



Last Shot

Gregg Hurwitz

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A seemingly impossible prison escape. A powerful and corrupt company. And a little boy's life hanging in the balance. Three startling plot threads come together as deputy U.S. marshal Tim Rackley faces the most deadly adversary of his career—a man whose lethal skills, cunning, and single-minded determination make him a mirror image of Rackley himself.

Walker Jameson, dishonored Recon Marine, has pulled off an impossible break from California's Terminal Island Penitentiary. After starting a riot, he literally vanishes from his cell, leaving behind only a cup of mouthwash, a strand of dental floss tied to one cell bar, and the body of a sadistic killer.

Tim Rackley, elite man hunter, must solve the riddle and track Walker down. But uncertainty begins to color the mission as Rackley learns more about his quarry and the death of the escaped prisoner's sister, a suicide that looks increasingly like a murder. Walker, too, has begun a bloody investigation of his own, a mission that propels him through the dark underworld of a big pharmaceutical company and its cutting-edge therapeutic viruses. But the life of Walker's nephew, a young boy suffering from a fatal disorder, hangs in the balance, and if Rackley hopes to stop the bloodshed, he must put the pieces together, even if it means battling a lethal opponent every inch his equal.

A riveting thriller, a shocking look behind the scenes of one of America's most corrupt corporate sectors, and an exploration of the depths of a mother's love, *Last Shot* is a white-knuckled, complex drama, full of razor-sharp action and startling twists and turns, written by one of the finest suspense novelists working today.

Last Shot Details

Date : Published September 1st 2006 by William Morrow & Company

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Author : Gregg Hurwitz

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From Reader Review Last Shot for online ebook

Koen Wellens says

Like its predecessors, Last Shot contains a lot of emotion. But where the previous titles in the series were more about Rackley himself, this book provided an emotional tale about other characters. Apart from that, there was a lot of action and suspense in this story.

I love how Hurwitz was able to tie up some loose ends about Rackley. Where the previous books showed some predictability, this instalment held a lot of unforeseen twists. Like the one at the end. Go and read the book if you want more details.

Read the full review at my blog.

Wayne says

Last Shot is the moving, though graphic, story of two strong men of similar backgrounds. Each man has a con-man for a father and each has served his country in the military. One had his daughter raped and murdered, while the other had his sister murdered, leaving a 7 year old son with a fatal disease. Each man has used 'revenge' to motivate his actions.

This is Gregg Hurwitz' 4th novel featuring US Marshall Tim Rackley. Here he does battle with Walker Jameson, a prison escapee out to find the murderer of his sister. Tim, having used revenge in the past, finds a common bond with Jameson, whom he is sworn to capture. Playing a large part in the story is a corrupt pharmaceutical company that has developed two drugs that will cure many folks with a deadly liver (jaundice) disease.

Last Shot is a novel full of human drama, corporate greed, and suspense.

Stan Usher says

Best book in the Rackley series. The only negative I have stopping it from getting higher than 4 stars is that usually if there is someone in a book who is a vigilante, I can usually find something to root for with them, but Walker Jameson is a nasty piece of work. Murders a guy for a diversion to begin with, then proceeds to murder just about everyone who he meets up with, some in very gruesome ways. I know he is doing it for revenge, but does he have to seem so excited to kill peeps? Apart from that, thoroughly enjoyable. Very good plot with a very good look into the seedy world of big Pharma.

Alex says

LAST SHOT (Pub. 2006) by Gregg Hurwitz is the author's seventh novel, and the fourth in Hurwitz's Tim Rackley series. I stumbled across this author while perusing the library shelves a couple months ago, and he immediately shot to the top of my favorite-authors list. You know you've found reading gold when you

scramble to get every book written by the author, no matter the cost or the hassle. I've blazed through almost the entire 20-book oeuvre, and thoroughly enjoyed every story, but LAST SHOT is possibly my favorite Hurwitz book, and that's saying a lot.

Hurwitz has a magical way of weaving several plot twists and believable character issues into the main story that give all his books many layers. It's impossible to call any of them cookie-cutter thrillers.

This story has everything a thriller reader wants - it starts off with a unique and intriguing bang, and keeps blazing away until the very last page, with the stakes steadily climbing at a relentless pace that kept me turning pages as fast as I could. Multiple story lines running at just the right level, with a strong and believable base plot backed up by great dialogue and fantastic writing that doesn't try to impress, but manages to do so any way. You can't help but marvel a bit at how well this author spins a tale without trying too hard. Hurwitz hits all the right notes all the way down the line. But what makes this one really stand out are the incredibly well-drawn characters that suck you into their lives in a subtle, yet irresistible way. And the brilliant characterization is capped off by a surprising twist on what's supposed to be the bad guy--a man who, at the end of the day, is really a good guy that made some bad decisions along the way. It brings a very interesting slant to the story, and makes this thriller far and above the usual fare.

The protagonist, Tim Rackley, is a Federal Marshall brought in to hunt down a felon who's escaped from a maximum security prison, in what turns out to be a masterfully well-executed plan. The first thing Rack must figure out is why the man would escape when he had only a year left on his five year sentence? And it turns out Walker Jameson is not your average convict - he's a decorated former elite soldier / sniper, with several tours of duty in the Mideast under his belt before the government found a way to kick him out on a dishonorable discharge. Rack quickly realizes he's met his match in Walker Jameson, and it will take everything he's got to bring the man in without getting killed or worse. But what Rack doesn't know until the train's already left the station is, Walker escaped prison to seek revenge on behalf of his sister, and the man wastes not one minute of his hard-won temporary freedom. The blood-letting starts on his first night out, and continues until every man involved in his sister's murder is dead - dead in a big, ugly, public kind of way.

LAST SHOT has such poignancy, real heart-pulling stuff--even while the thrills keep rolling--I have no doubt it will linger in my mind for days.

Frank Smith says

Second time I've read one of this author's works and I loved it as much if not more than the first. Tells the story from shifting first person perspectives and constantly challenges the characters and by extension us the readers many very complex questions about morality and what exactly is the right thing. Ends with a bit of a bittersweet ending, but think anything less would of made the story before somehow hold less of a emotional punch.

Has action, suspense, corporate espionage [of a sort] and more besides, but definitely doesn't leave you short if you like something to make you think.

Robert Scragg says

A prison break, a suicide, a sick child in need of a transplant and a multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical company - Deputy Tim Rackley is charged with tracking down the escapee, and making sense of the other elements. The man he's hunting, Walker Jameson, is an ex-Recon Marine like Rackley himself, but a younger, fresher version.

It makes little sense to Rackley, as Walker has broken out, with only a year or so left on his sentence, leaving another inmate dead. When he starts to see holes in the case that deemed Walker's sisters death a suicide, Rackley finds himself in a cat and mouse chase to stop Walker from carrying out a series of revenge attacks, against men he believes are linked to his sisters death.

Rackley finds himself knee deep behind the scenes of a huge pharmaceutical company with a lot to lose. Walker's nephew was cut from trials of a drug that could save his life, and Rackley needs to make sense of the chaos if he's ever going to stop Walker.

I'm a fan of Gregg Hurwitz following Orphan X, and this was my first look at his back catalogue via audiobook. We've got a classic stand-off from a distance of Rackley vs. Walker - both highly skilled, highly motivated, and unwilling to back down. Not quite the levels of Orphan X in terms of the story itself, but it pre-dates that, so doesn't detract from what is still a very enjoyable read. It's got action in buckets, lashings of tense moments, and a good supporting cast to help move things along.

Definitely an author I'll be coming back to

Joy says

I really enjoyed this. Seeing Rack fighting someone who was so similar to himself was fun. The plot was a good one, although a few things didn't hang together for me. I missed the "old Dray" from the earlier books; she didn't have enough to do in this one.

Laraine says

4 star read. The fourth and last book in Hurwitz's Tim Rackley series was a good read. Rackley is called in on a prison break. No one knows how he escaped, but Tim figures it out. He's dealing with a man much like himself and he seems to know how he thinks. Trying to find Walker, Tim gets involved in why he escaped and who he is planning to eliminate along the way. An interesting read.

Adam says

Another fun-filled outing with Tim Rackley! I liked this book a lot but for me it just wasn't as captivating as the other 3. I think that's because this one went deep into science-gene therapy, splicing, etc, and although I love science, reading about it just isn't exciting. I liked the introduction of an equal to Tim; not just a bunch of patsy's he can easily dispatch, but one that is as cold, callous & calculating as Tim.

The story was pretty good. A convict escapes from prison and is going to make all those involved with his sisters death pay with their own lives. Walker Jameson. A hunter of men. Now on the loose, and that my

friends is where the story starts...with a prison break...

Kathryn says

I really like Gregg Hurwitz! He brings his characters to life in a very normal, unconvinced way. Tim RACKLEY is such a character. Book 1 was the tragic murder of his young daughter, and we were taken along the painful journey with Tim and his wife, Dray.

Each new book is the awakening of Tim from this tragedy.

Last Shot is #4 in the series, and Mr. Hurwitz wraps everything together.

One of my top 5 authors.

Heidi Pedersen says

Wow....that about sums up this book!

Walker Jameson, dishonorably discharged from the special forces military, is now in jail with just a year left to serve. Inexplicably, he starts a prison riot by killing a major player, and escapes. No one can figure out how....or why.

Tim "Troubleshooter" Rackley is the US Marshal assigned to catch him, and it soon becomes apparent that in order to catch him, the team needs to figure out why he escaped. Tim is known for his past unorthodox thought processes and methods of obtaining justice, and when he understands why Walker escaped (and the beauty of how), he feels a kinship and respect for him. That sense of empathy really provides some excellent insight into both Tim's and Walker's characters - there's no perfect 'good guy' or 'bad guy' hat for either of them. Gregg Hurwitz did an excellent job of creating very full characters, and we find ourselves rooting for both....and while both Tim and Walker can't have their way in the end, there's a very small but perfect twist as the final solution.

Probably the only thing that kept this from being a 5-star book is the sideline storyline into big pharma. It definitely provided a polarizing background, and your stomach will turn at some of the horrific ethics involved by people at the top (it's easy to imagine this part of the book was non-fiction), but some of the details distracted from the overall story.

I'm sad to say that this is, as of the moment, the final Tim Rackley book. Hurwitz has moved on to other amazing stories, plus his new Orphan X series, but Tim's character really improved and deepened throughout the 4-book series, and it would be wonderful if he would return us readers to the world of Rackley at some point in the future! Hint hint :)

Ross Willard says

So, I've read most of Hurwitz's stuff and, by and large, I've greatly enjoyed it. I don't always agree with the views of his characters, or with what I suspect his politics are, but the writing is good, the stories are

engaging. I read the first three Tim Rackley books, and I enjoyed them all.

This one pisses me off.

I have two major problems with this book. Number one, if you spend three books establishing that your primary character is well trained, intuitive and intelligent, etc, etc, then do not, in your fourth book, have someone run circles around him like he's a halfwit. A capable opponent, sure, somebody who gets the better of the hero a couple of times, maybe gets lucky a couple of times, it should look like a struggle, not like someone spanking a six year old. The second problem is this: if you want to tell me that two characters are very alike and everyone notices it, sure tell me a couple of times, show me a couple of times, no problem. You don't need to spell it out twice in every damned chapter!

Maddening!

Daryl says

Rackley faces another big challenge in this one. Something about it never quite caught my full attention--maybe knowing it was the last in the series (to date, at least). His son is cute and Dray plays an interesting role too. Hopefully this series makes a comeback at some point.

j says

I actually did not finish this book. I enjoyed the first two Rack books, but was totally at sea with this one. Felt like two different books. No coherence. I know: I gave up on it before the unity of the story may have been revealed, but I just didn't care at that point.

Doris Jean says

Great book! I almost stopped reading it after the first two pages which started in prison with rapists, murderers and a guy with razor blades taped to his wrists. The testosterone reeked out of the pages. But quickly the book took off and all the male aggression was totally appropriate. The book got better and better. The characters seemed real and had depth; and the plot twisted and turned unexpectedly when I least expected it.

This thriller kept me hooked and there were times that it was hard to put the book down. The setting was Los Angeles, and the descriptions were well-done. This book was satisfyingly entertaining. The book was well laid out with good editing. This author did a great job. I want to read more of his books.
