

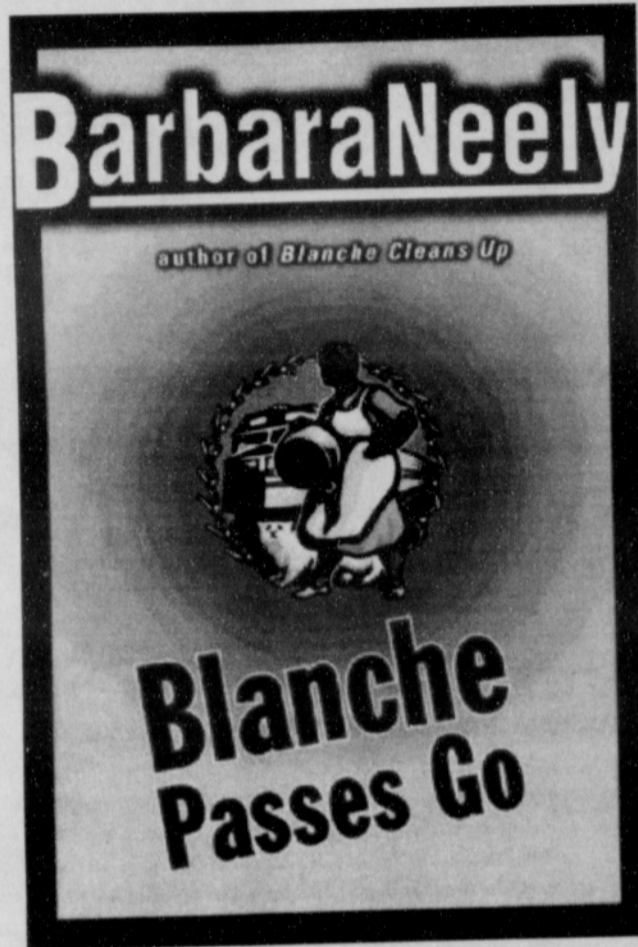
In Print

By Barbara Neely
 Viking; 2000

Praise the Ancestors! After three years in Boston Brahmin territory, Blanche White is finally coming home to Raleigh, North Carolina, for an entire summer. And, like a sign from above that she's indeed headed in the right direction, she's already lined up a date with the handsome train conductor she met somewhere between Boston and Baltimore. The summer holds lots of promise - including a long-awaited reunion with her best friend, Ardell, as she helps out with Ardell's bustling new catering business.

Then, like a slap in the face on her first night back, Blanche is reminded of a part of home she'd rather forget: David Palmer, the man who raped her eight years ago and who has tormented her mind and spirit ever since, shows up as a guest at her very first catering event. The time has come...she must exact her revenge so that she can finally move on.

Blanche Passes Go



Then a young woman is murdered and there are signs that David Palmer may be involved. So Blanche sets off on a hunting expedition - for clues she hopes will help convict David Palmer and put an end to his legacy once and for all.

While Blanche is busy pursuing all possible leads, there's Thelvin, the train conductor, patiently

waiting for her. Will Blanche's wariness of men prevent her from knowing a good thing when it's staring her smack dab in the face?

Join Blanche as she tries to unravel the mysterious death of a young woman while untangling the even greater mysteries of love and hate, revenge and forgiveness, all with her feisty style, indomitable wit, and unmatched spirit.

A Dangerous Road

By Kris Nelscott
 St. Martin's Minotaur;
 2000

Memphis, 1968. The city is about to explode, as the tensions and resentments of the struggle for civil rights come to a head. The sanitation workers' strike has gone on for three weeks, formerly peaceful demonstrations are turning into riots, and the city is bracing for a massive march by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. like the rest of the country that year, Memphis is battered by violent forces of change.

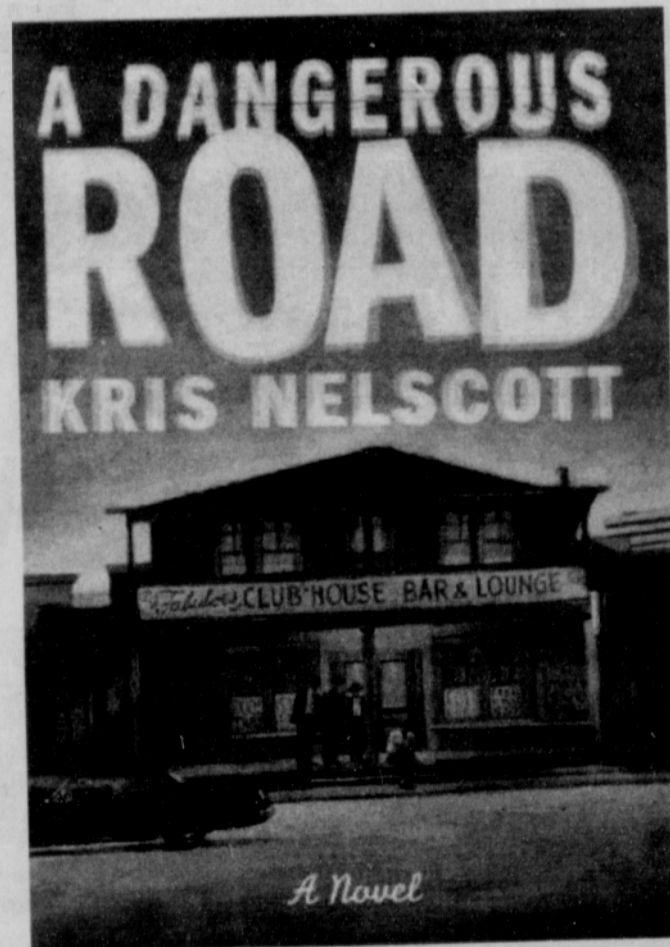
The social upheaval of the late sixties provides a dramatic setting for Kris Nelscott's powerful novel, *A Dangerous Road*. This thought-provoking mystery introduces private eye Smokey Dalton, a man with firsthand knowledge of the violence and prejudice that had spurred the civil rights movement.

Thirty years earlier, Smokey's parents were lynched in Atlanta. The terrified child was adopted by strangers, and grew up haunted by the secrets surrounding his parents' murder. Now, the arrival of Laura Hathaway will bring those secrets to light. The wealthy young white woman has tracked Smokey down to find out why her mother - a Chicago socialite - left the detective \$10,000 in her will. Smokey's investigation uncovers an ugly trail of theft, kidnapping and murder,

along with a revelation that will shatter both their lives.

In *A Dangerous Road*, Kris Nelscott has created a provocative portrait of the bitterness and hope that characterized the tumultuous

events of 1968. Smokey Dalton is a complex and compelling character that readers will want to know more about. This novel marks an auspicious mystery debut by a very talented writer.



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