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Thin Air (Spenser Mysteries)



Synopsis

Her name is Lisa St. Claire. Her husband's a cop. Her whereabouts are unknown. Spenser thought he could help a friend find his missing wife. Until he learned the nasty truth about Lisa St. Claire. For starters, it's not her real name... --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Series: Spenser Mysteries

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (81 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #14,951,347 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Â Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (P) > Parker, Robert B. #1746 in Â Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Religious #1747 in Â Books > Books on CD > Religion & Spirituality > Fiction

Customer Reviews

More plot to this novel ~ more detecting too ~ than some other Spenser stories. Still, plot is not everything, and still not the real reason one reads Parker. The interplay between Spenser and Susan is as strong as ever; Hawk is in Burma ~ don't ask ~ so we miss seeing him and Spenser. There is a Hawk replacement in the person of Chollo, a Latino hit-man from one of Spenser's West Coast connexions and, while not as detailed or intricate as the Hawk conversations, his with Spenser are still pleasurable. The pretext for the action this time is the disappearance of Lisa St. Claire, wife of Spenser's Boston PD friend Frank Belson. When Belson is hit with three shots from behind Spenser activates himself and goes hunting. The trail leads to a Hispanic community in northern Massachusetts ~ hence the introduction of the Latino side-kick. A welcome innovation (from Parker, not for fiction as a whole) is the use of third person sections interspersed, in a different type-face, telling of Lisa's experience. We thus are given both the hunter and hunted points of view.

In Thin Air, Robert B Parker deviates from his normal mystery format and produces more of a thriller. What happened and who did it is never in question -- the issue is what will happen. While this is being resolved, Parker reveals rich details about the principal characters, keeping the reader engaged throughout the entire book. Viewpoint varies with the primary chapters, as usual in the

Spenser series, from the detectives perspective. Between these, the victim Lisa's view is represented. This is quite nicely pulled off. The welcomed trend in the series of deemphasizing the tiresome participation of Susan in the primary plot continues with Thin Air. Additionally, giving a rest to the use of Hawk as a superhero to completely suppress any opposition is also welcomed. While Hawk is a very enjoyable character, he's overused in the books preceding this. So Thin Air is highly recommended. If there is one criticism, some of the action at the end strains credibility to the point of collapse. But the reader is still touched by the result, something which can't often be said for genre work. This book only reinforces my assessment that Parker is an excellent writer. Dan

This one is one of the better installments in the Spenser series. Hawk is not featured, but it was still surprisingly good with the addition of Chollo from California (from a previous story). Why Chollo would be willing to help Spenser fight this fight in Massachusetts was never explained, but it was still fun and effective. Highly recommended.

I'm a fan of Parker's. I reread him regularly. Great dialogue, hairy predicaments -- what's not to like? This book, however, is an oddity. It is central to the arc of the entire series (it lets us know more of Sgt. Belson), but it's a bit of a letdown. Someone has kidnapped Belson's wife, and Belson asks Spenser for help. The book is told from two points of view: the kidnap victim as she waits for rescue, and Spenser as he tries to find her. However, I find the book relatively weak. The danger in which the woman finds herself is melodramatic, the kidnapper not quite believable. Nevertheless, there are virtuoso passages, particularly the rescue, that show Parker at his best. Nevertheless, overall I'd have to call it minor Spenser.

Boston PD Belson's second wife is missing. Then Belson is shot and Spencer needs to find her. Some great plot twists. The villain is 3-dimensional; his insanity explained. Is it Stockholm syndrome that in the end, you feel pity for him? Also a journey of discovery for Belson's wife whose "Life-Before-Belson" Spencer slowly uncovers while doing what he does best, asking questions and watching to see who becomes annoyed. A reliable read. Good pace; good plot; interesting point-of-view changes between the captive wife and Spencer. Chollo makes an appearance because Spencer needs someone who speaks Spanish and Hawk is in Burma. (Don't ask - not explained or necessary to the plot) These books, like many police/private eye novels, are as much about the journey as the destination. We know that Spencer will survive and beat the bad guys. But who are they and how will he do it? These are always a fun read. I recommend reading the books in

order. You can skip a book or two but read in chronological order since later novels refer to events in earlier novels. Enjoy.

Maybe there are better writers than Parker. Well.....there are. But he's GREAT. And he is my personal favorite author of all-time. His successor, Ace Atkins, is pretty good too, and is growing into the role. His plots are very good, but his strengths are dialogue (EXTREMELY witty, snappy, and not one word wordier (sorry) than necessary), and characterization. I can easily reread these just to enjoy the dialogue. Bill Welsh Premise 2003@gmail.com

Farewell, Robert B. Parker We all love the characters of Spenser, Hawk and Susan. We miss Parker's touch, but the new guy does a decent job. Worth reading. This is one of the originals by the departed master. Robert Cook

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