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## Pawtucket makes an appearance in Partridge's latest mystery novel



Jack Partridge, who goes by the name "J.J. Partridge" in his books, stands in front of the Modern Diner, a Pawtucket landmark that makes an appearance in the newly-released "Scratched," his third book in the series of "Algy Temple Mysteries." (Valley Breeze photo by Ethan Shorey)

### "Scratched" is the third in series of Algy Temple mysteries

By ETHAN SHOREY, Breeze Online News Editor

PAWTUCKET - Jack Partridge's latest in his series of mystery novels is about as Rhode Island as it gets.

"Scratched," the third installment in the series from Koehler Books, opens with a body floating in the river during WaterFire. Later, a "particularly mendacious" mayor is reintroduced. And most appropriately, for an author who co-founded the Pawtucket Foundation, a famous Pawtucket landmark finally makes an appearance.

Partridge, who goes by the pen name J.J. Partridge, even relies on retired Rhode Island investigative reporter Jim Taricani to read over his books to make sure there are no loose ends.

Partridge lived in Pawtucket until he moved to Providence a decade ago. An attorney with the Providence law firm Partridge Snow and Hahn, he discovered his love of mystery writing later in life.

Seeing how well received all three of his books have been since 2006, the first, "Carom Shot," then "Straight Pool," and now "Scratched," has been a truly rewarding experience, said Partridge.



Getting positive reviews and a coveted gold star from Publishers Weekly for "Scratched" have only affirmed his decision to write books, a practice he now wishes he started much earlier in life.

Herb Weiss, Pawtucket's recognizable economic and cultural affairs officer, has long asked Partridge to feature his city in one of his books, and Partridge has finally obliged in "Scratched."

The Modern Diner on East Avenue makes an appearance early on a "rain-swept, misty Saturday morning," said Partridge. One of the main characters in the book, a resident of the Oak Hill neighborhood, wants something special outside of his diet and chooses the Modern Diner. It's a scene

inspired by Partridge's own frequent early-morning visits to the diner.

Partridge had thought about incorporating McCoy Stadium, but decided the Modern Diner worked best for his book. Nick Demou the owner of the Modern Diner, was thrilled with that decision, he said.

As a further tribute to the city he loves, Partridge had his first "Scratched" book signing at the Pawtucket Public Library.

All of Partridge's "cozy mysteries" feature Algy Temple, "the deft pool player, sleuth, and Ivy League university lawyer," as the main character. Temple's investigation into the suspicious death of a retired professor coincides with his involvement in a high-stakes pool tournament in Providence, "where old world shadows hang heavily in the air."

According to one review of the book, it "captures Providence's unique character where 'wheeling and dealing' is the form of government and the citizenry tolerate rogue politicians so long as 't'ings go right.'"

Temple is always fighting with Providence Mayor Sonny Russo, but neither Russo nor any other character is based on a real person, said Partridge.

So Sonny isn't Buddy?

"Read into it whatever you want to," he said, smiling.

The table game is woven throughout his books. Pool terms were chosen as the names for his books in part because of the many directions the pool balls can take, deciding the outcome of the game in the same way the twists in the book impact the final conclusion.

A cozy mystery, a subgenre of mystery writing, typically takes place in a small community, in this case Rhode Island, and features an amateur detective like Temple. The bad event typically happens at the beginning.

Find "Scratched" for \$17.95 in bookstores or at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

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