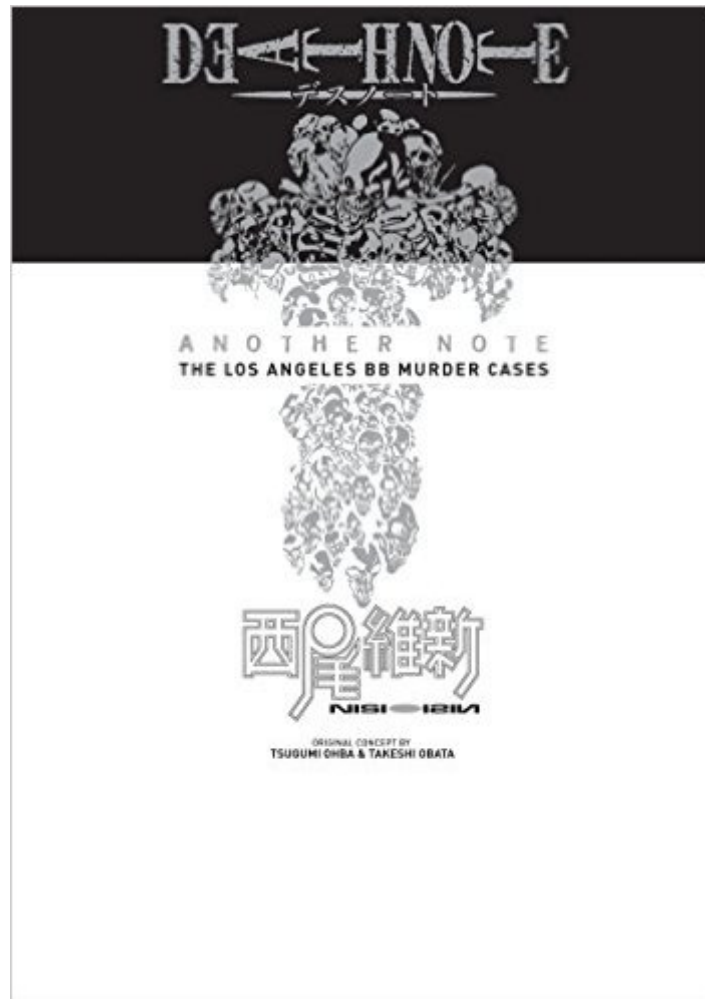


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Death Note: Another Note - The Los Angeles BB Murder Cases



Synopsis

There's a killer loose in Los Angeles and super-sleuth L is on the case. Along with Naomi, a former FBI agent, he helps the LA police solve the grisly crimes. In typical Death Note fashion, things get complicated. And there's a big surprising plot twist at the end of the book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Of course, it goes without saying that those who aren't fans of Death Note need not even consider reading this book. Similarly, those who spent the series rooting for Light (you poor saps!) may be a bit bummed out by the story found herein. Another Note has little to do with Shinigami, with Kira, or with Yagami San. Thankfully, it also has nothing to do with Misa. God, I hate Misa. No, this is not a key extension of the Death Note saga. Instead, it tells the story briefly alluded to in the series, the story of the bizarre series of murders that resulted in L working with Naomi Misora. It's a proper detective novel, in the sense that it features a group of sleuths working to solve a mystery whose solution isn't known to the audience until the very end (although they are invited to play along). The mystery in question is that of the Los Angeles BB murder cases, a series of grizzly homicides scattered throughout L.A. The scene of each killing is laden with hidden clues that can point those clever enough to decode them to the next victim. For reasons all his own, L sees this as a direct challenge to himself, and after three murders have taken place, he steps in to prevent the fourth. He uses his substantial influence to recruit Misora (whom he chose virtually by chance), manipulating her through his own clever and indirect means. The strengths of the novel are many. First of all, it's a dream come true for L fans (trust me, I adore the hell out of that sugar-sucking insomniac, so I know

what I'm talking about). It reveals a good deal about his background and the nature of his work, allowing readers a peak behind the smoke and mirrors with which he operates.

A prose novel spinoff of the popular manga? It's about L instead of Light? Huh. Sounds worth a look. And it was... kind of. This book is a prequel to the Death Note series. It covers the Los Angeles BB Serial Murders that are briefly mentioned in the manga. It tells of the first time L ever worked with FBI Agent Naomi Misora, arguably his greatest collaborator. What's interesting is that, unlike a lot of whodunnit mysteries, this one is actually more effective with a second reading. As a Death Note fan, I found the first reading of chapter two mildly intriguing. When I reread it after finishing the book and knowing who the killer was, that chapter became much darker, creepier, and more engaging. The same can be said about other parts of the book, but it was most effective here. Another unusual thing about this book is the way it's written. Essentially, it's narrated by L's protege, Mello. He starts out by trying to write about the case like he was writing a true crime report; very straightforward and admittedly speculative. Very quickly though, his tone changes to that of a novelist. He ends up writing down what the characters are thinking or feeling. Only occasionally does he catch himself and revert back to the other style. Mello even interrupts the story at various points when he has a problem with how he worded a certain sentence or how he had a character speak. It gave me the feeling that I was looking over Mello's shoulder as he was writing it. This all provided some quirky, self-aware humor at parts where the book risked becoming too ridiculous. Also, it was an interesting way to provide infodumps and backstory when it was needed. There were some problems though.

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