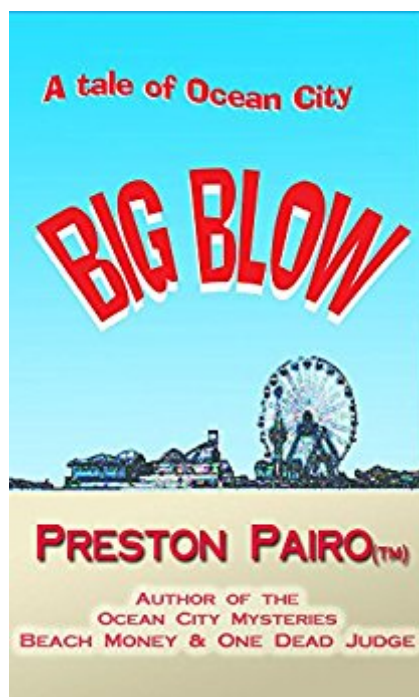


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# Big Blow: A Tale From Ocean City (Ocean City Mysteries Book 3)



## Synopsis

Normally when an Ocean City real estate developer turns up dead, lawyer/one-star-motel owner Dallas Henry is a prime suspect. After all, no one's signed more petitions against building anything other than sand castles along Maryland's already-crowded shoreline than Dallas. And when the dead developer is Reg Waterhouse, add Waterhouse's younger wife, Amanda to the list of those with motive. Fortunately—or maybe not—at the time of Waterhouse's murder, Dallas and Amanda were both in bed with each other, as chance would have it. (Cross his heart, Dallas didn't know she was married.) Despite these mutual alibis, Police Chief Rupert Dawson isn't convinced of Amanda's innocence, and offers to overlook Dallas's ever-growing stack of parking tickets if he'll keep an eye on the business-minded widow. The chief also wants Dallas's help in finding whoever swiped the old artillery gun from the front lawn of the local VFW hall and is using it to fire live rounds at new real estate projects, blowing up bulldozers and otherwise upsetting the mayor. —The third book in the Ocean City Mystery Series (following *Beach Money* and *One Dead Judge*), *Big Blow* is a humorous romp along white sand beaches featuring adulterous real estate developers, gin-swiggering octogenarian tree huggers, a loony psychiatrist, hundreds of watermelons, a Ferris wheel, a stolen Howitzer, and all of Dallas's helpers who, often times, aren't really helping. —

## Book Information

File Size: 525 KB

Print Length: 204 pages

Publisher: Maryland Locale, Ltd. (September 28, 2014)

Publication Date: September 28, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00O0EQ8O4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #121,472 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #67

Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Lawyers & Criminals #280 in Kindle Store >

## Customer Reviews

Was it lawyer-detective Dallas Henry, or his creator, novelist-lawyer Preston Pairo, who first imparted this bit of Ocean City wisdom: "Sometimes, beach life had an Achilles heel. You could only avoid reality so long before it got the last laugh." Perhaps they're close to being one in the same, as Pairo, an accomplished storyteller, is living out one of his fantasy versions of his once and possible future self in his Ocean City Mysteries, the third "and brightest" of which is *Big Blow*, a story of resort real estate shenanigans, who might get rich, who will definitely die, and, finally, by whose hand. Preston grew up near the Maryland Shore, sneaking off to the beach to surf and boogie-board every chance he got. Then he grew up (a little), went to law school, and became more or less an adult. But his alter ego, Dallas Henry? Dallas knows the law well enough to avoid practicing it as much as he can. He runs a shamble-down beach motel that attracts beauties, unsavories, and even clients now and then. Dallas revels in his life, even when it's seemingly turning to shreds "always hang in there one moment longer, he seems to believe: the next wave might be better. And we get to revel in his sardonic take on his and everybody else's life. Puts me in mind of P.G. Wodehouse's sharp writing, sharp characters, sharp wit, gorgeous little gems of observation everywhere you turn.

Always enjoy reading about this area. His other book about Baltimore, *City Lies*, was even better. Hope there are more in the future.

Excellent story line and the conflicts added to the entertainment.

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