a dementia center on the banks of the Mississippi River. Her mother, a well-known voodoo queen is a patient. Solange is tending to a group of wheelchair patients by the water when she starts to hear a voice from an older gentleman. He doesn't speak, but nonetheless she hears his voice telling her he knows that a New Orleans judge in the juvenile system is about to be murdered. The young woman curses the fact that she has been given the powers she has.

Judge David Learner is loading his car with incriminating information regarding his involvement in kickbacks from Louisiana private prisons. (There are more private than State-owned prisons. They are run under sketchy circumstances.) He's been assured the Federal Government will give him some leniency when he hands over the evidence. A car pulls into his driveway, a young man engages the judge, grabs Learner and pulls him into the automobile. Learner pushes record on his phone.

New to the NOPD force, homicide detective Quentin Archer and partner Adam Strand watch a crane and winch pull a water slogged body from the Old Miss. Killed with a bullet to the brain. When Quentin checks the wallet, he sees the victim was a judge. And he sees a tattoo of a snake around the man's right wrist. He finds a phone in his pocket.

Interrogating crooked police officers, a pickpocket, a bartender with underground contacts and a swam dweller, Quentin uncovers several disturbing facts about the late judge's past.

"We are the murder capital of the world and we only end up convicting *twenty* percent of the killers...

"...LET'S SOLVE THIS ONE."



Dead Man Floating

Judge David Learner may have had more enemies than he had friends. Working in the juvenile justice system, Learner is strict in his sentencing, and offers no leniency. He also sentences the most youthful offenders to private prisons. There are rumored kickbacks from the owner of these prisons, Secure Force. With Learner's reckless interpretation of his powers, it's not surprising someone would want to kill him, but it's possible the reason goes beyond that. It's very likely he was about to turn over evidence that would convict other judges and members of the exclusive, secretive club, Krewe Charbonerrie.



"She wonders if there is a romantic feeling associated with her interest. Not since her divorce has there been any feelings like that."

The young voodoo lady is divorced from a wealthy industrialist who may be a part of the Krewe that controls the private prisons. While Quentin and Solange seem to have each other's back, they are wary of each other. Solange is slightly intrigued with the new homicide cop, and even though he is suspect of her voodoo culture, she feels there might be a flicker of interest. Matebo, an old man in the swamp who provides the voodoo culture with herbs and medicinal plants, remembers a one-night stand with Solange's mother many years ago. Solange may or may not be the fruit of their passion.





A Bag to Solve Murder

It's only when Quentin encounters Solange, a beautiful young voodoo practitioner, that he starts to make headway in the investigation.

Being the great niece of legendary voodoo queen
Marie Leveau and the daughter of a well-known
practitioner Cloutille Trouville, Solange can't escape the
voodoo curse. It's in her blood. She knows the gods and
goddesses, and understands the spells and the power of
gris gris bags. Solange uses her senses and her powers, to
tell fortunes, pray for peaceful outcomes, make
lifechanging decisions and when in doubt, she casts chicken
bones, accurately forecasting outcomes. She also hears
voices and with all her insight and knowledge, can help
solve a murder. And she does.

Corruption in Every Corner

There isn't a political body that doesn't contain some corruption. The more money that's thrown at that body, the more corruption. Private prisons in a number of states foster corruption. Companies like Secure Force own the private centers. For every prisoner sent there, the company is paaid a handsome stipend by the state, so these private facilities are more than willing to kick back cash under the table to the judges and the people responsible for sending them bodies. And businessmen, cops, and politicians are always open for some of that money. Archer hears stories about cops on the take, judges on the take and hired killers who are being paid.





Who Can You Trust?

Judge Learner hit record on his phone before his demise, so the killers were recorded committing the act. But there is a long list of suspects who set them up. Quentin and his eventual partner, Levy, don't know who to trust, including each other.

The finale scenes involve the suicide of a crooked cop, the murder of a prison warden, and Solange using her hunting skills to shoot someone who was threating Quentin.

The Krewe Charbonerrie starts to fall apart and one by one the guilty are caught. Quentin's friends in Detroit discover it was a rogue cop who killed his wife and warn him that there are several members of the drug cartel who still may be disruptive.





There Are No Second Chances

The book "No Second Chances" flashes back two decades, when a semitruck driver faces a head on collision with a ghost truck in the middle of the night. He crashes into a wooded area and is instantly killed. A team of high-jackers unload the cigarettes from his truck and leave.

Fast forward to present day and a young black man walks up to a NOPD car and says, "You might remember my father." He then shoots the officer between the eyes. Quentin seeks Solange's help. When she asks the spirit Baren Goede for an answer, a strange man in knocks on her door, telling her she must investigate the death of a trucker two decades ago. Quentin starts a search, learning that the group of high-jackers may have worked security for a glass manufacturer and used that business as a base for nefarious crimes. And some of those former security guards may have become cops. Things quickly run off the road as Quentin investigates some of New Orleans business leaders and a race riot erupts across the river in Algiers.



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