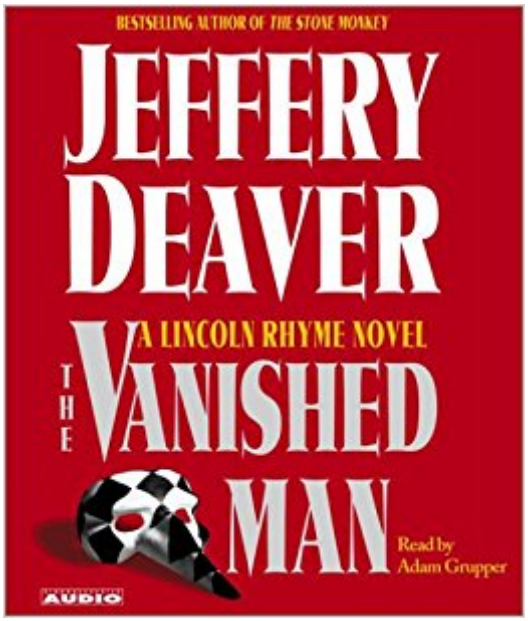
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The Vanished Man: A Lincoln Rhyme Novel



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Synopsis

The New York Times bestselling author of The Stone Monkey is back with a brilliant thriller that pits forensic criminologist Lincoln Rhyme and his partner Amelia Sachs against an unstoppable killer with one final, horrific trick up his sleve. The Los Angeles Times calls his novels "thrill rides between covers," The New York Times hails them "dazzling," and The Times of London crowns him "the best psychological thriller writer around." Jeffery Deaver, America's "master of ticking-bomb suspense" (People), delivers his most electrifying audiobook yet. It begins at the 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 the 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. For the ambitious Sachs, solving the case could earn her a promotion. For the quadriplegic Rhyme, it means relying on his protÃƒÂ©egÃƒÂ©ee to ferret out the master illusionist they've dubbed "the conjurer" who baits them with gruesome murders that become more diabolical with each fresh crime. As the fatalities rise and the minutes tick down, Rhyme and Sachs must move beyond the smoke and mirrors to preven a terrifying act of vengeance that could become the greatest vanishing act of all.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Presto! With a conjuror's flourish, the reliable Jeffery Deaver has pulled another winner out of his hat. The Vanished Man brings back Lincoln Rhyme, forensic investigator, and his sidekick Amelia Sachs, ex-model and beat cop, a team featured in four previous books. Their case begins with a

murder in which the culprit, cornered in a locked room, seemingly vanishes into thin air. Rhyme soon realizes he’s up against a master illusionist--and then acquires a conjuror of his own, a spunky apprentice magician, to advise him. The book is chock-a-block with magic lore and with details of the craft of illusion, which provide a fine complement to the engrossing forensic-science puzzles. The characters, as usual with Deaver, are little more than cardboard cutouts. Even Rhyme himself, a brilliant quadriplegic and former head of NYPD forensics, seems more a collection of characteristics than a man. But Deaver’s cutouts are sturdy and well-constructed, and the book’s plotting and pacing--featuring twist upon twist and reversal upon reversal--are nothing short of dazzling, reminiscent of Agatha Christie at her best. Deaver proves himself an accomplished illusionist, misdirecting your attention with one hand while slipping a firecracker down your pants with the other. --Nicholas H. Allison --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Not since Bill Bixby’s The Magician has illusion played such a vigorous role in the investigation of a homicide. A girl is murdered, the killer is caught red-handed, then trapped in a sealed room with a hostage. A shot is fired and when the room is entered, it is empty. Deaver (The Stone Monkey; The Devil’s Teardrop; etc.) summons up a fifth tale in the Lincoln Rhyme series and loads it with his trademark twist and turns. Rhyme, a quadriplegic forensic criminologist, seems to have met his match in his new foe, dubbed "The Conjurer" by the police, a master of sleight of hand, illusion and misdirection, much like Deaver himself. Grupper does a fine job of keeping the thriller on the rails, and his depiction of Malerick, a villainous master of disguise straight out of a comic book (he regularly disappears in a flash of light and smoke), is riveting. Grupper’s skill with gender and accents is marvelous. The structure of the book is nicely formatted for audio, as the killer narrates his own "performances" as if he were a ringmaster announcing the latest trick, using phrases like, "And now, revered audience...."Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

The book has a novel idea of introducing and using magic and illusions throughout the story. Hand in hand they bring us from start to finish.Being a Lincoln Rhyme novel the characters, at this point are very well developed. Enter Kara, a student of the illusion. She helps the crew by explaining and demonstrating the ins and outs of illusion as Rhyme’s crew sets about trying to solve a number of murders.The story keeps the readers’ interest with an untold multitude of twists and turns as the story unfolds. Illusion intertwines with the story very well.Mr. Deaver has done well researching the art of illusion and apparent magic. The story is entertaining.However, and this is not a spoiler, I

found the illusion which takes place in the Tombs jail, a bit over the top and not plausible.I also feel the story runs on too long. After all is solved and the antagonists are dealt with, I don't feel the next few chapters are actually even needed. They serve to wrap the story. But, after the bad guys are dealt with, there is not much wrapping up needed in this particular book.

I'm a huge fan of the Lincoln Rhyme series, but The Vanished Man is my least favorite so far. There are repeated laundry lists of clues by scene (literal LISTS!) which are about as readable as a telephone book. More importantly (since I could just skip the lists) is my disappointment at the limited character development in this novel. The compelling first book in the series was all about the two main characters -- it was riveting. Some of the subsequent ones have done a decent job at character focus, but this one Deaver seemed to have abandoned his characters for an overflowing amount of plot. Quite frankly, it became boring. I'm very surprised at the high number of stars by many reviewers. I will try the next book in the series in hopes this was an anomaly, but if not, then I'll have to quit. Fingers crossed this was simply a rushed job by Mr. Deaver and the next one will be stellar.

I like this series but this one kept dragging. The last one with the Asian gangsters and human smuggling was great with great characters.The vanished man had no character development. It may be my last of this series.

This was an exciting story and the twists and turns will only urge the reader to read on. Masterfully written, I found myself wanting it to end and then wanting it to end. I was sorry when it did.

I hadn't read a Lincoln Rhyme novel in a while and I remembered from page one why I read a so many of them back to back. Deaver does not disappoint with this novel. It was suspenseful, shocking, well written and maintained my interest throughout. The level of "crazy" that Deaver is able to bring to the page is truly frightening. There were many twists and turns along the way and some very interesting characters as well. Only criticism is there were two or three different points were I thought the book could have ended and it didn't, it climaxed before the end and sort of "went on". All and all, highly recommend this book if you are a fan of Deaver and Lincoln Rhyme.

I thoroughly enjoyed his writing style, although I felt at times I felt lost in the detailed description and set up of all the magic tricks, that took place. All in all a good read.

This story combines how to find and interpret forensic evidence and magic tricks. Both areas were full of interesting information. The crime is murder and Lincoln is hired to help the police. The suspect seems to have disappeared from right under the noses of the police. It turns out he is a worker of magic = illusions, etc. Lincoln gets help from and aspiring magician. Interesting story. I like the way the characters interact with each other. This one is getting recommended to my book club.

I enjoyed reading this novel as I do nearly all of Jeffery Deaver's works. However, this particular book was rather disappointing. The plot left much to be desired. The author immersed himself in trying to charm the reader with insider's knowledge of the world of magicians/illusionists, but his talent for writing suspense novels is what disappeared in this book. It was very predictable to the end. The main characters weren't at all likable. Instead they came off as egotistical, patronizing, and petty. Smugness for Lincoln Rhyme seemed to be his permanent state. This book was more like a first attempt by an absolute amateur than a polished crime writer. I'd give it a miss and opt for one of his better works.

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