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by Brad Crowther
2010 winner of the Black Orchid Novella Award*

THE NINTH MAN

Contemporary Mystery with a link to Charleston's past

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In 1864, the Confederate submarine, *H. L. Hunley*, vanished in Charleston, SC, harbor. When Russ Berard's father, a *Hunley* enthusiast, learns of the diary of a Yankee spy on board the sub that night, he is murdered. Berard, a Rhode Island police detective, returns home to Charleston to investigate his father's death and is confronted by a descendant of the spy determined to keep the diary secret, and by an old friend planning a *Hunley* reality show. But why is the diary of a Yankee spy, the *Hunley's* ninth crew member, worth killing for so many years later? Finding the answers takes Russ on a journey through the history of Charleston, as well as his own past.

EARLY ENDORSEMENTS FROM AUTHORS AND JOURNALISTS:

Charleston, SC: the past isn't dead; it's not even past. ... conveys its haunting power to perfection ... distinguished by pitch-perfect dialogue, a suspenseful plot, and a superb cast of characters. -- Bruce DeSilva, Edgar Award-winning author of *Rogue Island*.

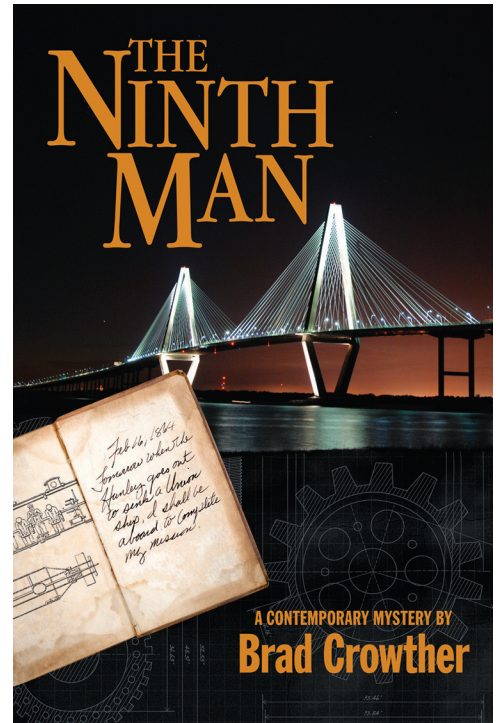
Charleston's history has yet to produce another character complicated and sharp witted as Detective Russell Q. Berard. At the end of *The Ninth Man*, a reader hopes that Berard returns to settle mysteries from other centuries. -- Batt Humphreys, award-winning author of *Dead Weight*

For some, the legacy of the Civil War will never die. Told from the alternating perspectives of Russell Berard, wise-cracking retired detective, Moze Cheddar, an off-the-grid killer, and the diary entries of Ezra Cheddar, a Union spy who infiltrated the *Hunley* project, *The Ninth Man* is about three lives interwoven by espionage, murder, and conspiracy. Crowther's quick-witted dialogue and multi-layered plot make for a lively and intriguing read. -- Carla Damron, author of *Death in Zooville* and *Spider Blue*

Action-packed blend of history, mystery, romance, and suspense -- Vincent H. O'Neil, Malice Award-winning author of *Death Troupe*

Blends a fast-paced story with a fascinating historical puzzle. ... keen insight into what still matters for people who cannot -- or perhaps will not -- let go of the past. -- Albert A. Bell, Jr. Award-winning author of *Corpus Conundrum*, & the Pliny series of historical mysteries

Stirs up the Lowcountry pluff mud with a thriller that brings ... unsolved Charleston mystery into the mainstream of the Holy City today in a tale-twisting adventure." -- Ken Burger, author of *Swallow Savannah* and *Sister Santee*.



* the international contest sponsored by Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine and The Wolfe Pack, a literary society devoted to the fictional detective Nero Wolfe.

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