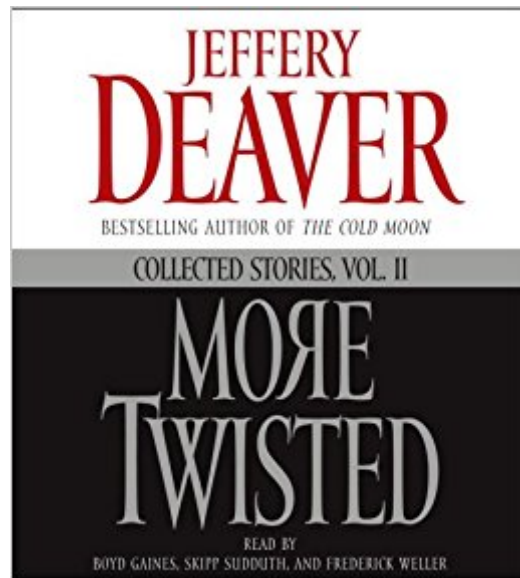




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More Twisted: Collected Stories, Vol. II



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Jeffery Deaver, *“the grand master of the plot twist”* (Booklist), is back with more diabolical tales of suspense. Deaver, author of the Lincoln Rhyme series (>, etc.), crafted first-rate thrills in the story collection >. Here he presents sixteen more tales—including an all-new Lincoln Rhyme entry—spawned from his darkly brilliant imagination. From a stressed-out commuter to a death-row inmate, Deaver’s characters are never what they seem—and every jaw-dropping curveball he delivers is nothing less than *“ingeniously devious”* (People). --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Bestseller Deaver’s second story collection (after 2003’s *Twisted*) is best enjoyed in small doses, since, as the author states in his preface, each of the 16 suspense tales contains a “gut-wrenching twist,” a formulaic final reversal that loses its punch with too much repetition. That said, readers will find a number of clever and concise thrillers. The standout, “Born Bad,” about a mother waiting in fear for her estranged daughter to kill her, does a superb job of matching up the clues at the beginning with the tale’s resolution. Sherlockians will get a kick from a pastiche narrated in third person, “The Westphalian Ring,” pitting Holmes against a crafty jewel thief. In an afterword to the tale “Afraid,” Deaver (The Bone Collector) explains how he works the concept of fear into his fiction. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights

reserved. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Deaver, author of a string of best-selling thrillers, says in the introduction to this story collection (his second, following 2003's *Twisted*) that short fiction is inherently different from a novel. And he proves it in every one of the 16 stories, which include a new Lincoln Rhyme mystery. These stories aren't about character development or setting; they're about misdirection and plot twists, Deaver's signatures. Every one of these gems includes at least one act of narrative sleight of hand: sometimes it's a subtle shift in direction, but more often it's a neck-wrenching, right-angle turn. And they all feature Deaver's sharply observed dialogue and jackrabbit pacing. The majority of the stories were previously published in magazines and anthologies, but even the most devoted of the author's followers will find a few things here they have never seen before. David PittCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

I've read one Deaver novel, *A Kathryn Dance* one, which I enjoyed very much; and several of his short stories now. I enjoyed most of these stories with them ranging from excellent to mediocre and, imho, most were good-very good. My average rating comes to a 3.5 for the stories and I feel happy with that; just a bit better than good! Deaver shows himself to be a good writer and the master of the twist ending. He's been on my tbr list forever. Perhaps next year I can devote some time to him.¹

Chapter and Verse - Good one! I played right into the author's hands! A witness in protection is threatened before going to trial and the police try to figure out a clue left by a dead man. I thought I'd figured it out right at the beginning and when the twist came I was proven right until the second twist that is!! Fun. Great start. (4/5)²

The Commuter - This starts off by telling us about a serial killer currently on the loose killing middle class men. A wife is worried about her husband and then we follow his day to day life and end up watching it unravel in a tale of revenge. Love how this just completely went in unexpected directions at every turn. (5/5)³

The Westphalian Ring - An historical fiction piece set in Victorian London. Not exactly a mystery but the tale of an accomplished burglar who suddenly finds himself under suspicion and how he races against time and the police, now using the latest investigative techniques, to avoid being caught. I actually found myself getting a little bored in the middle as it seemed to be unravelling quite naturally, then, swish, there was the twist, and what a fun story it was. Enjoyable. (4/5)Note: I am hoping some of these stories will start becoming scary or tense rather than just fun soon.⁴

Surveillance - Similar to the previous story but modern. A police officer is determined a certain man is the thief in a recent burglary and uses all the

latest surveillance techniques to find proof. At the same time the man uses his wits to get the police off his tail. A cat and mouse chase. The twist changed the story but wasn't very shocking. Just ok. (3/5)

5. Born Bad - This is a mysterious story. A mother gets a phone call from the daughter she hasn't seen or heard from in three years and nervously waits the 30 mins for her arrival. Her thoughts turn to the past and we get the picture of a wild, disobedient girl, always trouble, who eventually ran off as soon as she was old enough to. When the daughter arrives the scenario starts to unwind but in a new perspective. Clever and fun. (4/5)

6. Interrogation - This is what I've been waiting for! Days before his sentencing, a killer agrees to see a detective. It has been planned that this man would do the final interrogation to try to find the motive for the man's apparent random act. Once he thinks he has it all figured out, only then does the detective realise the killer has turned the tables on him. Chilling! (5/5)

7. Afraid - Whoa! A tour de force! A woman is going away for the weekend with a man for the first time whom she has been dating for about a month as he drives to their destination he starts using backroads and eventually enters a rundown part of the city. Set in Florence, Italy. Terrifying and creepy! (5/5)

8. Double Jeopardy - Another great story! This one is a bit different. We see a defense attorney use his skills to play the system and get his (guilty) client off; this *is* what he is known for. But this time he finds out that those who hired him are not who he thought they were and he gets played in the end. Very clever and fun! (5/5)

9. Tunnel Girl - A coed walking home one evening falls in a hole and an abandoned building collapses on her. The story of her rescue is told from the man who owns the building across the way which city officials say has a connecting underground tunnel. I could see the twist coming in this one but it was still a good story. (3/5)

10. Locard's Principle - At this point we have what is probably the piece de resistance for most of the author's fans: a Lincoln Rhyme novella. I haven't read any of this series yet but I have seen The Bone Collector movie. I loved this story! A nice long story, the novella takes up the middle section of the book and has Rhyme on the case of a retired billionaire CEO turned philanthropist who was murdered in his bed. Not only is the killer unknown to the reader but several other people's identities are left unidentified causing the ending to be quite exciting as everything is revealed in the last few pages. Makes me want to get to this series even more than before. (5/5)

11. A Dish Served Cold - Another fine example of mounting tension and psychosocial suspense. When a wealthy man is made aware by the police that an attempt on his life is possibly in the works he doesn't know what to think. At first not too serious, but the police are protecting him with bodyguards and things begin to happen that are a bit too close for comfort. Who could want him dead? He's not a horrible person but he sure has done enough things to piss a lot of people off. It could be any of them, or they could have paid someone to do it. The police know who the hitman is but not who is

behind it. Then the story starts to slowly piece by piece fall apart and have the police been made to play the fool here?... Devilishly sneaky. (5/5)12. Copycat - Two girls have been murdered and a civilian notices that they mimic the crimes in a book written a while ago. But it doesn't end their, previously, there were two other murders which have the same MO. A reporter brings this coldcase to Detective Alltman and a wild ride follows as he unravels who the Greenville Strangler is. Full of twists and turns and just when it's all sorted out Deaver throws in a final twist to completely shock you. Loved it. This one was more novella size as well. (5/5)13. The Voyeur - A man is watching a young woman in the next apartment building trying to figure out a way to actually meet her when he spies another man watching her from the bushes. Well, this certainly had a twist and it totally surprised me with where it went. I was a little disappointed though as it could have been pretty creepy but instead ended up being dark humour instead. (3/5)14. The Poker Lesson - An 18yo joins a high stakes poker table. One guy tries to take an other while the other has his own take on the go. In the end the whole table is taken by a twist. Surprise ending but way too much information about poker and gambling that I never had any interest in that it was quite boring at times. (2.5/5)15. Ninety-Eight Point Six - A man's car breaks down in the middle of nowhere and when he reaches the only house nearby to call AAA he encounters a couple who seem very strained with the tattooed young man with them. The man get suspicious and the twist and turns keep rolling in this one! Creepy and fun! (5/5)16. A Nice Place to Visit - Starts out with a tourist in New York City and works its way down to petty thieves, crooks, scam artists, dirty cops, and killers. Then someone is out for revenge and you won't believe who it is. Quite intense, but not exactly twisted. (4/5)

Who can ask MORE than a book full of short stories by JEFFREY DEAVER? He is driving me CRAZY because in a story in only 5 short pages, I STILL can't figure out "who did it" with a limited number of characters! He's a genius at the "Whodunit"! Gotta love that! I highly recommend this book to any Jeffrey Deaver lover or any murder mystery/mystery lover out there who loves good writing!

I enjoyed Twisted I so much, I got Collection 2 also ! Great Stories, Easy to pickup, Read a Story and Set aside for later.

While I love to read stories, I have a major gripe with short story collections. Usually, some of the stories are great, a couple of them are just so so, and some others just don't do anything for me. A few years ago I bought Twisted, Jeffery Deaver's first story collection. I started to read with the

intention of reading a story now and then. But to my amazement I found myself racing from one story to the next and before I knew what had happened I had finished them all! And even more surprising: there wasn't a single bad story in the batch! The same thing is happening now with his new collection *More Twisted*. There are no bad stories here. Of course, some of them I like more than others, but all of them are gripping, entertaining and surprising. All the characters and situations are quickly sketched and again and again I found myself captivated after just one or two pages. In fact, the only drawback I can think of with this collection is the central idea of 'stories with twist endings'. After a while I found myself getting into a suspicious mode and while reading a new story I would wonder "okay, if this is not what it seems, what could it be instead???" For any lover of thrillers and short stories, this collection is an absolute feast!!! I for one can't wait for *Even More Twisted*....

The so-called twists in these stories are contrived. O Henry spins in his grave when his classics are compared to these attempts at twists. Each O Henry I finish with a "WOW." Each of these stories I finish with a "So what?" Mr. Deaver is a prolific and popular writer so I trust his other books deserve 5 stars, but not this one. Returning for a refund.

Unlike many writers out there, Mr. Deaver actually can write a good short story. After reading "Twisted", I looked forward to this and was not disappointed. He mixes his story themes nicely. No two are alike. The length of the stories is very good. Each has a very good twist or two for the reader. The stories basically just roll along until they hit these twists. It's then the reader is rewarded. I wouldn't mind at all if he came out with a #3 "Twisted."

Normally I read full books, as opposed to collections of short stories. But, what the heck, I thought, I'll try this. Well, it's fine for "filler reading" - you know, when you are waiting for the Dr. to call your name, waiting for the kid(s) to get out of school, or having a solo lunch. Stories are good, some predictable and some out of the blue conclusions. So, if you like short stories - some with twists that you didn't see coming...buy the book.

I absolutely love Jeffery Deaver and have devoured many of his novels in one sitting. With this collection of short stories, I could read a few, get involved with the story lines, and then finish them in short order. It was perfect for a day where I had just snippets of time to devote to reading. Mr. Deaver has a knack of developing a story and then throwing a curve ball with the ending. Keeps you

on your toes and you just can't assume a certain result. And, did I say that I absolutely love Jeffery Deaver books?!

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