



The Vanished Man

Jeffery Deaver

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It begins at a prestigious music school in New York City. A killer flees the scene of a homicide and locks himself in a classroom. Within minutes, the police have him surrounded. When a scream rings out, followed by a gunshot, they break down the door. The room is empty.

Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs are brought in to help with the high-profile investigation and to ferret out a master illusionist they've dubbed "the conjurer." As the fatalities rise and the minutes tick down, Rhyme and Sachs must move beyond the smoke and mirrors to prevent a terrifying act of vengeance that could become the greatest vanishing act of all.

The Vanished Man Details

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From Reader Review The Vanished Man for online ebook

Amanda says

Bored and looking for a quick, fun read, I turned to *Vanished Man*. Deaver's novels have a lot of twists and surprise endings. Yet because they are all like this the structure almost becomes predictable. I like the Lincoln Rhyme series. Rhyme reminds me of the main character on the t.v. show *House*. He lacks social skills and has a dry sense of humor but he really knows his field. In fact, it's his knowledge and methods of arriving at conclusions that reel me in. The killer in this storyline is able to escape crime scenes by making himself obvious and therefore less suspicious. Though magic and illusion are alluring as part of the plot, one wonders how many risks and unnecessary ploys a suspect can undertake. It just doesn't seem convincing. Overall, I wouldn't say this was one of Deaver's best novels, but it relieved my boredom. I'll probably read another one of his novels in the future.

Jenny says

The Vanished Man is book Five of the Lincoln Rhyme series by Jeffery Deaver. Lincoln Rhyme team became part of the murder investigation into the death of three young people under strange circumstances. The readers of *The Vanished Man* will follow Lincoln Rhyme and his team to see how they found the killer.

I enjoy reading *The Vanished Man*. More I read the books in this series the more I love Jeffery Deaver's portrayal of Lincoln Rhymes and his aid Thom. I have only Jeffery Deaver does a great job in ensuring that his readers engaged with the characters and the plot of the *Vanished Man*. I like the way, Jeffery Deaver entwines Kara and Jaynene into the story of *The Vanished Man*. I love Jeffery Deaver writing style and way he describes his settings.

The readers of *Vanished Man* will learn about magicians tricks and the role of a magician to their audience. Also, readers of *Vanished Man* will learn about collecting evidence from a crime scene. Reading *Vanished Man* you learn about the problems C4 patients have. Reading of *The Vanished Man*, you will learn about detective training with the New York law enforcement.

I recommend this book.

Melanie says

I really wanted to give this book five stars but the quick change had too much black/yellow/brownface with this Kara.

Otherwise, GREAT book.

BookwormCleo says

I enjoyed this book a lot but this is going to be a brief review because I don't want to give anything away!

I like Jeffrey Deaver and have read a few of his books, so I knew what to expect with this. Although because of the topic of the book he used a lot of magic terms names of tricks and things which was good because it added to the overall feel of realism.

The only problem I have and why I didn't give it 5 stars is because there is one twist that doesn't make sense at all. Twists have to be possible but one particular one, even for a magician, just went too far. That's all I'm going to say without spoiling anything!

I like Jeffrey Deaver and the way he writes and I'd definitely recommend this book.

Richard says

8/10

A return to form for Lincoln Rhyme in an exciting novel that fell away at the end but that didn't detract from the interesting premise and gripping story from the off. The last couple of novels in the series fell a bit flat but this one was back to its best with multiple plot links going on at the same time, teasing cliffhanger chapter endings and an evil villain who is killing people off in a fashion of famous magic tricks, sorry, illusions.

The thing with reading a number of Jeffery Deaver novels is that you start to see the signposts of what is coming in the next part and second guess the inevitable twist. This book seemed to steer clear of that or perhaps it was the way that a magic trick was explained throughout and labelled the points of a trick/illusion to watch for which led as a bit of a distraction as I thought they were signposts. Clever Deaver.

My issue with the book was the ending as it seemed too far fetched, even for this type of book. There was a big reveal which I think was meant to be a drop the book kind of moment but ended up just being a shrug of the shoulders and finish it off before it ruins the good work put in earlier.

This wasn't complex or especially thought provoking and the ending was a little disappointing but if you've read any in the series this is one of the better ones and worth a read.

If you like this try: "Back Spin" by Harlan Coben

Obsidian says

I can honestly say I am surprised that I loved this book. I thought the last two Rhyme books were seriously off and I didn't even know if I could continue with this one, but I did. Glad I bought it. We have Rhyme and Sachs investigating a case in which a murderer has someone escaped from what appears to be a locked room.

The more they investigate, the more they find themselves embroiled in the world of magic and illusion. I got a kick out of this book since Deaver sprinkles little gems throughout regarding some famous tricks and illusions. I also loved how those into this use a variety of methods to trick an audience's senses.

The love between Rhyme and Sachs makes more sense in this one. Thank goodness. I really didn't get what was going on between the two of them in the last two books and wondered how the heck they even worked together. What really works this time through is that we get to see a stronger and more confident Sachs. We have Sachs testing for the sergeant's exam and it looks like she has a promotion in her sights.

Rhyme is still his sarcastic self and ready to rush out and feel injured on perceived slights. However, this one made him more human to me due to an introduction of a secondary character named Kara.

I love the characters we have grown to know through the series like Lon and others. But with the introduction of the character Kara I finally found someone that I hope pops up in future books.

We also per usual have a POV starring the bad guy and I wish that Deaver would stop that. These books feel so full and I wish he either cut the number of characters we track, or just leave out the bad guy's justification. Also the final final reveal of the bad guy didn't work for me at all. It was way too out there to be believed. But I felt that way about most of the bad guys in these books except for The Bone Collector.

The writing was great. There is a lot of historical information and detail included in this book. I can say that for once I didn't feel overwhelmed on how the science was presented to me either. Deaver did a better job of including the science talk in dialogue with characters.

The flow was off throughout though. I think that's because of the multiple red Herrings we get in this book. At one point I maybe said please just let it end. But the book kept going and going. The big case that Rhyme and Sachs investigating ties into an active case dealing with a white supremacist movement so that was gross to read about it considering what is going on in the US right now. It seems like lately a lot of my books are apt due to current political shennigans.

The ending though leaves things changed in Sachs professional life. I wonder how that is going to impact her continuing work with Rhyme.

Harry says

By far, Jeffery Deaver is the one author with that uncanny ability to develop plot twists and very complex characters that leave you stunned to the end. If you've seen the movie, trust me, the books are far more ingenious and developed as compared to what we were presented with on the silver screen. The Bone Collector is a series novel starring Lincoln Rhyme, our famous forensics expert bound to his bed and mobile wheelchair.

Reading this novel I am reminded to never commit a crime. The art of forensics as described by Deaver leaves one little doubt as to trace evidence left behind at a crime scene. Of course, this leaves Deaver no choice but to create such stunning criminal minds that they are indeed a match for our hero Lincoln Rhyme...that the possibility does exist to get away with it in spite of Mr. Rhyme's calculating mind.

But it's not just about the crime...primarily Deaver takes his time as he develops his cast of characters across

a whole series of ingenious books...enveloping all of the primary human emotions within such characters: from romance, to jealousy, to hatred, to loyalty, betrayal, and so forth.

P.S. Same review for the whole series. If you've read this review of Lincoln Rhyme, you've read them all.

Kathryn says

This one had some twists I did not see coming. Even some, "misdirection", if you will. People I thought were involved weren't, and people I didn't think were involved, were. One of the better installments in this series.

Alan Cotterell says

Roller coaster

Real roller coaster of a book. Starts off well, gets better and better until it peaks about 2/3 through. Then drops off quite dramatically, until all of a sudden it becomes brilliant again. The description and explanation of the magic and illusions is beautifully done. So many twists and plot changes, really need to concentrate. Next Lincoln Rhyme book here I come.

S@aP says

Addio monsieur Deaver. Come fu, tanti anni or sono, con Mr. Follet, più tardi con il Sig. Piazzese, anche in questo caso siamo giunti..., sono giunto, al capolinea. Finecorsa. Evidente, almeno ai miei occhi, l'inserimento di parti intere scritte dai collaboratori, appunti di ricerca "copincollati" senza alcun intervento d'autore. Evidente, lo sforzo metodico di costruire a ogni costo, a tavolino, una storia intorno al mondo dell'illusionismo, anziché articolare con gusto un intrigante spunto originale. Fastidiosa, la giustapposizione, chiaramente posticcia, di colpi di scena continui, a orologeria, inventati al momento, che non affondano le radici nel profondo della vicenda. Disdicevole, o almeno a me sgradito, che le situazioni più intricate e spinose si risolvano grazie a intuizioni e gesti che neanche un super-eroe della Marvel Comics saprebbe escogitare o compiere (da loro ti aspetti i super-poteri. In un poliziesco minano la credibilità del tutto). Insomma... Cioè, infine: grazie, Mr. Deaver, per i suoi primi 4 o 5 romanzi. Grazie per le ore liete e avvincenti, trascorse ammirando la sua abilità. L'editore e il suo pubblico le chiedono costanza nella produzione, e io la capisco. Ma le nostre strade si separano qui.

PS: ho letto tutto, il suo libro, per il rispetto che si deve a chi ha perso ore sulla scrittura, e per scoprire fino a che punto lei ... oramai si "fidi" dei suoi lettori... Ma, mi creda, avrei interrotto volentieri la lettura a metà del cammino

Stephen Arnott says

Although complaining about twists in a Jeffery Deaver story is like complaining about murders in an Agatha Christie novel, I did feel they were overdone in this one; to the point where I stopped caring about various revelations as I began to expect they'd get overturned a few pages later (I was often right). You can get 'twist

fatigue' after a while. If, at the end, Lincoln Rhyme had torn off a rubber mask to reveal he was actually Pee Wee Herman, or Meryl Streep...I would have shrugged.

The story is also longer than it has to be. Deaver does meticulous research, but seems compelled to ensure that every iota of information he's gathered ends up on the page. While interesting in itself, the background information often got in the way of the plot and I found myself skimming much of it.

The worst part, for me, was the climax. When you get to the end, and the final twists are revealed (a drawn-out process), I thought that the criminal enterprise at the heart of the story turned out to have been NEEDLESSLY COMPLICATED. I mean, it really is very, very elaborate.

For example, if you want to steal a watch out of a pawn-shop window, you could just smash the glass with a brick and take it, or you could hire an actor to pretend that he's the store owner's long lost cousin, Lazlo (who was thought to have died in a mysterious boating accident), who then introduces his handsome young business parter to the owner's daughter, whom he then seduces and marries, then fakes her death so that the owner has to go to her funeral, during which time the homeless man who begs for pennies outside the store (but who is really a world class jewel thief seeking revenge on the owner, who is actually his estranged step-brother) takes the opportunity to enter the store and hide the watch inside a stuffed macaw, which is then purchased by an anonymous on-line buyer in Argentina...Come on! Steal the watch already. You had a brick.

(Just to be clear, none of the above as any bearing on the plot of 'The Vanished Man'.)

My irritations led me to put the book down for long periods, but I stuck with it and, despite the basic silliness of the plot, I found the finale pretty exciting. I will try another Lincoln Rhyme, but I'll be careful about choosing it.

Darren says

I got this book at the store book exchange at the store I have coffee at. I enjoyed reading it. It had a good story to it. I hope to read more books by this author.

Tiger says

A magician commits murder and then vanishes into thin air inside a locked room. Soon, others are dying at the hands of this madman and Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs do what they do best.....run the crime scenes for forensic evidence to collect clues to the perp's identity. But when your adversary is a world class illusionist, there is no telling where he could be or even WHO he is. And, of course, as with any Jeffery Deaver book, everything is not as it seems.

Manugw says

VANISHING QUALITY

The plot is long, convoluted and enthralling, however having read most of Jeffrey Deaver's work and realizing that he really entertains in all his stories as a master of the "wild twist", I can see that in this book he has abused too much of this resource, losing "the magic" that makes readers gasp.

Particularly I agree with another reader (Mr Gavin H from Sidney, Australia) below that the way "Malerick", the bad guy of this story, fakes his dead and makes his way out of tight police custody is too much to believe for a wild twist.

Also, the forensic job Lincoln Rhyme performs to solve the murder looks very poor compared to the hard work he used to do in early novels like "The Bone Collector", and at the ending you can see him coming out of the blue in the home of the murderer in his wheelchair with the complex riddles solved in a brief explanation in just no more than 5 pages, out of a story 500 pages long

This novel exhibits the same level of lackluster class that I experienced in "The Stone Monkey", both of them have nothing to do in terms of brilliance, entertainment and character drawing with early Deaver's works like acclaimed "The Bone Collector" or "The Devil's Teardrop"

Noteworthy, are however the remarks that illustrate the world of magic, presented when the author tells the tale as if he were inside the mind of the main character, an illusionist and magician from Las Vegas

Armin Hennig says

Ein bezeichnendes Buch

Von Edgar Wallace wird kolportiert, dass während der dreitägigen Rundumdieuhr-Sessions in denen die Romane des Altmeisters entstanden, regelmäßige Whodunnit-Sitzungen mit dem Hauspersonal und sämtlichen anderen Angehörigen statt fanden. Und jedes mal, wenn jemand den Täter erraten hatte, dachte sich der Autor prompt einen neuen aus.

Die Liste der Danksagungen am Ende eines jeden Lincoln-Rhyme-Romans legt eine ähnliche Vorgehensweise beim Meister der überraschenden Wendungen nahe, dessen literarisches Täterprofil trotzdem gewisse Verhaltensmuster offenbart, die leicht für einen gewissen Überdruß beim Fortschreiten der Reihe sorgen können. Es gibt jedes mal einen trickreichen Ausnahmekriminellen, dem so schnell nicht beizukommen ist und in allen bislang von mir gelesenen Büchern der Reihe ist die Aufklärung des zunächst anscheinend vollkommen unabhängigen zweiten Falles mit der Serientätergeschichte verknüpft.

In diesem Fall der Prozess gegen einen Rechtsaußen, den sein Anhang mit aller Macht befreien will, mit der Zauberkünstler-Blutspur, die ein gewisser Malerick durch New York zieht. Ich bin nicht unbedingt ein Freund dieser Katz-und-Maus-Spiele, sondern rätsle lieber oder habe ein stimmiges Täterpsychogramm, das mich auf andere Weise fesselt. Aber Deaver gelingt es bei seinem Verwirrspiel im *faulen Henker* immerhin weitgehend den doppelten Erzählvorgang zu vermeiden, der mir diese Gattung so ziemlich verleidet.

Des weiteren ist der fünfte Teil in gewisser Hinsicht eine literarisch kongeniale Umsetzung der Magiertricks mit seinen Täuschungen und Ablenkungen, die zum Gelingen der Illusion beitragen. Als Meister der überraschenden Wendungen fungiert JD also eine Art Magier, dem in diesem Roman manches besser gelingt als später, insofern steht ihm auf formaler Ebene eher 80 von 100 Punkten zu. Leider bleibt vor lauter Blendgranaten und Ablenkungen oder dem Verstecken weiterer Dietriche im Körper des mehrfach geschnappten Entfesselungskünstlers die Motivation des Täters und irgendein Ansatz zur Charakterentwicklung vollkommen auf der Strecke, auch etliche Sinnlücken und erzählerische Konditionsprobleme in der Schlussphase trüben den Eindruck. Plausible Erzählkunst folgt nun mal nicht nur

den Gesetzen der Magie, das sprachliche Niveau der Übersetzung bewegt sich erneut auf Augenhöhe mit Jerry-Cotton-Heftchen. Von daher 64/100

***TANYA* says**

I learned so much about the circus, magic acts and magicians. I loved it. The circus happens to be a favorite of mine, minus the clowns. Lol. Great JD book!!!

Terri Lynn says

How different this one was! I am a Jeffery Deaver fan and especially of the novels involving Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs though I do love the Kathryn Dance ones as well.

Usually Lincoln Rhyme is the expert who can figure out the physical evidence but in this case, he and Amelia need the help of a young woman Kara who is a budding magician who works in a magic shop because the killer- the Conjuror- is a professional magician who leaves plenty of dead bodies but no evidence and uses famous and obscure magic to commit and escape from the scenes. Lincoln is skeptical of Kara at first but sees she is talented and spot-on in all she says. What he doesn't know is that Kara has her own agenda.

There are so many twists and turns here you might need to make a map! This one was so unusual and the killer even managed to get into paraplegic Lincoln Rhyme's bedroom! He also escapes through incredible magic tricks from the jail, leaving the police thinking he is dead until they find the body they were looking at was a dummy.

I am dubious at many of the situations in this book and that they could be performed (how do you get patted down in lockup yet manage to have a whole life like dummy and a gun on you?) but this is fiction and it's fun so go along for the ride.

Christy says

A music school student is murdered and the killer flees into a locked classroom with no way out. When the police break down the door, the killer has vanished. Criminalist Lincoln Rhyme and his partner Amelia Sachs are called in to investigate. It doesn't take them long to figure out the police were duped by the killer, whom they name "the conjurer" due to his magical feats in escaping. The conjurer leads the police on a meandering investigation as he continues on his killing spree, leaving behind bits of evidence which they eventually learn are clues to deliberately misdirect them. Rhyme can't help but be impressed by the conjurer's skills at illusion and magic. With the aid of Kara, a student illusionist, Rhyme and Sachs attempt to catch their killer through their own planned misdirections.

Deaver writes an exceptional series with outstanding characters. Rhyme is a brilliant man frustrated with his physical disability who relies on Sachs's skills at gathering evidence and investigating onsite. The two make for one powerful team, aided by detectives within the New York Police Department. Kara is an intriguing character, a young woman talented in magic who despairs over the mental health of her mother and sacrifices

much for her welfare. As always, deeper, underlying layers of Rhyme's and Sachs's personas are subtly unveiled. Deaver leads the reader through a complicated mystery, filled with twists and turns, the final one which the reader won't see coming.

Alex says

So having gone on vacation again it was time for me to pick another thriller to read. Now, in rating said thriller, *The Vanished Man*, I realized that at Goodreads 5 stars means you found a book to be "amazing". While this book pales in comparison to my last vacation thriller, starring the super genius albino plays by his own rules detective of *The Cabinet of Curiosities*, obviously the most amazing book possibly ever, this one stars a quadriplegic super genius cranky forensic scientist and his ex-model flame haired fast driving genius but not as much as the guy policewoman sidekick girlfriend. You have to admit that's pretty amazing.

It doesn't stop there though, cause things get even amazinger when you realize that in this book those two come together to fight AN EVIL MAGICIAN (Note: He's a pull rabbits from a hat magician, not a "I conjure dragons!" magician). WHO IS OUT FOR REVENGE! ALSO HE'S A GENIUS TOO! MOSTLY AT EVIL MAGIC TRICKS!

There are also white supremacist militia men involved.

Camille says

This was one of my favorite in the series so far! Deaver does it again... an intriguing and fast paced thriller with a storyline that captivates page after page.
