

Diaz from page 12D

It's often all in the way a writer says things, and not in what they say, I suppose. And perhaps this is especially true of mystery tales, in which players are more or less stock characters and plots are more or less variations on a theme. (Yes, yes, I know there are exceptions.)

Susan Holtzer not only knows how to use words to build suspense and tension, her words also sometimes take on a kind of surprising lyrical quality. ("Flames fell around her in small, bright droplets," she begins this book, "and where they touched the ground, glittering ice flowers bloomed.")

Another plus for the clever wordsmith: She knows how to keep a story going through well-paced dialogue, always convincingly cut to fit

each character.

Ultimately, though, what may have appealed to me most here is Holtzer's marked sense of place. After reading this book, I'm convinced more mystery novels should be set in Ann Arbor. With its serpentine thoroughfares, shadowy old buildings and trees, ghosts, and its ability to confuse, it seems to me a natural backdrop for a whodunit. From the windy street corners to the "bad Midwestern espresso" served at the Michigan Union to the brick-paved streets outside Zingerman's to the bedlam of traffic on the first day of classes after Christmas vacation, Holtzer has captured the city's wintertime flavor almost exactly, and just nailed it to these pages.

Antiques show at State Fair Grounds

The 48th annual Metro Detroit Junior Group Goodwill Antiques Show will take place Friday-Sunday, Nov. 17-19, at the Michigan State Fair Grounds, Woodward and Eight Mile in Detroit.

Tickets, \$7 general admission and \$6 senior citizens, may be bought at the door or through Junior Group-Goodwill members. Doors open 11 a.m. For more information, call (313) 886-6787.

A special patron's preview will take place 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16. To order tickets for the preview, \$75 to \$125, call (313) 886-6787.

The show features 50 select exhibitors

from the East and Midwest who specialize in 18th and 19th century furniture, art objects, rugs, glassware, silver, brass, pewter, toys, jewelry, maps, prints, oil paintings and nautical items.

Participants include the Weiss Gallery of Bloomfield Township, Shahbahang Persian Carpets and Big Beaver Antiques of Troy and Cleone Chase of Birmingham.

In addition to antiques, the traditional Goodwill Booth (donated and refinished furniture and collectibles), pantry, bakery and boutique and silent auction will be staffed by Junior Group members.

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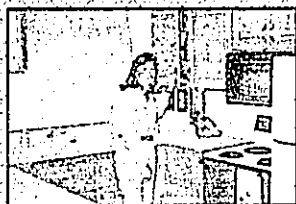
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