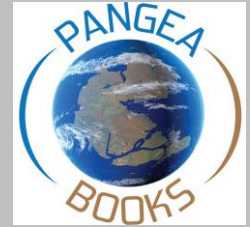


Background Noise



by Peter DeMarco

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126 pages—**With 8 fine-line illustrations!**

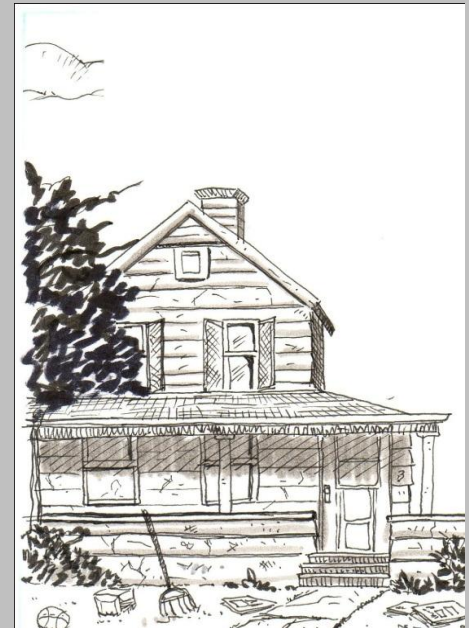
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*"It's been a long time since I've read a novel like Peter DeMarco's **Background Noise** - in fact, I'm not sure I've ever read anything quite like it. Not since Raymond Carver was writing at the top of his form have we gotten a frontline report on the state of the white, middle-class, working man as stark, dark, and powerful as **Background Noise**."*

- Stephen Stark, author, *The Final Appearance of America's Favorite Girl Next Door*



Troubled young suburbanite Henry Walker is on a one-man mission to clean up his town, protect his property, and chase after fantasies of a better life ahead. From an alienated adolescent to a frustrated young adult, Henry encounters one disappointment after another. While suffering the loss of close family members and friends, desperately seeking companionship in the form of unconventional friendships, and becoming a victim of extreme bullying and violence, Henry ultimately becomes an outcast in the only town he knows. As Henry immerses himself in his past, memories become guilt, guilt becomes regret, and regret becomes obsession—until violence seems to be the only logical response.

Written as a collection of interwoven short stories, told in sparse, piercing prose, this haunting novel examines Henry Walker's transformation from the misfit and the victim— to vengeful retaliator. But does the justice he metes out make him a popular hero or an enemy of the people? In razor-sharp prose reminiscent of Haruki Murakami, Peter DeMarco startles the mind while touching the heart.

Peter DeMarco teaches high school English and film in New York City. He was first published in *The New York Times* when he wrote about hanging out with his idol, writer Mickey Spillane. His stories have appeared on-line in *Prime Number Magazine*, *decomp*, *Red Lightbulbs*, *Monkeybicycle*, *Cadillac Cicatrix*, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Flashquake*, *Verbsap*, *Pindelyboz*, *Dogzplot*, and *Cinema Retro*. Peter lives in New Jersey with his wife Charmaine, and two sons.

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