



The Triggerman's Dance

T. Jefferson Parker

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From the author of "Laguna Heat" and "Summer of Fear" comes an intense, masterful novel of murder and revenge on California's Gold Coast--a page-turning thriller with a deep emotional undercurrent about love, loss, and the need to make things right.

The Triggerman's Dance Details

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Author : T. Jefferson Parker

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From Reader Review The Triggerman's Dance for online ebook

John says

Vintage T. Jefferson Parker. There's something about the way he describes things that really grabs me. And, since I was raised in Orange County, I am familiar with the setting of this novel. I didn't like the way the book ended, but I suppose it had to turn out like that. I don't think justice was entirely served (just like in real life) and I object to Susan Baum being described as an innocent woman. The sex scene could have been a little (a lot actually) more subtle, and I also thought the Mormon angle was kind of skewed. Nevertheless, a gripping story, well told.

Phil says

This is a great story. Highly recommended.

Bradley L. Stout says

Weaving Story Line

Very good story, difficult to keep the players straight but enough twists and turns to keep me reading. Overall, a good book.

Mel says

Not bad. Interesting story line. Interesting characters. Rubbish blah ending. Worth a read if youre stuck at the airport or waiting room somewhere.

Phyllis says

This is by far the best and most complex of Mr. Parker's books. Of course I don't know what's to come: I'm reading them in chronological order; this one was written in 1996, and there are still more than 10 years and probably 10 books to go. It's about a murder victim who was engaged to one man (a Jewish FBI agent) and was the lover of another man (a newspaperman). The FBI man knows who killed her, so he sent the lover undercover into the compound of a wealthy Orange County security company owner to flush out the murderer. Once again, the book is replete with geographical descriptions and analyses of the thoughts of the main characters. I'm looking forward to the rest of the books.

Brett says

Thriller

Jack Fahey says

Freaking BORING!!!!

Michael Sova says

T. Jefferson Parker is a three-time Edgar Award winner and has spent nearly three decades penning highly acclaimed novels about crime, suspense, life, death and everything in between. *The Triggerman's Dance* (1996) is a story of pain, loss and revenge, and how one tragic mistake reshaped a man's life and set him on a path of hatred, mistrust and vengeance.

Rebecca Harris is guilty of nothing more than doing a small favor for a coworker. In a raincoat and hood, and viewed through the scope of a long-range rifle, she looks enough like the coworker that she pays for her kindness with her life. Two men were in love with her, and they both take her death hard. One cuts himself off from the world. The other is determined to bring the murderer to justice by any means necessary. Their paths cross, and they join forces in an attempt to take down a right-wing, highly motivated and extremely wealthy military tactician with the deck stacked in his favor.

I don't want to give away much more than that because uncertainty of motive is one of the things that makes *The Triggerman's Dance* so powerful. I might also use the word unsettling. Even at the end of the book, it's sometimes difficult to tell which characters are wearing the white hats. It can be equally tough to distinguish between right and wrong. When, if ever, is vigilante justice acceptable? Is it okay to bend/break/ignore the laws of this land if you're acting (or think you're acting) for the greater good? How much can you really fault a man who will spend his life and fortune fighting for something he truly believes is right? It may seem easy to answer those questions now, but what if the victim was your wife, your child or your lover? Don't respond yet. Read *The Triggerman's Dance* and see if any of your perceptions have changed. Even if they haven't, I expect you'll find it more difficult to distinguish black from white once a few shades of gray are introduced.

Gary Lindsay says

I've read most of Parker's novels and loved every one of them. Readers can always count on familiar southern California settings, plots rooted loosely in real places and events and characters complex enough to be interesting and unpredictable. In this case we have a hero with some significant flaws and a quite sympathetic villain. The players in this story are mainly driven by the burning need to avenge some grievous wrongs they have suffered, and that plot typically does not interest me, because they never end well. Still I was fascinated to watch the conflict unfold with some well-paced action, and I cared enough about those that survived that I hope I see them in new Parker novel sometime soon.

Lawanda says

Audiobook performed by David Colacci

Dan says

Two men – a newspaper reporter and an FBI agent – join forces to take down the right-wing head of a security company who killed the woman they both loved. The undercover plot element is a little far-fetched and I'm not sure the backstory chapters added that much, but T. Jefferson Parker is a pretty reliable thriller writer and, as usual, he has Southern California's Orange County setting down pat. Nice page-turner with a satisfying finish; not as good as one of his two Edgar winners, "California Girl," but better than the other, "Silent Joe."

James Thane says

On a rainy day, Rebecca Harris is shot to death at long range in the parking lot of the southern California newspaper where she works as the assistant to a liberal columnist. It quickly becomes apparent that Harris was almost certainly not the intended target. Rather, it was the columnist herself who had antagonized large numbers of conservative readers with her outspoken opinions.

Rebecca leaves in her wake a tangled emotional mess, including her fiancé, Josh Weinstein, an FBI agent, and her lover John Menden, a fellow newspaperman. At the time of her death, Rebecca was in the process of leaving Josh for Menden. Both men are devastated by her loss, and Weinstein is naturally further hurt and angered by her betrayal. Menden responds to the tragedy by quitting his job, withdrawing from society, and taking another job at a tiny newspaper out in the boondocks. Josh's response is to throw himself into the task of finding Rebecca's killer.

Weinstein ultimately concludes that the killer is the powerful head of a private security company--a former FBI agent himself who went off the rails when his son was killed and his wife critically injured in a shooting incident. The ex-agent was infuriated by a series of columns written by Rachel's boss suggesting that his son was a rapist, hence the botched attempt to kill her.

The problem is that Josh does not have enough evidence to charge the killer and so, in a bizarre twist, he recruits Menden, Rebecca's lover, to go under cover and get it. The two men will put aside their feelings about each other in the larger interest of catching the man who killed the woman they both loved.

This is a very good book that keeps the reader on edge, particularly after John infiltrates the killer's inner circle. The tension rises not only over the issue of whether John will survive long enough to succeed but also over the lingering question about whether Josh might still want to ultimately punish Menden for stealing Rebecca's heart. Another winner from T. Jefferson Parker.

Sheldon Lehman says

This was his best book to date. Parker is good at showing his character's emotions and dilemmas.

Carolyn (in SC) C234D says

Well-written and suspenseful. I cared about what happened to the characters, and was satisfied with how things worked out.

Marti says

This was an entertaining book. I'm sure that I have read other books by T. Jefferson Parker. There is a goodly amount of action. I skipped over the bird killing and few sex scenes. The characters have a little cookie cuttiness about them--evil villain once an FBI agent, brain damaged wife, beautiful daughter, noble agents seeking revenge while the evil villain wants it as well. 540 pages in paperback.
