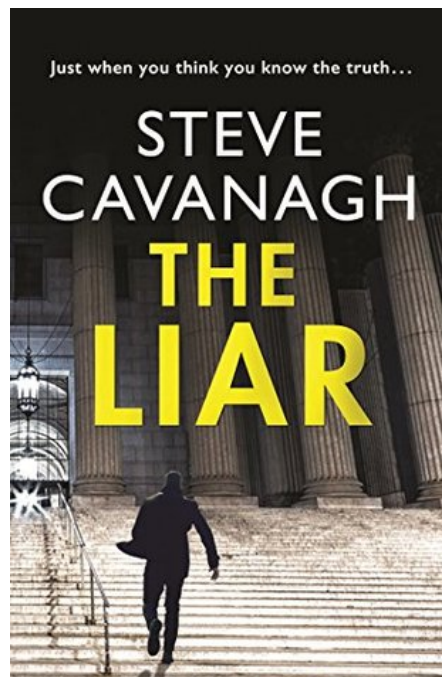




The Liar

Steve Cavanagh

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A must-read for fans of Lee Child, John Grisham and Michael Connelly. Combining gripping action and ingenious plotting, THE LIAR is the brilliant new legal thriller from the author of THE DEFENCE and THE PLEA.

'Plotting that takes the breath away.' Ian Rankin

'Steve is a fantastic thriller writer' Mark Billingham

IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE...

WHO IS DEADLIER ...

Leonard Howell's worst nightmare has come true: his daughter Caroline has been kidnapped. Not content with relying on the cops, Howell calls the only man he trusts to get her back.

... THE MAN WHO KNOWS THE TRUTH ...

Eddie Flynn knows what it's like to lose a daughter and vows to bring Caroline home safe. Once a con artist, now a hotshot criminal attorney, Flynn is no stranger to the shady New York underworld.

... OR THE ONE WHO BELIEVES A LIE?

However, as he steps back into his old life, Flynn realizes that the rules of game have changed - and that he is being played. But who is pulling the strings? And is anyone in this twisted case telling the truth...?

A missing girl, a desperate father and a case that threatens to destroy everyone involved - Eddie Flynn's got his work cut out in the thrilling new novel from the author of The Defence.

The Liar Details

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From Reader Review The Liar for online ebook

Tina Woodbury says

For all of my reviews: [www.readingbetweenthepagesblog.wordpress...](http://www.readingbetweenthepagesblog.wordpress.com)

He has done it again! Steve Cavanagh has created another captivating legal thriller! Over the past couple of months I have been playing catch-up on this series and this is my favorite to date!

Eddie Flynn is a former con man turned lawyer who can't quite help but dive into his former ways from time to time. He loves his job, but does regret some of the decisions he has made. He has become increasingly frustrated that these decisions have put his estranged wife and daughter at risk. He would love nothing more than to have his family back.

Doing something illegal, so long as I believed it was right, normally didn't bother me. This bothered me. If I came out of this in the next ten minutes without being arrested I promised myself I would take a step back for my own good.

From the very opening sentences I was hooked. This book has a dual timeline, although most of it is set in present day. I knew these two timelines must somehow connect, but had no idea how. Then, out of the blue, voilà – the connection is revealed. I did not see that coming and was intrigued to see how it would play out with the remainder of the story.

Now I thought I had the ending of this book all figured out. I was sure of it! Bravo Steve Cavanagh for throwing in a most unexpected twist at the end and proving me wrong.

This is a fantastic book with a few little twists along the way to keep you on your toes! I cannot recommend this series enough. Each book reads well as a standalone, but I highly encourage you to start with book one, The Defense, trust me you won't regret it!

Liz Barnsley says

Bloody hell Steve Cavanagh has REALLY gone for it this time with a most terrific, edge of the seat, courtroom drama come nutty addictive thriller. I mean nutty in the best way because it is totally addictive. Like when you open a tube of pringles and then realise you've eaten them all without really thinking about it. With The Liar once you pop you can't stop.

Hey I like the Pringles comparison. I also like Pringles. And Eddie Flynn. Conman turned lawyer, in this book hovering between the two as he tries to sort out a rather adrenalin fuelled situation. You'll keep turning those pages both desperate to know the outcome and also wallowing in the rather beautifully written adventure that will get you there.

The thing I find with this series is each one gets better than the last. Steve Cavanagh manipulates the plot with vivacity, throwing the reader unexpected curveballs then barely giving them time to draw breath before chucking a chase or a momentary danger at them – really I think we'll throw some pretzels in with those Pringles, certainly there are enough twists here to warrant that. And all so cleverly done too.

The writing is cool and effective, the story is chocka block full of heart, a lot of writers can write a banging

thriller but not all of them can also slip in such elegantly layered character drama. Eddie is fascinating and utterly appealing, holding the whole thing together – here dealing with kidnapping, death, trouble a plenty with his usual wisecracking style. I just loved the whole thing.

The Liar, as with the previous Eddie Flynn novels is intelligent, thrilling, unpredictable and entirely brilliant – reading escapism at its very very best.

Highly Recommended.

Laura Rash says

As this series progresses the writing gets better & better, the plots get more complicated & twists make you gasp out loud! You could probably read these as standalones but I'd read them in order as I have bc it gives you the background on Eddie & helps you understand how he evolves in each one. Glad to have found this series & am on to the next.

Raven says

Having reviewed Steve Cavanagh's two excellent previous Eddie Flynn thrillers, The Defence and The Plea it is with some pleasure that I can say that the big guy has come up trumps again. Having converted me to the enjoyable world of the legal thriller, Cavanagh plunges his stalwart Flynn back into a compelling tale of kidnap and twisted family secrets...

The sharp-talking, quick thinking and utterly engaging character of Eddie Flynn lies at the heart of the success of this America based series to date. He is an entirely likeable protagonist who easily gets the reader on board with his delightful mix of street smarts and, at times, emotional sensitivity. I love the little echoes of his grifter past that undercut his talents as a lawyer, and the interludes of wit that Cavanagh employs in this incredibly fast paced and engaging thriller. Cavanagh's writing is extremely fluid and well-paced throughout, with an uncanny knack in his control of tension and action, from the high-stakes shenanigans of Flynn's courtroom appearances, to his clear-sighted and unquestioning mission for justice for his client. So as not to spoil your enjoyment of this thriller, I will dwell fleetingly on the plot, as there are more than a few twists and turns and surprising revelations in the course of Flynn's thorny case. What I would say is that there is a proper ass-kicking female FBI agent in this one, who more than deserves a repeat appearance in future books (hint, hint) and a grim tale of dark jealousies that exist between siblings that could only end badly. It is never less than gripping throughout, and Flynn needs his wits about him to navigate this minefield of tricky legal negotiations, and intermittent flashpoints of danger...

All in all, The Liar proves itself an extremely enjoyable, well-plotted thriller with solid characterisation, and a nice sting in the tale. A great addition to an already mustn't miss series. Loved it.

Roy says

Guilty pleasure. Crime law thriller. Ex con man now lawyer in his recent adventure. Great 1st person character, great plotting and twists/turns at every corner. Would definitely recommend this series but starting from book 1 would be best but isn't 100% required.

Dick Reynolds says

This book has several sections that are pretty exciting but other parts are so dense that the reader has to buckle down and just push through. There are also a multitude of characters involved in the story and it's difficult at times to keep up with them.

Book Addict Shaun says

Steve Cavanagh just gets better and better. Eddie Flynn has quickly become one of my favourite fictional characters, he is just brilliant. The Liar was another thrilling and exhilarating ride full of the twists and turns that Steve Cavanagh so effortlessly delivers just when you least expect them. I have to say that I did work out a few of the twists before they came but the ones I didn't were brilliant. There's so much to take from these stories and the one here in The Liar is packed full of secrets, lies and some emotive writing that really makes you think about and feel for some of these characters within the story. As legal thrillers go, I've very rarely seen them come much better than this series and if you haven't read them yet, you really need to do so right away.

Josh says

When the daughter of a prominent businessman who runs a successful security firm goes missing, the only person who can be called upon to assist in facilitating the transaction of a hefty ransom is Eddie Flynn.

Leonard Howell, the father, trusts few, it's his former life on the opposite side of the law which draws him to Flynn, the one time criminal/hardman turned lawyer.

Nothing about the ransom drop is normal. For one, there's two drops scheduled simultaneously, secondly, the FBI have no knowledge of the drop Howell is making. Additionally, there's something 'off' with the agents at Howell's house; a tension without cause.

From the moment Flynn climbs into Howell's waiting car in the middle of the night he's involved in a proverbial spider's web of lies, deceit, mistrust and murder.

Flynn is the modern day Perry Mason (created by Erle Stanley Gardner), a lawyer who isn't afraid to travel down that pitch black alley if it means he can scrap together evidence to secure his clients' freedom.

More grit than Grisham, Steve Cavanagh, once again blurs the lines between courtroom thriller and crime fiction to write an entertaining and enjoyable story that captivates the readers attention from start to finish.

My rating: 4/5 stars. I'm really enjoying this series and will have to pick up the latest Flynn thriller, Thirteen soon.

Keith Nixon says

New York-based con artist turned lawyer Eddie Flynn is back for a third story in this highly entertaining series. In *The Liar*, he has to work out who is telling the truth and who is... the liar.

It's 2 August 2002 in Upstate New York and the baby is screaming. No matter what Julie tries she just can't get him off to sleep. She's tired and stressed. To help her nerves Julie takes a fix of crack. Through a drug addled haze, Julie thinks she sees a man dressed entirely in black standing over her baby. He attacks Julie and knocks her unconscious. When she comes round, the apartment is on fire and the baby has gone.

Fast forward to the present day and Eddie Flynn is in his small New York law office at midnight. His phone rings. Flynn doesn't pick up and it goes to voicemail. Over the speaker the caller announces himself as Leonard Howell. Eddie picks up.

Howell is a wealthy and powerful man. His 17-year-old daughter, Caroline, has gone missing and he wants Eddie's help because of his experience in dealing with missing people. The pair go way back, and Eddie owes Howell a favour. Howell arranges for a chauffeur to collect Eddie. However, before the car arrives Eddie is served a subpoena on behalf of high flying solicitor, Max Copeland. Eddie is puzzled - what is he being dragged into? Soon he finds out it's an old case back from 2002 that a close friend handled - the case of Julie's missing baby.

When Eddie arrives at Howell's huge house he's surprised to find the FBI already there. Which means something bad is happening. Eddie learns there's been a ransom demand. The kidnapper contacted Howell asking for \$2 million. However, an hour later, via a secure email, the kidnapper demands \$10 million from him, but the FBI mustn't find out. Two money drops will have to take place at the same time but in different locations.

Eddie hatches a plan to fool the FBI and the drop goes ahead, but something goes wrong. Howell doesn't get Caroline back and suddenly he and Eddie are in deep. It looks to the FBI like Caroline was murdered – by Howell. Can Eddie prove Howell's innocence, as well as his own? And what's the connection to the events in 2002 with Julie and the missing baby?

If *The Liar* was a stick of rock it would have the word 'thriller' all the way through it because that's what this novel is - a high octane story that gets into a high gear from page one and stays there right through to the last.

In the first quarter this feels very much like a Lee Child novel via the pacing and characterisation. However, by the time we reach the court case in the second half it becomes more like a John Grisham novel, back when Grisham was at the top of his game. Steve Cavanagh is a practicing lawyer and the depth of his knowledge shines out from the narrative.

The first book in the series, *The Defence*, was listed as one of Amazon's great debuts of 2015. There, the underlying theme was very much family. In *The Liar*, Eddie's wife and child are much more in the background, and if the family theme is there it's much subtler. The writing is short, sharp and punchy, with quick chapters, and anything that gets in the way of the plot has been ruthlessly trimmed.

Thoroughly enjoyable page turner with lots of shocks, twists and turns. Well plotted, well constructed, well executed.

Long live Eddie...

Originally reviewed for Crime Fiction Lover.

Kate~Bibliophile Book Club says

The Liar is without a doubt my favourite book of the series so far. It's got an absolutely cracking plot, and is filled with the kind of characters I enjoy reading about. In this one, Eddie takes on Leonard Howell's case. His daughter has been kidnapped, and Eddie knows only too well what horrors this entails as he has been through the same thing (that's not a spoiler btw, it's in the blurb!).

What follows is an epic game of cloak and dagger. The reader is kept as much in the dark as Eddie is, which makes it all the more fun as we learn things at the same time. From the outset, the tension crackles and it does not let up until the very end of The Liar. I found myself barrelling through the chapters, unable to put the book down until I reached the brilliant and gripping end. There isn't a single bit of downtime in this book, so be prepared for an absolute rollercoaster of a read.

I love Eddie Flynn, I don't hide it, I shout about it. He is one of my most favourite characters in recent years. There is something underdog-ish about him, something that makes the reader instantly root for him from the beginning. Beautifully flawed, yet it works in his favour. You shouldn't underestimate Eddie Flynn. Ever!

I honestly cannot recommend The Liar highly enough. There aren't enough superlatives in my vocabulary to vocalise how much I enjoy these books. Addictive, thrilling, massively fun, you won't be disappointed picking up The Liar, or the previous two books either!!!

Highly, HIGHLY recommended!

Marianne says

The Liar is the third book in the Eddie Flynn series by Irish lawyer and author, Steve Cavanagh. Late one night, Eddie Flynn is asked to represent Leonard Howell, a man he knows from his childhood. He knows that Lenny's 17-year-old daughter, Caroline has been missing for some weeks, but before Eddie can discover for what his services are required, he is served with a subpoena to hand over all documents pertaining to the murder trial of Julie Rosen. The two occurrences seem unrelated, but is it a coincidence?

The shocking events of that night unfold at breakneck speed, ending up with several people injured, an explosion and fire, a large sum of cash gone missing, a kidnap victim still missing and her father charged with her murder. Leonard's trial, six months on, has plenty of surprises in store for judge, jury and lawyers, including our Eddie.

Cavanagh gives the read an action-packed page-turner. There are clever court scenes, car chases, gunfights, fisticuffs and a good deal of blood. This is a tale with so many twists it should come with a whiplash warning. Tricks, red herrings and disguise, several dramatic climaxes and, yes, quite a lot of lies. Former conman, Eddie Flynn is smart and streetwise and doesn't hesitate to play dirty if he deems it necessary. Once again, he is helped by his mentor, Judge Harry Ford, and he also gets assistance from a feisty FBI agent. Fans who enjoy this legal thriller will be pleased to know Eddie's adventures continue in Thirteen: The serial killer isn't on trial. He's on the jury.

With thanks to GoodReads Giveaways and Hachette Publishing Australia for this copy to read and review.

Paromjit says

Steve Cavanagh writes some of the best legal thrillers I have ever read, and this is his best one yet. We are back with ex-con man, hustler, lawyer, and all round good guy, Eddie Flynn, facing his most challenging case yet. He is going to have to fully utilise his sleights of hand and draw on his ability to con. In the hours of darkness, Eddie gets a call from a man he knew in his younger days, Leonard Howell, asking Eddie to be his lawyer. Howell's 17 year old daughter, Caroline, has been abducted and a ransom payment has been organised. Howell has other plans afoot which do not involve the FBI, are illegal, and wants Eddie to cover his back. Amy, Eddie's daughter was kidnapped in the past, and feeling Howell's pain, he agrees in a heartbeat. It all goes to hell in a handcart as the ransom drops spectacularly misfire resulting in Howell being charged with the murder of Caroline.

Eddie has no intention in letting Howell, an innocent man in his view, be convicted. At the same time, he has been served to release the casework on the trial of the now deceased Julie Rosen to the notorious lawyer, Max Copeland, who plans to appeal and ruin the career of Judge Harry Ford, to whom Eddie owes everything. Eddie is not going to stand idly by and let that occur. At White Plains, New York, Howell's trial opens, a gripping court drama ensues, packed with twist after twist. Continually facing the unexpected, Eddie is forced to think on his feet, aided by Agent Harper, whilst his client lies in a coma. In an effort to prevent a tragedy, Eddie is pushed to pull one of the biggest cons of his life, will he succeed?. As a dangerous finale takes place in a cemetery, connections with the Julie Rosen case come together.

This is a thrill ride of a novel that is so hard to put down, with its outstanding plotting and a charismatic central character in Eddie Flynn, a lawyer extraordinaire. The supporting cast is terrific, from the broken man that is Howell, to the smart and courageous Agent Harper. Cavanagh is a gifted thriller writer who knows exactly how to write stunning and tense stories full of suspense. If you have never read the Eddie Flynn series, I highly recommend that you do so. Thanks to Lauren Woosey and Orion for an ARC.

Christine says

In *The Defence* and *The Plea*, we got to know the flawed and lovable Eddie Flynn. Eddie Flynn is back in *The Liar*.

For those of you not in know, Steve Cavanagh has won many fans with his ace legal series, featuring Eddie Flynn. Flynn is the Del-Boy of the legal world, streetwise and smart. His background is grifting. He is now a defence lawyer, what we would call a barrister in the UK. His playground is open court, playing to the jury. He knows all about a good con. He is unconventional and prepared to bend the rules. He fights for justice. He goes the extra mile for his clients. He is an all-round good bloke, with an issue with alcohol dependency and a broken marriage.

In *The Liar*, Eddie is asked by an old friend of the family to represent him. Leonard Howell's daughter has been kidnapped. He is desperate. Seventeen year old Caroline has been taken. Howell knows that he will probably end up needing a defence lawyer, as he is determined to get his daughter back using rather nefarious means. This takes Eddie eventually to the court room, in his quest to get justice for his client. This is ultimately a story of revenge and heart-ache. Eddie teams up with a gutsy FBI agent, Harper over the course of the novel.

What a fantastic ride. I'd forgotten how clever that Steve Cavanagh is. Cavanagh sends us off with Eddie on this gripping kidnapping case, where nothing is what it seems. We have no idea how things will connect or whether Eddie will get to the truth. We just cross our fingers and watch with pleasure as Eddie does

something a tiny bit illegal. Cavanagh maximises the thrills. He barely gives us time to process kidnappings, court scenes, explosions and gun fire. We get subtle humour thrown into the mix, for added spice.

I loved it. I really cannot get enough of Eddie, especially his clever word play in court. Another strong and rather addictive adventure, from one of the best writers of legal thrillers out there. Powerful stuff.

Recommended.

🔮??Voracious says

Every so often an author comes along who writes books that completely blow your mind. Steve Cavanagh is one such author. The plotting, the pace, every chapter ending in a cliffhanger - could protagonist Eddie Flynn get any cooler? It would appear so, given that we're now into book 3 of this amazing series. This book, as with its predecessors is worthy of so much more than a 5 star rating. My only complaint? I now have to wait patiently for book 4 *sigh*

Alan Taylor says

Steve Cavanagh's third Eddie Flynn novel is his best yet. Obviously inspired by Grisham and Connelly, with 'The Liar' Cavanagh comes very close to matching him. The story follows the same basic pattern of the previous two novels - an unusual case, lots of action, a courtroom battle in which more is at stake than meets the eye, short, fast moving chapters which, like Saturday morning Flash Gordon serials, end on cliffhangers which make you want to keep reading. Cavanagh is becoming a master of these WTF moments and there are many fewer instances in 'The Liar' where I felt the narrator, Eddie Flynn, was withholding information from me. In other words, the surprises and twists arise naturally from the plot. And, of course, Eddie Flynn, street-smart, ex-conman turned defence lawyer, is an engaging character.

The time around Eddie is acting for the father of a kidnapped daughter, a security specialist who believes he knows better than the FBI how to get his daughter back and is probably going to break the law to do so. Eddie gets more involved in the action than a lawyer would be expected to, gets to punch people, gets to cross-examine people, all the while trying to work out, as the reader is, exactly what is going on. And it is great fun. The pace is frenetic. It's not perfect but it is very very entertaining and I look forward to what Steve Cavanagh and Eddie Flynn do next.
