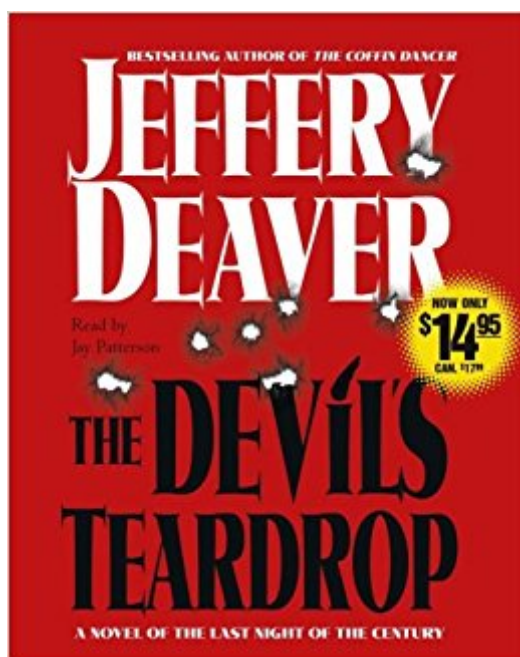


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Devil's Teardrop: A Novel Of The Last Night Of The Century



Synopsis

New Year's Eve, 1999. A grisly machine gun attack in the Washington, D.C. subway system leaves dozens dead and the city crippled with fear. A note delivered to the mayor's office connects the massacre to the Digger, an emotionless assassin programmed to wreak havoc on the capital at four-hour intervals, until midnight. Only a ransom of 20 million dollars delivered to his accomplice -- and mastermind -- will end the death and terror. But the Digger becomes a far more sinister threat when his accomplice is killed in a freak accident while en route to the money drop. With the ransom note as the single scrap of evidence, Special Agent Lukas calls upon Parker Kincaid, a retired FBI agent and the top forensic document examiner in the country. Somehow, by midnight, they must find the Digger -- before he finds them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Thriller readers can always count on getting extra value from Jeffery Deaver--strong plots, fascinating research, believable characters, and plenty of surprise endings. Like in *The Terminator*, the bad guys in *The Devil's Teardrop* just won't quit, and they create enough havoc in the last 50 pages to fill a whole new book. Although Deaver's brilliant, wheelchair-bound forensic expert Lincoln Rhyme makes a guest appearance, the muscular scientist in charge here is Parker Kincaid--an expert in document analysis who'd much rather be checking the authenticity of letters from Thomas Jefferson than figuring out when a crazed shooter known as the Digger will strike again. But it's New Year's Eve, 1999, and the Digger has begun a reign of terror--promising to shoot into crowds in

Washington, D.C., every four hours until he's paid \$20 million. As Kincaid searches an odd ransom note for clues (and tries to maintain a low profile so that his vindictive ex-wife won't get custody of his young kids), we get to know the Digger better. He is a frighteningly invisible character with serious brain damage, who methodically obeys a set of instructions from an unknown handler. We also learn many amazing facts about paper, ink, and handwriting analysis, and watch as a relationship slowly and reluctantly develops between Kincaid and the FBI agent in charge. All this as the devious Deaver leads us down several garden paths overflowing with dead bodies. --Dick Adler
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

starring Denzel Washington. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

No Tears Upon Purchasing This Deaver Book -- New Year's Eve and the clock is ticking down for everyone ushering out the old year and welcoming in the new....but, wait! A mass murderer is on the loose in DC, complicating horrifically the final hours of the old year and even timing his crimes toward the new. Deaver creates suspense on the first page of this novel and carries the reader through one tight spot after another. Parker Kincaid, a handwriting expert and former FBI agent, now a manly Mr. Mom, comes to the rescue. I was thrown by both Deaver's numerous red herrings and the absence of any clues (Did I miss them?) whatsoever as to the criminal mastermind's true identity. Another Deaver thriller and a great holiday read.

I don't know how Jeffrey Deaver keeps doing it. He just does. I start each one thinking this book won't be as great as the last one of his that I just finished. Wrong assumption every time. This was a fast moving, soul griping story. Read it and see for yourself.

The devils teardrop is, in my opinion, one of the best books Deaver has put out thus far. My favorite thing about Deaver and all of his writings is that he puts a tremendous amount of research into the topic he's writing about; in this case, Forensic Document Examination. The premise of the novel is unique... a hit man has been hired to kill as many people as possible at given, pre-determined time frames for the sum of \$20 million dollars. If the demands are not met, the killer will do the same at the next time slot. If the master mind dies, then the killings will continue. What Deaver has done, which is one of my favorite things about him and his writing, is explain in detail what the main character Parker Kincaid is thinking and doing regarding forensic document examination. This gives

the reader the opportunity to learn much about document examination and also lets the reader understand the thoroughness of the research done to make the novel an outstanding read. This novel has all of the twists and turns you'd expect from Deaver. There is a brief visit from Lincoln Rhyme, but the entire book is about a different character entirely, and that's Parker Kincaid. There are enough twists and turns in this novel to assure that you'll not figure out the ending. You'll never be bored, or think "I wish he'd hurry up already", something that I do sometimes when I'm not wholly into the story. I enjoyed the plot line immensely and found that this is one of my most favorite books for both plot, drama and entertainment. It ranks in my top 10 all time favorite novels. I've read hundreds of novels and this one is one of the best. But then, at least 4 Deaver novels are in my top 10, giving a lot of credence to Deaver as an expert story spinner.

This is a formulaic mass-market novel, focusing on detectives investigating a spree of mass murders. The best thing about this particular author of the detective genre is his forensic science. That is, crime scene investigation. I am not a criminalist, and I am therefore not an expert judge on the accuracy of Jeffrey Deaver's science. For me, though, it is convincing enough and always interesting. Deaver's most frequent hero is Lincoln Rhyme, portrayed by Denzel Washington in the movie "Bone Collector." In Rhyme's stories everything in a crime scene comes into play. In "The Devil's Teardrop," however, Lincoln Rhyme makes only a brief appearance, and the focus is on one aspect of the crime--documentary evidence, such as notes and letters. This is the specialty of the hero, Parker Kincaid. The mass-murderer sends a letter to the police, and Parker is called in to analyze it. He analyzes everything about the letter: sentence structure, grammar, style of handwriting, composition of ink, composition of paper, and other things. His deductions are brilliant, and largely because of them, the story has a happy ending. Deaver's own style is contemporary and sharp. It is quite easy to read, and just about anyone, teenagers or older, should get through the book in a couple of days, if not a couple of hours. Despite his easy style, he conveys an aura of a professional writer with scientific expertise. For me, he has only one noticeable trouble, which explains my deduction of a star from my rating. This is the novel's formulaic nature. Reading it is like eating cookies made by the same cookie cutter. The batter is different--each of Deaver's novels contains new ingredients--but the same cookie-cutter shape, the same formulaic structure, is noticeable. This makes the story feel contrived. But this trouble with formula need not concern you if you have never read one of Deaver's books, or one by an author who uses a similar formula. For example, Patricia Cornwell. Or if it has been a long time, say three years or more, since you last read one, the formula will not be fresh in your mind, and you will not notice it. For such readers, I

give this novel five stars.

Excellent thriller. Don't think I could have figured this puzzle out until the end. Don't start this book unless you plan on finishing it in one sitting.

I adore his books. Great story lines, believable characters. Parker Kincaid, a formerly of the FBI, is asked to help in a case. The mayor of Washington has received a threatening letter after a number of people are gunned down in a metro station. If the city does not pay two million dollars by a certain time then more people will die every few hours..Read and enjoy!

Havent been able to get into this book. Not sure I'll ever finish it. Usually really like Deaver.

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