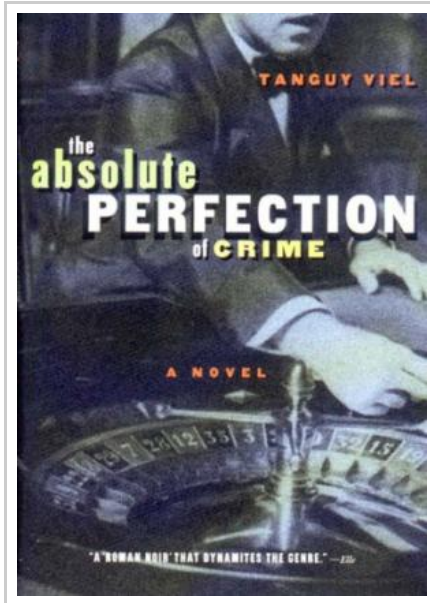




Absolute Perfection of Crime: A Novel

By Coverdale, Linda; Viel, Tanguy

New York, New York, U.S.A.: New Press, New York, New York, U.S.A., 2003. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. From Publishers Weekly: Viel's English-language debut, a crime novel about a band of aging crooks who reunite to rob a casino in a French coastal town, is a small but polished gem that sparkles from start to finish. The slim volume opens with the anonymous first-person narrator meeting an old friend named Marin, just released from prison, who proceeds to give the narrator a thorough beating-for old time's sake. Marin and the narrator then get down to the business of planning a perfect crime-for old time's sake. They work with an old comrade and surveillance pro, Andrei, and a former cellmate of Marin's named Lucho, a suspicious character who refuses cognac ("we don't have fun unless we drink," the affronted narrator explains to him). The robbery commences with the narrator and a moll named Jeanne deliberately losing a large sum so that they can complain and distract management. Viel does a superb job of establishing a tense atmosphere, writing in long, stream-of-consciousness sentences with staccato rhythms ("In my memory the scene lasted an hour, but in reality five minutes,...



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