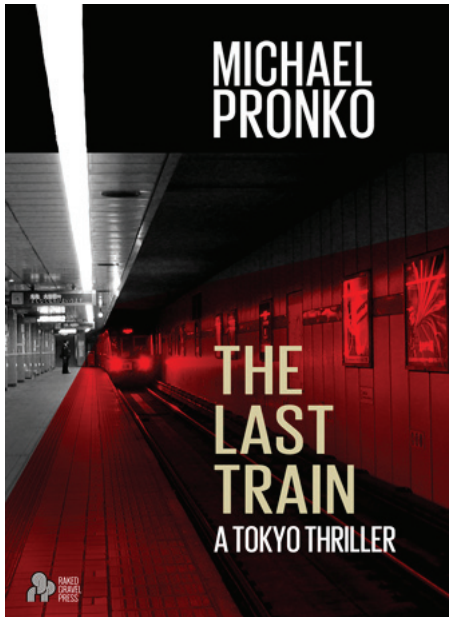
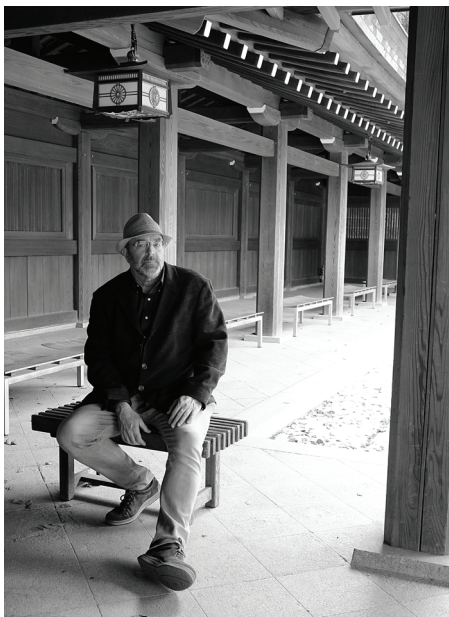


THE LAST TRAIN



Detective Hiroshi Shimizu investigates white collar crime in Tokyo. When an American businessman turns up dead, his mentor Takamatsu calls him out to the site of his grisly murder. A glimpse from a security camera video suggests the killer was a woman, but in Japan, that seems unlikely. Hiroshi teams up with ex-sumo wrestler Sakaguchi to scour Tokyo's sacred temples, skyscraper offices and industrial wastelands to find out why an average-seeming woman would be driven to murder. In the intricate, rigid hierarchies of Japan, inside information about real estate can travel in a flash from the top investment firms to street-level punks and teenage hostesses willing to sell their souls for a small cut of lucrative land deals.

The debut in this mystery-thriller series follows Hiroshi as he looks for one woman who dared enter Tokyo's info-driven, male-dominated realm where the most expensive property in the world is bought and sold—regardless of the human toll.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Pronko is the award-winning author of three collections of essays about life in Tokyo. He has written about Japanese culture, art, jazz, society, architecture and politics for Newsweek Japan, The Japan Times, Artscape Japan, as well as other venues. He has appeared on NHK and Nippon Television and runs his own website, jazz in Japan (jazzinjapan.com). He teaches American Literature and Culture at Meiji Gakuin University in Tokyo and after class wanders Tokyo contemplating its intensity.



THE LAST TRAIN

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Kirkus Reviews

"A rare glimpse of the structure and nature of Tokyo's underlying psyche."

Midwest Book Review

"An insightful author capable of seeing a deeper beauty in everything he writes."

SPR Review

"An insider's view of what life is really like in this pulsing, densely populated Asian metropolis."

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