



Surprise Ending

Jeffery Deaver

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The number one priority for Bradley Reynolds of Maryland's Organized Crime Taskforce is Andre Hector Federico. The mob boss is old school—a devoted family man, treacherous as hell, and paranoid enough to have escaped Reynolds's sting. Now Reynolds has a new plan: enlist prize-winning crime novelist Alan Seybold to concoct a foolproof chapter-by-chapter scenario on how to lure Federico out of his safe zone and collar him. There's just one condition: Seybold has to play by the rules of real life. Beyond that, the king of bestselling page-turners can have all the fun he wants. But as skilled as Seybold is, even he can't foresee where this thriller is headed—or just how dangerous its plot twists can be.

Surprise Ending Details

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From Reader Review Surprise Ending for online ebook

P Hartzog says

A very short story

But well structured with a true "Surprise Ending".

Characters were believable yet no one to leave you curious enough to learn more through another, magazine length story parading as a book.

Had this continued into a complete book, I have no doubt my review would have had a better reflection.

Shabana Mukhtar says

A nice introduction to Jeffery

This is the first time I read a book by Jeffrey and loved how he's introduced a new twist after twist.

Read on KU

Silver Screen Videos says

Give best-selling author Jeffrey Deaver credit for truth in labeling in his novelette, "Surprise Ending." The story does indeed have a surprise ending, and, even with that forewarning, readers will probably have a tough time figuring it out. But the story is more than an exercise in misleading the reader en route to a gotcha moment, because Deaver also has some fun lampooning some of his fellow mystery writers along the way.

The hero of "Surprise Ending" is a very successful thriller writer, Alan Seybold, whose thrillers featuring his tough detective hero Steve Cameron regularly head the best seller lists and have even netted him a movie deal. But, as the story begins, he gets an offer he can't refuse; the police approach him for help in nailing a particularly slippery mob boss. The mobster has no apparent weaknesses and takes extreme care to avoid contact with underlings who might implicate him in any criminal activity. The cops are stumped and, in desperation, turn to Seybold in the hopes he can hatch one of his ingenious plot ideas that will let them finally get the goods on the gangster.

From here on, it's best not to reveal too much about what happens in "Surprise Ending," beyond noting that Seybold does come up with a plan, but whether, and to what extent, that plan succeeds, readers will have to discover for themselves. Rest assured however, that seeing the plan and its aftermath unfold on paper is lots of fun. Of course, since this story is less than 50 pages long, the plan can't be too detailed. Although that might disappoint some of Deaver's fans who do appreciate such detail in his longer works, it's probably a good thing here, since the story might not hold up all that well if expanded to reveal all the details of what goes on. But Deaver keeps the story moving with some crisp writing, so any lack of detail or somewhat shallow characterizations won't really matter for most. And when the author does get to his surprise ending,

readers won't feel cheated, as they often do in similar stories that turn out to have endings that don't play fair. Instead, the ending follows naturally, if not very obviously, from the story and characters.

And, on the subject of characters, Deaver has a good bit of fun with Alan Seybold, a best-selling author who definitely has his share of quirks and foibles. Seybold is actually in Baltimore (where the story is set) as part of a mystery writers' conference, as is another, somewhat less successful author, Maggie Daye, with whom he interacts, making it easy for the police to reach out to him. That also makes it easy for Deaver to set out some of the less glamorous aspects of mystery writing and gatherings like this. Suffice it to say that a few other writers may see a bit of themselves in Seybold and not enjoy the view all that much.

Many genre writers view their short stories as an opportunity to take it a bit easy with their more tightly structured novels and just have some fun, and Deaver has certainly done so here. He grabs readers with a premise that might well have sustained a novel and then keeps things moving until he hits his audience with the final twist. But "Surprise Ending" is fun well before the ending, with more than a few lines along the way that may elicit a chuckle or two from readers. In fact, the main surprise in "Surprise Ending" may well be how surprisingly entertaining the entire story is.

WENDELL says

Good short story!

Plays on the audience's natural desire to see someone who is conceited taken down a peg! Also keys on the subconscious sense of fairness, letting the little guy have a fair shot.

Bill Lynas says

When a thriller writer becomes involved in the real crime world it results in a decidedly average short story from Jeffrey Deaver. The concept is interesting, but the payoff is poor.

wayne s moore says

i really don't like short stories. but for Deavers it started ok then went down hill

American Andriod says

I love this part

"Oh, that's so cool!" A frown. "I don't think you should've killed Steve's partner. She was a nice lady." The intense smile returned. "But I forgive you. I wanted to ask, who's going to play Steve?" "I can't really talk about it." "Even if you just whisper it in my ear?" "Sorry." "Bad boy." She winked, charmingly adoring and flirty, and vanished.

Alliy says

A great short read. I really enjoyed the 'surprise ending'. Jeffrey Deaver's short stories have been the perfect read for breaks between the longer books I read. He got me with the twist on this one.

A story about a novelist who gets the opportunity to have people live out a plot practically from one of his books.

Ronald Keeler says

Surprise Ending by Jeffery Deaver delivers on the promise of the title more than once. There is a first big surprise ending followed by a few small surprises that go to character motive as to their actions. These are also fun to read and appreciate.

There is a gang, the Federico gang. They are feared in part because of a gang enforcer, Angelo Ramos.

There is another gang, the Jack Kelly gang. They would like to see the Federico gang gone and vice-versa.

There is another gang called the Organized Crime Task Force. A group of cops led by narcissist Bradley Reynolds, they are in fact a gang. They wear uniforms or might, as in this story, wear civilian clothes.

There is Alan Seybold, a famous author whose fame has gone to his head. He still has room in his head to be flattered when the police ask him to come up with a scam or con that will enable the police to turn one gang against the other. After a long period of reflection, Alan comes up with a plan but runs into serious problems when he decides to be present at the sting operation.

And there are a few minor characters, those considered minor by the major actors. But it is this unrecognized, ignored, and disrespected group that will join to foil at least some of the major scam components.

This is a short 45-page read but the story is tightly woven to tell a tale of multiple fits of jealousy and revenge. It is so tightly written and complex that I gave it only four Amazon stars. It made me work too hard. But my work was rewarded, I liked the story, and look forward to reading Deaver's longer publications.

David Highton says

Clever double plot in this short story but all a little contrived

Dolores Remsen says

Last two books I read were not up to his usual excellence. Is he slipping?

Surprise Ending and Solitude Creek were disappointing.

Surprise Ending was disjointed . Solitude Creek had so many Synonyms in the beginning and was very slow getting getting started.

Very disappointing. I previously READ 17 of his books and enjoyed them very much. Am I expecting to much?

Niranjan M says

Interesting quick read

The story seems to be going nowhere at first but rapidly picks up pace in the middle. The ending was excellent but felt a little sudden and convenient. Still, a fun read.

Al says

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Jeffery Deaver

A Deaver short story is like chess played like speed dating. The real clues and the red herrings swim together very fast. There is little time to get inside a character or the author's spinning wheel of a mind.

I was sure that I had correctly anticipated the final plot twist but, alas, I was wrong.

Let's just say that the title is quite apropos.

Well done, Deaver.

Jerry B says

We've admitted before we consider Deaver a master of the short story form. This one is almost long enough to be a short novella, and like the entries in the author's three full-length anthologies of short stories, ends with quite the twist indeed, hence the title.

The gist of the plot is that the cops, frustrated by a failure to snare a drug kingpin, turn to a best-selling (but arrogant) mystery writer after another cop quips that the writer's hero could probably think of a way to snag the bad guy. Indeed the writer does, but is vain enough to want to witness in person the capture he anticipates. That's when the tables may indeed turn – making for a highly entertaining tale – one well worth the four stars accorded!

Nancy Silk says

"Deceptive Plots To Take Down A Mob Boss"

This is a Kindle Single of only 45 pages, but it gives you a fine view of the writing talents of famous author Jeffery Deaver. He's known for his thrillers. This is the story of mob boss, paranoid Andre Hector Federico who is trying to avoid Detective Bradley Reynolds of Maryland's Organized Crime Task Force. Reynolds

draws in an author of crime novels, Alan Seybold, to concoct a foolproof plan to lure Federico out of his safe zone and place him under arrest. This is a fast moving short story with twists. You'll like it; I did.
