

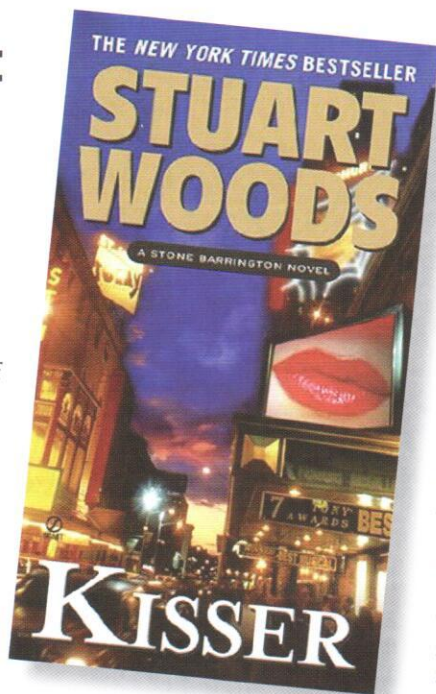
# Book Review: "Kisser"

by Jan Ross

The next time I'm in New York, I would love to stop by Elaine's and meet Dino and Stone for drinks and dinner. If you don't know what I'm talking about, you haven't read any of the books about Stone Barrington, written by Stuart Woods. And you should.

In fact, the next time you are in the library, brick-and-mortar or online bookstore, check out these engrossing and exciting books by this prolific author. Stone Barrington is a lawyer, who used to be a cop, but he's not your average lawyer – he only takes on the cases that Woodman & Weld don't really want to be associated with and that's precisely what makes them – and him – so interesting.

Stone retired as a cop after being wounded but that was just an excuse for the brass to get rid of a rakishly handsome young cop who was determined to do the right thing, no matter how many political feathers he might



ruffle. Retirement didn't suit this adventurous risk-taker who manages his inherited wealth and gorgeous New York brownstone with aplomb and ease while at the same time teaming up with his former partner, Dino, to solve crimes.

In his newest adventure, Stone finds himself embroiled in the adventures

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of a newbie Broadway actress who is no newbie at getting her own way by whatever means she chooses. She's also the daughter of a wealthy art dealer who in the process of being fleeced by a con man. A former lip model (hence the title of the book), the actress has a divorced husband who is determined to kill her before she can get away with the rest of his money.

Treading a thin line between depicting Stone as a ladies' man, as he does in every book, and portraying him as somewhat of a sleaze as he, for the first time in my memory, ends up in bed with two women at the same time, Woods manages to still maintain the reader's affection for this blonde lawyer/crime-fighter who always manages to save the girl and solve the crime.

Working with a lady cop and a wealthy, young socialite, Stone man-

ages to trap the art dealer con man by convincing him the lady cop is an heiress in want of some investing and, in the process, finds out she actually is an heiress, but one who always wanted to be a cop. At the same time, the actress (who is not happy that Stone is dallying with other women) is depending on Stone to protect her from her ex-husband. By the time Stone and a helicopter pilot are following the con man through New York traffic in a chopper bobbing and weaving over the car, you are on the edge of your seat wondering whether they will catch this guy before he can shoot someone or get away with the cash.

Of course our hero manages to save the actress from her schizo ex-husband and recover the cash and the reputation of the heiress – all while hanging out in Elaine's every night with Dino and drinking his requisite Knob Creek bourbon.

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