

Liberation Publishing

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Press release: 17 December 2012

Black Art by Vic Tanner Davy, has been named one of Kirkus Reviews' top 100 Indie books of 2012. This has come as a huge surprise to the local writer who, twelve months ago, had no intention of publishing anything. "I've been a writer for a long time, but I never felt confident that I had anything worth putting into the public domain. When things changed in my working life in May this year, I thought I would have a go at publishing. I reasoned that I had nothing to lose, and *Black Art* is the result."

Black Art, published under the Liberation Publishing imprint, is a crime thriller, featuring the world's first female-to-male transsexual detective, Arty Shaw. Arty is a genealogist asked to uncover the truth surrounding the disappearance of Kay Marett in 1942 from an unnamed Channel Island.

The novel has received a great critical reception with five star reviews from readers being posted on the Internet. "I have been amazed at the reception *Black Art* has received – in particular, the comments regarding my hero, Arty Shaw. When I made certain choices for his back story, I knew it was a gamble. Because he is a transman it could have put readers off, but it hasn't at all. The readers love him, and they want to know when he is returning!"

Kirkus is an American book review magazine founded in 1933 that gives industry professionals a preview of books prior to their publication. Kirkus reviews over 7,000 titles per year, with submissions ranging from the biggest publishing houses to independents and self-publishers. To be selected as one of their top 100 books is, therefore, a rare honour for a writer.

Liberation Publishing sent Kirkus *Black Art* in November when it was first published. Having reviewed the novel, they gave it a star for "books of remarkable merit". Vic says, "I did have to double-check that what I was seeing on their website was correct – that they had given the book a star!"

"Davy, in his debut, spins an engrossing mystery that shines a light on a lesser-known aspect of World War II history. The straightforward story allows the reader to follow Arty's process every step of the way—reminiscent of Josephine Tey's *The Daughter of Time* (2011)—which grants the story authenticity and humanity. Arty's examination of Helen's family history comes to parallel his coping with his own past while dovetailing elegantly with the novel's Holocaust themes of persecution... It's rare to find a novel that blends genres so well, with such a fully fleshed-out, distinctive protagonist at the center.

An extremely satisfying read, as thrilling as it is humane." – Kirkus Reviews

So, what next? Vic is working on a second novel, which will be a completely different style and genre from *Black Art*. However, fans of Arty Shaw won't have to wait too long for his return as Vic has plans for a third novel which will feature the genealogist detective. "Arty's been in my head for two years, and I've grown quite fond of him, so I don't think he and I are done yet by a long way!"

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/issue/2012-best-of/section/indie/>