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***A Study in Crimson*
by Chris Orcutt**

**LATEST INSTALLMENT OF MYSTERY SERIES
ADDRESSES GLOBAL PANDEMIC OF SEX TRAFFICKING**

A Study in Crimson, the 5th installment in the critically acclaimed Dakota Stevens Mystery Series, takes readers back to the beginning of Dakota's career as a private investigator.

Dakota Stevens has just thrown off the shackles of the FBI and launched his own private detective agency. But it's not going well. His so-called cases are limited to tawdry divorce work, and his personal life is a shambles. Enter the Director of the FBI, who compels Dakota to go undercover at an Ivy League university. His task? To rescue a college coed from the clutches of a Svengali-like sex researcher.

The novel also shows Dakota meeting his associate, sexy international chess grandmaster Svetlana Krüsh, for the first time. Svetlana, bored with her chess career, is seeking a new challenge.

"I knew I wanted Dakota and Svetlana's introduction to mirror the first meeting of Mr. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novel *A Study in Scarlet*," Orcutt said. "Like other aficionados of Sherlock Holmes, I have always loved Stamford's introduction of them to each other in a chemistry lab, and Holmes' famous first words to Watson: 'You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive.' "

In the novel, Dakota must navigate a minefield that includes flirtatious coeds, passionate professors, hired thugs, and former FBI colleagues. Most of the action in the novel takes place in Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts, around a certain Ivy League university.

"I began writing *A Study in Crimson* before I knew how and when Dakota and Svetlana would meet," Orcutt said. "At the outset all I knew was, I wanted the title of the story to have 'crimson' in it as my homage to *A Study in Scarlet*. However, early on I decided the word 'crimson' would refer to blood, as well as an incidental connection to Harvard University."

In the course of his investigation, Dakota discovers that a rogue psychology research experiment is actually the front for elaborate and nefarious human trafficking scheme, for the purposes of sexual exploitation and something even more sinister.

A Study in Crimson, the prequel to the critically acclaimed Dakota Stevens Mystery Series, shows a younger, devil-may-care Dakota at his charming, witty, and resourceful best.

Chris Orcutt has written professionally for over 25 years as a novelist, short story writer, speechwriter, journalist and playwright. *A Study in Crimson* is his eleventh book.

Orcutt is the author of the critically acclaimed Dakota Stevens Mystery Series, including the Amazon #1 bestseller *A Real Piece of Work*. Orcutt's short story collection, *The Man, The Myth, The Legend*, was voted by IndieReader as one of the best books of 2013.

His modern pastoral novel *One Hundred Miles from Manhattan* (an IndieReader Best Book for 2014) prompted *Kirkus Reviews* to favorably compare Orcutt to Pulitzer Prize-winning author John Cheever. In 2017, Orcutt released *The Ronald And Other Plays* and a humorous memoir about the writing life entitled *Perpetuating Trouble*.

Orcutt lives in Dutchess County, New York.

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A Study in Crimson, along with the rest of the Dakota Mystery Series, is available in paperback and ebook form at Amazon.com.

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