**To Leave a Shadow
by Michael D. Graves**

**About the Book**

A 2016 Kansas Notable Book Award Winner: Pete Stone hadn't always been a private eye. He'd lost his dairy business at the toss of a coin when the depression hit. His children grew up, as children do, and his wife left him for a chinchilla farmer. He had learned to like his solitude. When Mrs. Lucille Hamilton walked through his door searching for her missing husband, Pete was the only one who believed her husband's death hadn't been a suicide. Set in 1930's Wichita, Midwesterners will take particular joy in Graves's depiction of the city and the jazz age in this compelling mystery.

**About the Author**

Michael D. Graves teaches Intensive English and TESOL courses at Emporia State University. His writing has appeared in Cheap Detective Stories, Thorny Locust, Flint Hills Review, and elsewhere. He is an author of Green Bike, a group novel, along with Kevin Rabas and Tracy Million Simmons. When life conjures its riddles, he turns to back roads and baseball for answers.

**If you enjoyed *A Fine Imitation:***

* *Doc* by Mary Doria Russell
* *The Holy Thief* by William Ryan
* *Bury Me Deep by* Megan Abbott
* *The Devil in a Blue Dress* by Walter Mosley
* *The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood

**Discussion Questions**

1. How is this book structured? Does the author use any narrative devices like flasbacks or multiple voices in telling the story? How did this affect your reading of the story?
2. Discuss the mystery aspect of the plotline. How effective is the author’s use of plot twists and red herrings? Were you able to predict certain things before they happened or did the author keep you guessing?
3. How important is the setting (1930’s Wichita) to the story? Do you think the author provides enough background information?
4. Do you believe the author accurately portrayed life in the Midwest? How is the author’s description of 1930’s Wichita fit with Wichita, Kansas of 2016?
5. What did you like or dislike most about the book? Would you recommend it to a friend?