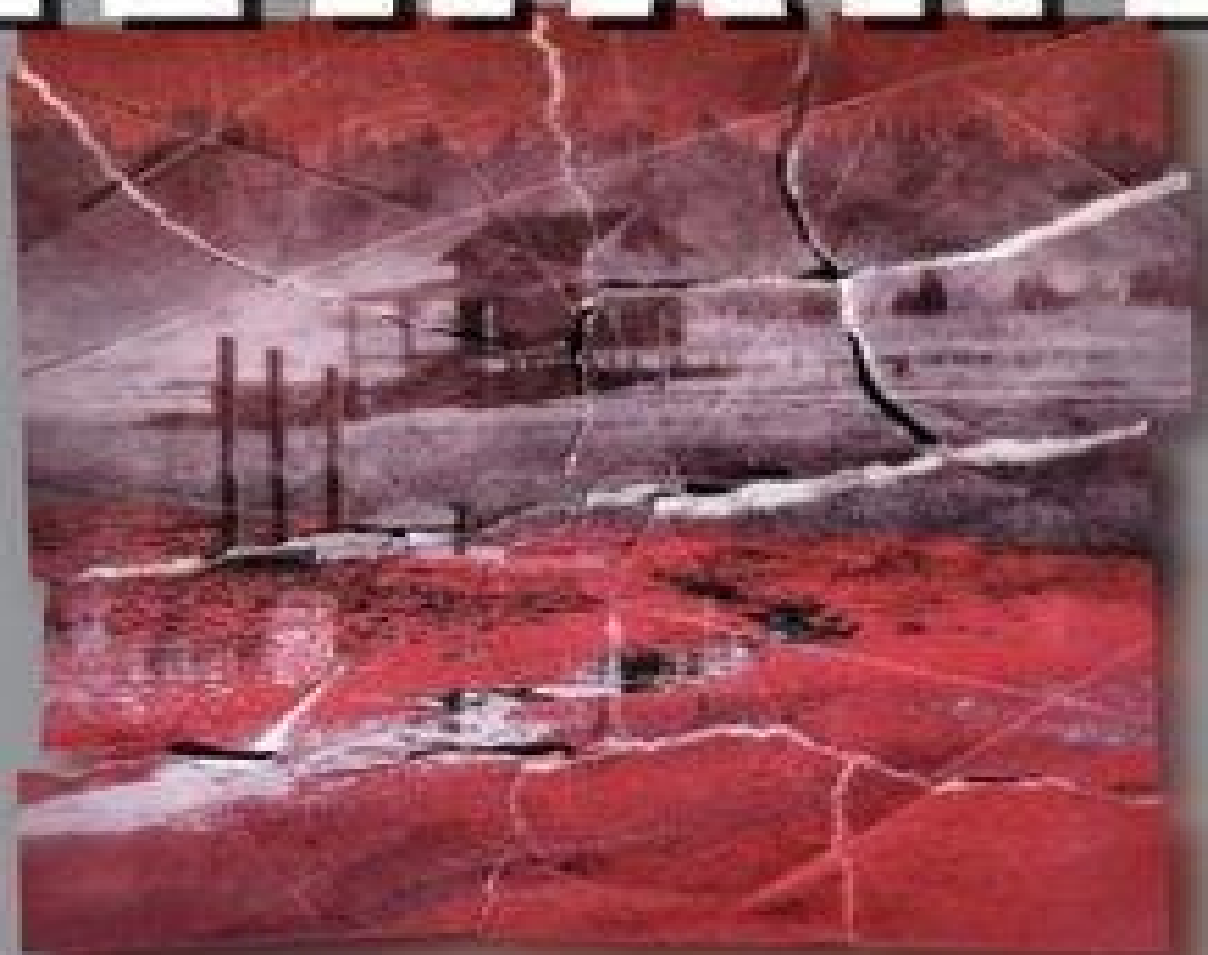


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF MYSTIC RIVER

# DENNIS LEHANE



"A HARD-BOILED SHOCKER." *New York Times Book Review*

# PRAYERS FOR RAIN

**DENNIS LEHANE**

# **PRAYERS FOR RAIN**

*For my friends  
John Dempsey, Chris Mullen, and Susan Hayes,  
who let me steal some  
of their best lines  
and don't sue.*

*And  
Andre,  
who is deeply missed.*

I heard the old, old men say,  
“All that’s beautiful drifts away Like the waters.”

—W. B. YEATS

# Contents

# Epigraph

The first time I met Karen Nichols, she struck me...