



Inside Passage

Burt Weissbourd

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Corey Logan was set up. She knows Nick Season's terrible secret. Coming home from prison, all Corey wants is to be with her son. To get him back, she needs to make a good impression on the psychiatrist evaluating her. But Dr. Abe Stein doesn't believe she was framed--until his well-heeled mother falls for the charming state attorney general candidate, Nick Season.

As the dogs of war are unleashed, Corey and her son run for their lives--taking her boat up the Pacific Northwest's remote Inside Passage. Inside Passage is the first in Weissbourd's haunting, heart-stirring Corey Logan trilogy.

Inside Passage Details

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From Reader Review Inside Passage for online ebook

John McCaffrey says

Inside Passage is a tense, exciting thriller, with wonderfully-developed characters, both hero and villain, who grab attention and hold until the end. The descriptions of the American northwest provide a perfect backdrop for the story that unfolds. I highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to stay up late at night turning page after page.

Bret Kramer says

Outstanding book! I actually received an advanced copy of this book and was a bit hesitant as I had never heard of the author before. Within 10 pages I was hooked and it stayed extremely strong throughout. I haven't rated many books a full 5 stars in my list, but I really feel this one deserves all five. The pace of the story was excellent. Characters were well developed and believable. I will be on the lookout for more books by Mr. Weissbourd.

Debra says

Have you ever been so engrossed by a book's story that you could not put it down? Well, that's exactly what happened to me with Inside Passage. It was a rainy weekend and I picked up the book on Saturday. I became so absorbed and consumed by the story and the writing, that I finished it in 2 sittings. It would have been 1 day, but unfortunately papers needed grading ;-). I cannot wait for books 2 & 3! Thank you Mr. Weissbourd for writing such a captivating story. I almost felt like I was in the Pacific Northwest!

Ivyd says

Al, the father of Corey's son, crossed the wrong man. Corey and her son Billy have been paying for Al's mistake. Corey has served two years for a crime she didn't commit and Billy has been a ward of the state. Now that Corey has been released all she wants it to regain custody of Billy and be left alone. Unfortunately for Corey her nemesis can't rest as long as she's free, an itch he can't scratch. Will Corey and Billy be forced to pay the ultimate price?

First in the Corey Logan trilogy, INSIDE PASSAGE begins September 1989 with Yuri, a Russian mobster, trusting the wrong person in Lester Burrell then fast forwards to May 2010.

Corey Logan is independent, intelligent, street-wise and accomplished at numerous survival skills. The dearest thing to Corey, her Achilles heel, is her fifteen year old son, Billy. Corey has recently been released from prison having served two years for drugs. Corey's real crime was guilt by association. It took me a chapter or two to warm up to Corey. She's a bit off-putting in her initial blinkered single mindedness. It's understandable but can also be annoying and counterproductive.

Billy has been bounced around foster homes and the system since Corey's incarceration. The biggest plus in Billy's favor is he had a strong foundation. He's only gone a bit astray. Billy's finally beginning to feel

accepted when Corey is released. As Billy tells her, “trouble follows you.” Billy’s a good kid.

Abe Stein is the psychiatrist Corey finally settles on for her evaluation. Abe will decide if she’s a “fit” mother and can regain custody of Billy. Abe is big, a bit awkward, easily distracted, intense, and highly intelligent. Abe has what I call “the absent minded professor syndrome.” I found him quirky, endearing, and frustrating.

Jessica, aka Jesse Stein, is Abe’s mother. Mover and shaker in the world of Democratic politics, Jesse and her contacts can make or break a political hopeful. At heart Jesse doesn’t understand Abe and is disappointed at his chosen course.

Lester Burrell is Nick Season’s “private investigator”. Lester Burrell does whatever Nick tells him to. There’s nothing Lester won’t do or have taken care of. Lester is scary.

Nick Season, potentially the next Seattle Attorney General, aka Nikos Sisinis, a con-man born in Greece. With the death of his parents he was sent to his great uncle in Seattle. Nick has reinvented and removed himself from that orphaned boy. Nick is ambitious and has perfected his caring concerned persona. Nick’s the quintessential bad seed and even more frightening than Lester.

INSIDE PASSAGE is an exciting fast paced thriller whose twist on the standard hero/heroine roles adds complexity and a degree of unpredictability. This reversal works beautifully because it’s written as a natural byproduct of personality and upbringing rather than a competitive battle of the sexes. Corey and Abe complement each other and are perfectly suited to be a team. The climax was tense and the epilogue has me wondering which is actually the perfect ending. There are questions floating in my mind so I’m truly looking forward to the second Corey Logan book.

Reviewed by IvyD for Manic Readers

Solen Sprinchorn says

If you can judge a book by its antagonist, then this one is a doozy. A smooth-talking, handsome politician who feels nothing but contempt for the decent (and not so decent) folks he manipulates on a daily basis. His con leads to the governor's mansion, and beyond, and he will stop at nothing to get there. The protagonist? A well-meaning psychiatrist who burns holes in his sports coat with his pipe and knocks the mirrors off parked cars when he tries to drive. Who has an undistinguished career doing post-release counseling with felons. Who has seen his share of cons. The guy who can fool everybody and the guy who won't be fooled. Add a henchman who is good with C4 explosive, the gorgeous settings of the Pacific northwest, and a really nasty icepick, and you have the makings for a thriller that I couldn't put down. An amazing first novel - I'm glad there will be more to come.

Julie says

Inside Passage by Burt Weissbourd is a 2013 Rare Bird Books publication. I was provided a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Corey Logan has just been released from prison and wants nothing more than to avoid the man that set her up and to be with her son, Billy. She has to check in with a therapist as a condition of her release. After

meeting Abe, she doesn't feel like this soft spoken, seemingly out of touch man would be the best fit for her. After shopping around some more, she finds herself back with Abe.

Meanwhile, Corey is having a great deal of difficulty getting her life back on track. For one thing she can't get custody of her son and he is a little upset about the situation. He has gotten himself into a bad situation on top of everything else. There is Nick to worry about at all times. Since Corey knows Nick's darkest secrets, he needs to silence her once and for all, especially now that he is running for political office.

Abe is smitten with Corey and although skeptical at first of her story, he begins to see the possibility she may be telling the truth. To add insult to injury, Abe's mother is dating none other than Nick Season!!

Nick is one smooth talking criminal. He can smile, and weave a very believable story that will have Abe's mother totally convinced in Corey's guilt. Abe is a man easily dismissed by others due to his mild manners and soft way of speaking and unassuming personality. But, Abe is also a man in love and he will stop at nothing to see that Corey is freed from Nick and is able to live without fear so she can enjoy a new life with her son... and hopefully with him.

We know Corey is set up and is in danger after her release from prison. I couldn't help but feel bad for her when she attempts to reconnect with her son. She has to work in a mundane job and keep a low profile.

When her son gets into trouble and Corey must step up to save him, another curve ball is thrown into her path forcing Abe to face up to his feelings for her and decide if she is telling him the truth or if he is being conned.

Nick is so smooth, he even had me wondering what the truth was. Thankfully, Abe is more decisive. Abe is not the type of guy one might imagine taking on the dangerous men after his lady and her son, therefore no one really worries too much about his presence in Corey's life. As it turns out, Abe may have a few smooth moves of his own.

I enjoyed this first book in a planned trilogy featuring Corey Logan. Fast paced and action packed, but with a tender side as well. The love a mother has for her son, the love a man has for a woman and the need to see justice done is the glue that holds all it all together and makes the story so compelling. Abe may not have been some beefed up Alpha male, but his brain made him really sexy as did his courage. Now, Abe's mother on the other hand was a different story. She wasn't necessarily a bad person, but she had judged a book by its cover where Corey was concerned. This was how easily she stepped into the trap Nick so easily made for her. I wanted to somehow grab her attention away from Nick and talk some sense into her. Billy is a typical young adult that has been dealt a few bad hands in life and had no real guidance. This gets him into trouble, although he has a girlfriend and he wants to be a good guy. So, many characters in this novel find themselves walking on thin line between right and wrong. I'm really looking forward to the next book in this series. Overall this one is an A.

Erica says

I worked the book party that Burt Weissbourd's brother threw at his house in Cambridge. Sat in the back and wondered if it would be inappropriate to help myself to the buffet, listened to Burt give away major plot elements as an incentive for his family and friends to buy as many copies as they could carry. At the end, he and his wife bought one more, signed it, and gave it to me - "If you like it tell your friends at the bookstore." And that's how come I read a thriller set in the Pacific Northwest. I liked it. It's a quick read, fun characters, perfect for reading straight through on an airplane en route to Chicago.

Spoiler: Someone gets an icepick through the brain in the first ten pages.

Caleb says

Corey Logan knows Nick Season is why she was in prison. She knows that his charming smile and patience deceive all but her. And despite losing two years of her life to him, she just wants to get to know her son and stay out of Nick Season's path forever.

Nick Season is a political animal. He is patient, kind, and willing to compromise. And he always gets what he wants. Spring-boarding off a stint in LAPD and with his eyes on the national stage, Nick Season needs first to get in the state Attorney General office. In between him and unlimited success stands one woman. And Nick Season always gets what he wants.

The imagery stands out immediately. Being a Seattleite myself, the accuracy and mood of each location is locked into each page. Weissbourd's scope and scale is impressive, yet he manages to add intimacy to the soaring, rugged mountains of British Columbia while taming the wild waters of the Pacific Ocean.

The pacing is solid, though with a bit of lagging near the beginning and ending. This is somewhat a cross between a thriller and a mystery novel. Weissbourd throws plot twists here and there, some of them expected while others entirely blindsiding. A few loose ends were not tied up, but seeing how this is the first novel in a trilogy, I am excited to see more.

Heather says

This book caught my attention after the first 20 pages and I was so engaged that I read it all in one day! The book begins with Corey Logan getting out of jail for something she didn't do. Her son, Billy, is in foster care and his father is dead. Corey will do anything to get Billy back but she has one big obstacle to cross...Nick Season.

Nick Season is the reason Corey is in jail. He's the reason Billy's father is dead. However, no one knows the real Nick Season. They only know the high powered attorney who is well on his way to becoming the next Attorney General. He's rich, he's charming, and everyone seems to love him.

As part of Corey getting her son back she is required to be evaluated by a shrink. She goes to several different ones before finally settling for Dr. Abe Stein. Abe is a quiet, quirky, and clumsy psychiatrist who is the son of a high powered publicist. The high powered publicist who just happens to be dating Nick Season.

As things heat up Corey realizes she has to grab Billy and run before Nick decides to take her out. The one thing she didn't count on was Abe coming to her rescue. The shy psychiatrist is suddenly her hero as he comes up with plan after plan to get her and her son back together.

This book is action packed and kept me on the edge of my seat until the end. There is murder, drugs, deception, and romance. The only complaint I have about the book is that some parts felt like déjà vu as the same thing happened multiple times in the book and I had to look to make sure I wasn't rereading a part I'd already read. Otherwise, if you enjoy fast paced thrillers this is a book for you!

I give this book 4 out of 5 stars.

Satu Hagner says

This was a tough one. On the one hand it made me very interested in the geographical area described in the book; I also love sailing, so the setup was ideal. On the other, however, the characters and particularly their psychological development was so unrealistic that I just couldn't forget that they were make-believe. If you can't relate to the characters on any level you don't care what happens to them, it's all the same. Some just suddenly realized things on an inner level, but at the same time others with eventful, successful lives nearing 60 didn't know themselves at all. The dialogue was poor, plenty of 'What's that about?'; the plot unbelievable. Looking at all the five-star reviews I feel like I live in an alternate reality. How was this an excellent book, even within its genre? While I couldn't be less interested in what happens with Corey Logan in the two sequels promised, the book definitely raised an interest in Washington as a state and its coastal region, so it did serve a purpose, as intended.

Ruth Hill says

First of all, I decided to read this book because of its Pacific Northwest setting. I am a native-born Washingtonian, and I loved the fact that the author spoke of places I know--Seattle, Pike Place Market, Mount Rainier, and more. And I could relate immediately to all the boating in the Puget Sound--I grew up in Washington state (and still live here), and I understand and appreciate waterfront living.

Reviewing this book has proven to be extremely difficult. The profanity and blatant sexual terminology are something I have not encountered in a while within a book, and this really made the book much less enjoyable for me. As I have stated categorically in the past, I do not mark a book down for these issues unless it is a young adult book or completely impedes the story and flow of the book. What I will say on this point is that the overuse of profanity did tend to interfere with the story. When it comes to thrillers, mysteries, or any other genre that relies on the heavy use of profanity to move the story along and make it more genuine, I really struggle when that profanity is used within the narrative outside of the dialogue. It honestly makes no sense (in my opinion) for the author to use these words to advance the story. If the author deems that these words are necessary, I believe they should be limited to the dialogue. But, that's just my opinion.

If I can divorce myself from these disconcerting issues, I will do my best to concentrate on the story and writing style. Indeed the author writes a somewhat intriguing story. I felt like I was lost at times due to the story being told from many points of view. I sometimes felt it was difficult to fill in the missing details (I think the author would do well to write a prequel). I didn't feel that I fully comprehended the story that led to the book's narrative. The author did an excellent job of pointing out how lifestyle choices lead to lasting consequences that are sometimes impossible to escape. There was a love story, but I sometimes felt this was a bit unbelievable. The ending confused me a bit, but some of that was due to the peripheral issues I mentioned earlier. If you are not easily offended, and you wish to read a thriller with a fast-paced story, this may be the book for you. It was not my cup of tea, but I believe that it has potential.

I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. I was not financially compensated, and all opinions are 100 percent mine.

Chuck says

I just finished Inside Passage and I highly recommend it. I don't remember a thriller that kept me going like this one since the days of John D. MacDonald writing about Travis McGee. The unlikely heroine and hero of this novel are breathtaking, the writing top-notch, and the plot gripping. Hoping for more from this author.

Note: I had the opportunity to read an ARC ebook version and that is the basis for my review.

Melinda says

I love sinking my teeth into an engrossing thriller and I am pleased Burt Weissbourd delivered with his riveting page turner Inside Passage.

From the first page Inside Passage had me hooked! I could not put this book down and gobbled it up in a matter of hours. I will confess – half way through, I was completely invested in Corey Logan's plight I had to restrain myself from cheating by reading the last few pages. I exercised my willpower and refrained, it was worth every page turned, the journey was enjoyed.

Inside Passage is a thriller from the start and doesn't let up. Its exciting narrative and the characters cause the emotionally involved reader great stress as we sit at the edge of our seat reading with great anticipation of what will unfold. I haven't read such a well written thriller in a long time. I can't wait to read the next two installments in this trilogy, I just hope Weissbourd doesn't make me wait too long.

Corey Logan is smart, savvy, and tough. A woman running for her life with her son Billy. The reunion between these two is affecting. Nick Season has inflicted and continues to torment Corey and her son. He is one slimy, crafty character, a loathsome creature. So much damage has been done to Corey and Billy you really hope they can make up all the wrongs they have endured. Poor Billy, his life has been turned upside, you hope he can salvage some semblance of normalcy in his world. Dr Abe Stein is a warrior, and he is more than willing to help Corey, his altruism is endearing, he is an all around great guy – the polar opposite of the disquieted Nick.

Inside Passage forced me to consider Corey's situation. Nick a man of influence easily framed Corey. I kept thinking this scenario could happen to anyone at anytime, angering the wrong person can have dire repercussions. Planting evidence, a cover up, bribery, undesirable associates to perform despicable deeds – it really isn't that difficult for a person of influence with unsavory connections to cause serious damage, especially where there is virtually 'no proof' because it was so well manipulated and orchestrated. Very scary thought.

Weissbourd artfully weaved in splashes of Greek mythology throughout the narrative, which added interest and a spark to an already electrifying plot, I enjoyed this direction immensely.

Inside Passage hit all the hallmarks of a great read for me, writing, characterization, narrative and a titillating ending. Riveting story from the first paragraph, definitely add this book to your TBR. Very excited to see what is in store for Corey Logan and the entire trilogy from Burt Weissbourd.

Dorothy says

I loved this book! It is a smart, character-driven thriller. Once I started reading, I found it hard to put down.

Weissbourd is a great story teller. I loved the book so much that I went to his reading from Inside Passage at the Corner Bookstore in NYC to ask him to sign my book. I was also interested in knowing about the sequel (this is the first novel in the Corey Logan trilogy).

I recommend Inside Passage to readers who love thrillers with strong, smart characters. It is a must read. You will not be disappointed.

Ed says

Charismatic politician Nick Season is running for Washington State Attorney General. He's also a psychotic narcissist tying up loose ends by murdering a customs agent, framing his girlfriend for smuggling and attempting to have her killed in prison. Released from prison, Corey Logan knows the truth about Nick Season but to protect her 15 year old son Billy, keeps quiet until she falls in love with her evaluating psychiatrist, Dr Abe Stein. Mild mannered, non violent Abe is a thinker, not any kind action hero but together with Corey, they must match wits to out-manuever a truly evil antagonist in Nick Season to survive.

What I particularly liked about this exceptionally written debut novel is the originality of these richly developed characters and the wonderfully descriptive wilderness of the Pacific Northwest coastline. This is the first book in a Corey Logan trilogy which is good news for crime fiction readers everywhere. I highly recommend itEd
