



The Blue Afternoon

By William Boyd

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"A perfect-pitch story of love and redemption" (The New York Times), Boyd's atmospheric new novel confirms his reputation as heir to the grand narrative traditions of Joseph Conrad and Somerset Maugham. In 1936 Los Angeles, as her long-estranged father tells architect Kay Fischer the story behind her secret parentage, he plunges readers into a tale of grisly murders and an illicit passion that still obsesses him 30 years later. 384 pp. Author tour.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Boyd, the author of *A Good Man in Africa* and *Brazzaville Beach*, here gives us something entirely new, part suspense, part romance, all grand storytelling. A young woman, waylaid by an old man who claims to be her father, hears his story of corruption and intrigue as the two of them embark on a remarkable journey.

From Publishers Weekly

An L.A. architect is drawn into a transcontinental, turn-of-the-century murder mystery and love story in Boyd's sure-footed novel.

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From Library Journal

Heavily laced with mystery and romance, this intellectual thriller from the author of *Brazzaville Beach* (LJ 4/1/91) begins in L.A. in 1936 with minimalist architect Kay Fischer's being drawn into the obsessions of a man named Dr. Salvador Carriscant who claims to be her father, then reverts to Manila in 1902, where he was a prominent surgeon. The meat of the story takes place there and includes murders, digressions on early manned flight and turn-of-the-century medical conditions, and a brief, adulterous love affair (Waller-like except for being well written) that informs Carriscant's future after his career is shattered by murder charges. It ends back in the 1930s, in Lisbon, with Kay, Carriscant, a faded 1927 newspaper photo, and a strange reunion. It's too bad that legitimate plot concerns raised in the frame (especially Kay's betrayal by her awful ex-partner) drop from the book entirely, but (as in life?) loose ends predominate in Boyd's world. Smart, intense, recommended.

Robert E. Brown, Onondaga Cty. P.L., Syracuse, N.Y.

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Users Review

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Alberta Townsend:

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