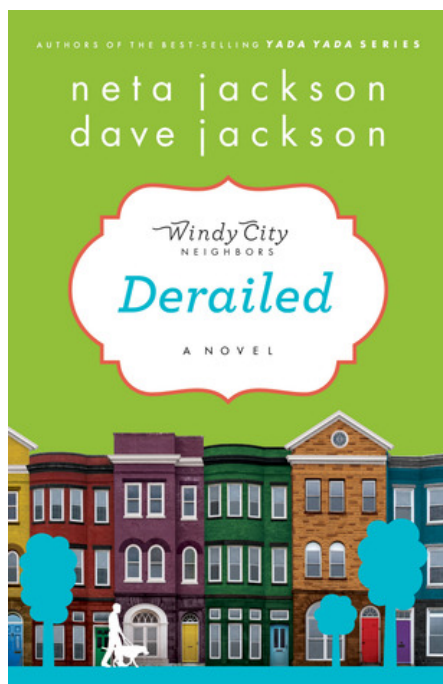




Derailed

Neta Jackson , Dave Jackson (With)

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Forced to give up his hard-earned retirement, Harry Bentley goes back to work as a detective. Receiving a bizarre undercover assignment that sends him across the country by train. Things suddenly go awry when it appears one of his new neighbors may be part of a smuggling ring and suspicion rises about his own son's involvement in a major drug cartel.

The second in the Windy City Neighbors series, Derailed is a contemporary, and often humorous, tale in an urban setting, featuring ordinary people wrestling with the spiritual and practical issues of real life. Intersecting with Grounded (book one), the Jacksons employ their innovative storytelling technique of "parallel novels." Though each book follows its own drama and story arc, the characters' lives become intertwined and affect one another. Derailed transports you to Beecham Street—a typical, isolated American neighborhood . . . until hope moves in.

2.5 million-copy seller, Neta Jackson and Dave Jackson draw on proven strengths for entertaining, multi-ethnic and relationally-driven stories in the second book of the Windy City Neighbors series, Derailed.

Derailed Details

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From Reader Review Derailed for online ebook

Maddy says

DNF at page 180

I was looking forward to this after enjoying the first book in this series, but it was just really dry to me. It's about an old couple that makes some appearances in the first book. While it didn't get into their story in the first book, it did talk about what was going on in their lives. This book went over the same details you found out about them in the first book, just with more details. So while they're struggling to pay their house, found a job, etc you know how everything is going to work out due to the first book. So yeah, this book was just really dry to me and than you also already know how everything's going to turn out for them.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: Derailed (Windy City Neighbors Book #2)

Author: Dave & Neta Jackson

Pages: 320

Year: 2013

Publisher: Worthy

I absolutely hope there are more novels planned for this series. In this sequel following Grounded, the tale is told from the point of view of Henry Bentley whom readers met in the first novel. In Grounded, readers got the perspective of the neighborhood and life from Grace Meredith who travels giving concerts. Here, we are given the neighborhood view from Henry and some of what he shares includes neighbors both known and unknown. Along with that, readers get Henry's perspective on some of the action from book one as well as what happened in Henry's life prior to either story.

One aspect I enjoyed was the transparency of Henry's struggles in his walk with the Lord and being a relatively new Christian with a past that plays into the character's present situations. Henry's wife is such a supporter of his life and walk with the Lord though they haven't been married long. She is a very compassionate woman and prayer warrior who never seems to have difficulty stopping and praying about everything no matter where she is or whom she is with.

Henry's character is a retired Chicago Police Officer who is learning to put his family before work as he is raising his grandson while his son, Rodney, finishes his prison sentence. Upon his release, Rodney moves in with them, living on the first floor with his son. Now, Rodney is employed and looking to move out to begin taking responsibility for his life and hopes that eventually his son can come live with him full-time. In order to pay bills, Henry accepts a position as an undercover agent with Amtrak along with his dog, Corky, who is a trained dog with the Amtrak police.

Personally, I enjoyed this novel more than the first in some ways, but wouldn't be able to appreciate the story if I hadn't read the first book either. I love action and suspense more than a romantic storyline most of the time; however, with the way Mr. & Mrs. Bentley's show affection and caring for each other, I hope it is a picture of what I my marriage will be like when I am older. Either way, the faithfulness to prayer, church attendance, Bible study and all is shown for what it should be, which is connection to God, being open to His voice and being connected to fellow believers. Lastly, I think the novels show the need to love our neighbors where they are at, allowing God to reach out to them through us, and being open books that others can read, seeing Christ in us.

My rating is 5+ stars!

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use

personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Elizabeth says

I received an advanced copy of this book in exchange for an unbiased view. I have been a fan of Neta and Dave Jackson's Chicago-based books, starting with "The Yada Yada Prayer Group" , through the House of Hope and Souled Out Sisters series, and now into the Windy City Neighbors series. To be frank, I was not as big a fan of the 1st WCN book, "Grounded," as I was the others. It took a while for me to warm up to the main character of Grace, but in the end, it did move me.

This book, "Derailed," goes back to Grace's story somewhat by being from the point of view of Harry Bentley, in a parallel story. This book was interesting and different as a lot of it focused on Harry's police work, working undercover as a blind man with his seeing-eye dog, who is actually a K9 drug-detecting dog. I like my human interest stories, as I can often relate to them, but I actually liked the suspense here, too.

The other part of the book is focused on Harry and Estelle's move to a new neighborhood, their interactions with those new neighbors, and their situations with Harry's family. Harry is trying his best to do what God would have him do, and several songs (including "Give Me Jesus") resonate with his soul and the direction of his life.

So glad to have the opportunity to read this book – I really enjoyed it!

Mark says

This is the second in a series of books set in one neighborhood, with each book centered on a different neighbor. I enjoyed this one even more than the first one, maybe because it was from a man's perspective instead of a woman's. I do wish the series was written from a third person point of view instead of the first person, as I think it would make the books even better.

This one was very entertaining, but also had a great message in it. The main character, a black guy in probably his early 60's or so, has moved into the neighborhood with his wife and teenage grandson. While taking cinnamon rolls to all of their new neighbors to introduce themselves, they discover two houses down from them is a gay male couple. I am not excusing the sin, and I won't go into a lot of detail, but using the fictitious gay couple, the authors had a great message about loving our neighbors, even when we totally disagree with their lifestyle. It impressed me so much that I wrote a blog post about loving our neighbor on my other blog.

I did have a few issues with the book. At one point, someone is angry at a police dog that searches out drugs and angrily called it the actual name for a female dog.... granted, they ARE called that, but it seemed out of place for a Christian book, and given the tone it was said in, it seemed more like the bad use of the word. There were also a few cases where the main character started to curse and it had the first couple of letters..... its natural for the brain to fill it in, and I wish they had not done that.

Melissa says

Continuation of the Windy City Neighbors series. Two reasons I didn't like this book as well as the others I've read by this/these author/s. One: this book goes back to the beginning of the story in Grounded, just from the POV of other characters. Since I already knew what happened in the story arc, it felt like reading the exact same story over again. Second, I really dislike reading the vernacular, and maybe I just dislike books from Harry's POV (I didn't care for Harry Bentley's Second Chance and didn't even finish that series). But overall, these books are so filled with faith and the multicultural aspects of the novel gives me a better perspective of the world and all of the people in it.

Linda says

I have read about 20 of Neta and Dave Jackson's books and enjoyed them all. They are light-hearted contemporaries, fun-to-read stories of Christian friends in Chicago. I am unhappy to say I have just read my last. As other Christian writers, the Jacksons have gone the way of cultural obsessions. Are they adding unnecessary descriptions to keep their readers reading? To be culturally relevant? Or what? Worthy Publishing's moto (the publisher of parallel books Grounded/Derailed) is "Helping People Experience the Heart of God". How does it help to "Experience the Heart of God" knowing that a woman has an ample bosom, or how her husband moves up to her in bed, or ... well, you get the idea!! It doesn't! What really gets me, is the excerpt from their next book, Penny Wise. "She almost stumbled out into the hall to go to the bathroom, but remembered in time that they'd made love last night and she was still naked." Why do you think this excerpt starts this way? Really! is this necessary? My recommendations of the Jackson's Christian books has ended. Neta, Dave, seriously, I hope you're reading this!

Valerie says

I received Derailed, a book from the Windy City Neighbors series as a Goodreads giveaway. I received my copy as a 317 page trade paperback wrapped in a bright, delightful, candy-bar-wrapper-like cover.

Derailed is just one of hundreds of books from Husband and Wife team Neta and Dave Jackson. The Jackson's forte' is serialized fiction based in neighborhoods of Chicago, an area where they themselves reside. Their novels are vehicles for delivering wholesome, Christian-based entertainment in practical, real-world scenarios.

Derailed is the second installment in the Jackson's Windy City Neighbors series. The main characters are an African-American family relocated to the neighborhood. The husband, a police detective dealing with one last case before retirement; The wife, the bedrock of the marriage, raising their grandchild and running their Bible study.

The writing is prosaic and easily consumed. The cliché'd urban dialect of the African American characters is painstakingly portrayed in contracted verb tenses and ebonics, which - when taken into consideration of the greying, caucasian source - smites uncomfortably to the equivalent of modern-day literary black-face. The lessons are trite and can be universally summarized thusly: prayer fixes anything.

Even fiction created for an audience catering to a specific religion or ideology must still be held accountable to standards of good writing and engaging stories. While audience members ascribing to the tenets shared by

the work will project such qualities onto entertainment made specifically for them, the rest of us will see this work for what it is - poorly produced tripe catering to a base audience.

I recommend Derailed for Christian audiences seeking light fiction sterilized entirely for their world view.

Ruth Lechler says

This book is about an African-American couple who moved into a new neighborhood in Chicago. I enjoyed the character development of the people that I encountered in this story. I also enjoyed the plot, which was kind of a mystery and adventure. I didn't care too much for the vernacular of some of the characters in this story, but not enough to quit reading this book. I especially enjoyed hearing about how the main characters' developing faith in God and how it helped them during some of the difficulties that they were going through during the story. I am looking forward to reading some more books written by these same authors.

Chrissy says

I am a HUGE fan of the Yada Yada series, so I was definitely thrilled when I had the opportunity to review the first book in this series, back when it came out. Of course, I could give that novel nothing less than a glowing five star review, and I was in huge anticipation of the second installment, DERAILED, which is set to come out in October of this year.

So, when I was given the chance to review book two after loving the first one so much, it was impossible to say anything but yes, Yes, YES!

In book one, GROUNDED, we had the opportunity to meet Grace, a young contemporary Christian singer with a horrible fear of flying and a passionate platform of purity before marriage. At one point in the story, Grace ended up taking a train to the next segment of her tour, at which point she encountered her neighbor Harry -- who was working undercover as a blind mind, although we really didn't get a lot of information about his particular line of work.

In DERAILED, the authors step back a bit and tell the story of the same time period, except this time everything focuses on the couple who has just moved to Grace's street -- Estella and Harry. Harry has recently been offered a position working undercover for the train company, and he will pose as a blind mind with a dog who has been specially trained to sniff out any drugs that may be concealed by the passengers. One specific job involves the potential transportation of huge amounts of illegal substances from one of the most notorious drug cartels in modern times -- and Harry is the one assigned to the task of bringing them down!

Soon worried that a new friend and a close family member may be potentially involved in smuggling drugs onto the train, Harry struggles with issues of trust, especially when it comes to trusting the entirety of his life to God. Harry believes that he knows what it means to give up everything for Jesus, but will his new job teach him lessons on faith that he never expected to learn on a late night train?

It was interesting to learn that DERAILED was not actually a continuation of the first novel, as I expected, but was actually a story that overlapped with the first, but from a slightly different perspective. While I was afraid that the story might feel redundant, rehashing events that I had already read in the previous work, DERAILED really added to everything we learned in GROUNDED, giving complexity and dimension to the

story by showing things from the eyes of someone in a completely different position than the last. It was even interesting to read about familiar interactions, like the conversations between Grace and Harry in their first encounter in the train -- because the male perspective just brought something different to the picture.

That said, I think I felt a bit more connected to Grace's character than that of Harry, just because she felt more relateable to me based on my personality and my current situation in life. Additionally, I felt that the spiritual questions posed in GROUNDED were just a bit more tightly integrated into the story, which gave a magical balance between an interesting plot line and a meaningful message. It's not that these things weren't also well done in DERAILED -- I just felt like the message was a tad more disjointed and the story was a bit more focused on the succession of exciting events than what I anticipated from reading the first story.

Even so, I don't think these authors will ever fail when it comes to delivering highly entertaining and spiritually significant fiction works. It's always fun to catch up with familiar characters, and I'm definitely curious to see where things go in the next novel, which is introduced by a quick preview at the end of DERAILED.

I very much appreciate the publishes allowing me to read this book, and I certainly enjoyed my read from start to finish.

Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

I love it when you find a true treasure in a great series of books. The kind that make you sad when you finish one because you have to wait for the next one and often times it could take awhile. Such is the case with The Windy City Neighborhood Series by authors Dave and Neta Jackson. After reading Grounded, their first novel in the series, the second book, Derailed has finally picked back up with our favorite characters we met in the first one. Perhaps by far, my favorite character is Estelle Bentley, because she has the faith that most would dream of having. The kind that offers up simple prayers as easily as having a one on one conversation with a close friend. But what we discover is that even those prayers are offered up, they are not always answered in the way we would like to. Even when it seems that the steps we take are guided by God, it soon leaves us second guessing if we didn't in fact step out on our own instead.

This novel is based on the Harry Bentley, Estelle's husband that was once blind but now can see, is asked to go undercover as a blind man in disguise working for the police on board the Amtrak trains. It takes us into the back story of Harry that we only glimpsed in passing in the first novel. Since Harry is new to the Christian faith, living with Estelle as a strong woman of faith makes him question his own actions at times. I love this honesty of how the life of faith isn't an easy one to walk and at times, we all find ourselves questioning whether we are doing what God would want or simply our own desires. He struggles being the head of the house and financial provider of learning to reverse the roles of putting his family first instead of his job. Not an easy one for men to live up to.

The Bentley's life hasn't been an easy one but is a true testament of what faith can do when it is applied correctly. Harry's son, Rodney has been in prison but now upon his release is looking for ways to turn over a new leaf. Since his son, DaShawn has been living with Estelle and Harry, Rodney is hoping to secure a decent job and find a way to start a new life for him and DaShawn. Perhaps my favorite part of this book, isn't really the individual stories but one of how they all interact with their neighbors. It shows us an example of what a faith based community should look like even if our neighbors are not believers. It shows us how to respond in love and kindness and role models what we all can hope to obtain by being better people to those around us.

I received Derailed by Dave and Neta Jackson compliments of Worthy Books and Christian Fiction Blog Alliance for my honest review. I did not receive any monetary compensation for a favorable review and the opinions expressed are strictly my own. I can't wait for the next book in this series Penny Wise which you get a sneak peek at in the conclusion of this novel. There are also discussion questions included to make this a great novel for book clubs. I'd rate this one a 5 out of 5 stars.

Lindsey Silvestrini says

I really enjoyed Grounded, Book 1 on the Windy City Neighborhood series so I was excited to start Derailed and find out what happens next!

While book one focused on Grace Meredith, a Christian recording artist, book two was about her neighbors the Bentley's that we were introduced to in book one. I remember admiring their strength of character and faith and was looking forward to learning more about them.

When Harry and Estelle pray about making a huge decision, they assume that because they took the right steps, everything will fall into place. But as we have all learned the hard way, our answers to prayer don't always look like we expected them to. Sometimes the signals are confusing and Harry and Estelle are left to question why the choices they made are not turning out as hoped.

But God is faithful and he knows what he's doing and sometimes we forget that. He has a plan and knew all along the direction our lives would take and how our decisions would impact our lives. Harry and Estelle are challenged and question but in the long run will be rewarded for their faithfulness and making decisions in prayer and not on their own wisdom.

Derailed is a great second book in the Windy City series and I'm looking forward to the next!

Gretchen says

I really enjoyed this second book in The Windy City Neighbors series. The unique thing about this series is that the books intersect one another. In the first book, Grounded, we meet Grace Meredith, a Christian musician who lives on Beecham Street in Chicago. One of her neighbors is Estelle Bentley. Grace and Estelle become friends and support one another with prayer. In Derailed, we get to know Harry and Estelle Bentley. The story starts before they move to Beecham Street and chronicles their decision making process, their move and the things that change in their lives because of the move. The story intersects with Grounded in an interesting way and we get to see the storyline from a different perspective and learn things we didn't know.

What I loved about this story was that it was about ordinary people and how they exercised their faith in the situations that came up in their lives. I also liked how the authors include details of the characters daily lives, such as what they were eating for dinner. Here's one of my favorite quotes: "She set the steaming casserole with a flaky crust between us and moved our bowls of colorful salad aside to make room for a basket of fresh garlic bread."

I found this book to be encouraging and uplifting. I recommend it.

Brenda Tuner says

I received an advanced copy of this book in exchange for an unbiased review. I was ecstatic to receive my copy and immediately sat down to read. Derailed was billed as book 2 of the Windy City Series, but as this is a parallel, companion novel, it really is more Book 1.5. The Windy City Series interweaves some new characters and a new neighborhood into the familiar Yada Yada and House of Hope Series and characters. If the reader expects a continuation of the story that began with Grounded, he/she will be disappointed! This book offers Harry Bentley's perspective on the events that happened in Grounded. The reader comes to know how the Bentley's ended up buying the house on Beecham Street, how Rodney came to live with his father, why Estelle baked and delivered cinnamon rolls to all the neighbors, how Harry ended up working security at Amtrak, why Meredith Grace sang at Mother Bentley's funeral and other matters.

Like most of the Jackson's novels, I enjoyed this one too. Because it is written mostly by Dave (my assumption) and the story is told from a male's perspective, it is a more difficult read for me (meaning that the language does not flow as well for me and the humor may be more 'boy' than I like). As a wife and mother, Harry's perspective, for me, is important because men and women see things differently, process them different and act on them differently! In essence, I see this as an opportunity to have insight into how/why my husband, sons and father think differently.

However, I love that Neta and Dave take ordinary people in ordinary situations and share their thoughts, fears and FAITH! How often have I questioned whether I really heard God's plan for me? When things blow up, as they sometimes do, don't I question whether this was really God's plan? Reading about Harry's struggles and crisis of faith is reassuring that we all go through these. And we learn to double-down and lean on others to get us through.

Though, I enjoyed this book, I am looking forward to a continuation of the story.

Audra Jennings says

Let me start by saying I've read all of Neta and Dave's books since the Yada Yada Prayer Group. I always look forward to when the next book goes on sale.

What I like is that in this series you get more than one point of view regarding what is going on with the story line. In other words, you don't have one narrator throughout the entire series. We also get visits from old friends we met in Neta's other series.

What I don't like is that Derailed covers the same time frame as Grounded, so you actually know a good bit of what happens before you get to it. You don't know all the details from the other person's perspectives, but you know a good bit of what is going to happen.

I think I would have enjoyed Derailed more if this second book in the series picked up where the first one left off or if you heard from more than one character per book. The Jacksons started doing the same kind of thing with parallel books with the Yada Yada House of Hope series (Neta) and Yada Yada Brothers (Harry Bentley series written by Dave), but I think it may have worked better then because it was two different series instead of one.

For some reason, it just wasn't what I expected. And Harry seemed different somehow. I can't put my finger on exactly what since it's been a while since I read the last Harry Bentley book.

With all of that said, I'm most certainly going to keep reading the series. I want to find out what happens with all the characters in the neighborhood and old friends from series past as well!

Lori says

I really feel like this book should have been book one. There is so much repetition that its kind of boring. This book is really just giving details of the high points already mentioned in book one. I'm usually such a fan of the Jackson's books but this one is really not working for me. I found myself skimming a ton!
