



# The Brownstone Casanova

*donald macgregor*

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## **The Brownstone Casanova** donald macgregor

After a rather sad and tragic start to life Jim Carr finally had it all and long before his fortieth birthday. A swanky apartment, money, toys and a menagerie of educated, intelligent and independent woman scattered around the Brownstones of New York.

Unfortunately for Carr he finds himself lying face down on a bed with an icepick between his shoulder blades in one of his favourite hotels off Time Square and no idea of how he got there. The assailant has surgically sanitized the crime scene including Carr and with no clues the file is destined for cold storage. After an early marital misadventure resulting in the loss of his career as a man of Mathematics and Science and an unfortunate fleecing through the divorce courts Jim Carr picked up a job he loathed on the trading desk of a New York Broker and never looked back. In five years he had made his fortune getting out before the bust vowing that he would never again be separated from his assets. With his shifty attorney Silverman he sets up a trust to hold the things he needs to live in New York and the rest he packs into a bag and heads to Zurich.

To make certain of no misunderstandings the ladies he meets are told at the outset that he is financially assault proof to ward off the rent seekers, but they all appear good sports, involved with Carr purely for pleasure. They have jobs and careers or wealthy husbands and little interest in his money but someone, a woman, has killed him and the motive is considered to be the stash in Zurich. In an unaccountable twist of logic Carr's menagerie all benefit financially from his death in the distribution of the New York assets. Clearly Carr had valued all of his ladies and his detailed journals make lurid reading. Detective Sergeant Mike Slavinski of the NYPD is certain beyond doubt that the rumoured secret stash is the motive for this murder and that the assailant is one of Carr's women, while Carr sets about reconstructing each affair hoping to recall a clue to identify his killer.

Slavinski comes remarkably close to solving the mystery of the money, but not the murder. His obsession diverts Slavinski from consideration of an obvious alternative, that Carr has pulled one bored or lonely lady too many, that his luck and judgement had run out, the solution supported by his colleagues. Several innocent lives are made miserable, particularly that of Carr's closest friend and confidant, the co-protagonist Joanne Larwood, left in possession of an 'in the event of' letter confirming the existence and location of Carr's other funds.

Being out of the country at the time of the murder she was off the suspect list until she is found to have boarded a plane to Switzerland two days after her return to New York, her absence indefinite. She automatically becomes Slavinski's key suspect.

In his desperate attempt to keep the investigation alive, Slavinski had picked as his most likely suspect the person with the bullet proof alibi, an executive with an international charity and overseas most of the time, but in Slavinski's assessment the party most likely to be confided in by Carr. Slavinski's case against Larwood had been built on the theory of murder by proxy and her sudden unannounced departure gave it weight, but with the appearance of a second victim and Larwood again out of the country his theory is blown. Jim Carr appears destined to wander in transit unable to find peace and unable to pass over while his file rests in cold storage unsolved and Joanne Larwood left to resolve an appropriate resting place for the funds entrusted to her.

Donald Macgregor was born in Melbourne and studied business at Melbourne University before working in property and marketing for thirty years. He has completed four novels on different themes all to be released as E books. An earlier work, a novel 'The Eviction House' is also available through KDP Select.

Donald Macgregor is a pseudonym.

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