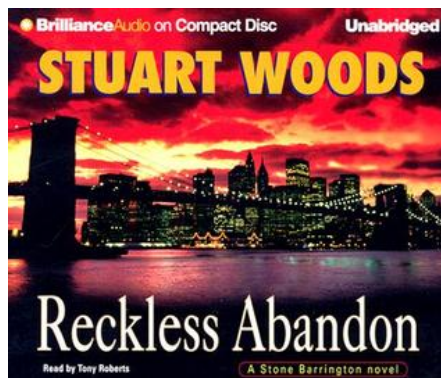




Reckless Abandon

Stuart Woods , Tony Roberts (Narrator)

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Stone Barrington is, once again, right at home in New York City; but this time he is joined by the tenacious Holly Barker from Orchid Blues, the lady police chief of Orchid Island, Florida. In Reckless Abandon, Holly finally makes it to Manhattan, hot on the trail of an evil fugitive from her jurisdiction. Stone is, well, glad to see her, right up until the moment when her presence creates a great danger to both of them - and to their surprise, she becomes the pursued, not the pursuer.

Reckless Abandon Details

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Author : Stuart Woods , Tony Roberts (Narrator)

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review Reckless Abandon for online ebook

Terence M says

Audiobook - 8:00 hours (est) - Narrator: Tony Roberts
2.5 stars out of 5.0

A pretty ordinary Stuart Woods novel - I seem to remember the earlier books I listened to had a lot more pace and action. Reckless Abandon lacked both pace and action and the relatively slow narration, while good, contributed to my overall disappointment with this novel.

Michael Redd says

Another good read from Stuart Woods. Fans of Stone and Holly will enjoy the book.

Eva says

This was an interesting introduction to an already established character in another series, Holly Barker. What her connection is to Stone is pretty unclear, which made her showing up in New York and staying with him a bit awkward and confusing. But Holly is in New York and looking for Trini Rodriguez, a man who murdered a dozen people in a church funeral. Not a nice guy, and Trini is also being protected by the feds, making her capture of him more challenging. With Stone and Dino to help, Holly chases Trini all over New York, to Florida, then to New Mexico, and back to New York again. While Holly is determined to see to it Trini faces justice for the murders he has committed in her jurisdiction, Trini is equally determined she will not capture him -- and if necessary he will kill both Holly and Stone to maintain his freedom.

An interesting read with some interesting character connections readers may not see coming. Not the best in the series, but an entertaining read.

Tim says

Nowhere near his best. It's not cool or funny to take advantage of Herbie Fisher. 4 of 10 stars

Jessica Killingbeck says

I'm assuming Woods wrote the novel and realized he only had about 110 pages of storyline, so he decided to add about fourteen restaurant scenes where all they do is talk about food or nothing at all. When he had that added in, he realized he still didn't really have a worthwhile novel so he thought, "how about I turn Holly Barker into a sex-crazed lunatic" and put in about seventeen sex scenes. And called it good.

Well, I do not.

Mark Ashton says

Not one of the better Stone Barrington novels, not a very good plot.

Diane Wallace says

Good series! enjoyable,entertaining and good storyline with a light read feeling to it (paperback!)

Bob Mcnicoll says

A lot of sex and clever repartee.. This book was a bore.

Ray Almeida says

1.5 stars out of 5.

This book was a joke. I'm scratching my head wondering how this book ever got published, or how this author ever became as popular as he is.

Literally, it feels like half the book was the main characters going out for breakfast,lunch, and dinner, and ordering oddly specific alcoholic beverages and talking about basic plot points. There were times that the reader would have to read the same information more than once just because a character would be like"huh?" or "what?". And the tons of small talk felt so empty,forced, and meaningless.

So yes, it was made up of eating out at places, getting tipsy, and trying to sound like cops with half a brain. But then there's the pointless sex scenes. Is the author trying portray Stone as being a womanizing whoremonger, because they did a good job. Did he want to portray Holly as a whore who slept around just for favors or circumstances, because they did that too. I had 0% respect for these people, especially Holly. What a dirty slut, bouncing around from man to man. She treated sex like a fleeting thought or some forgetful dinner she had with a person she "kinda" knows. It's just a personal preference, but I'd like those moments to be meaningful and important, not just there to show how horny they are. It was cringe worthy.

The plot was boring and didn't feel like something to be taken seriously. Through the entire book I never felt the plot was of any risk to the main characters. Trini, some cliché bad guy who murders just for the hell of it, felt like he didn't even exist in the first half of the book. It felt as if they were talking about Santa Claus and his evil elves, just a legend that leaves behind "evidences". It was super convenient when the main characters are doing what they always do....eating out at a stupid restaurant, and then magically Trini shows up and Holly goes on a meaningless chase just to....add suspense? All these guys have to do is just sit around drinking their wines,etc, and then the plot will surely come to them! There was even a point where Trini literally shines a light onto their faces in the middle of the night and could easily shoot them like fish in a barrel. But Stone has the magical ability to talk a raving serial killer out of killing them because...its illegal? WTH???How mighty convenient!!!He then just walks out casually. The following morning, he kills and injures an FBI agent because he was tired? I can't even.....And how did this plot come to a close? It was

terrible. Very very anticlimactic. Was some life or death shootout? Did someone die? Did someone get mortally wounded? Was someone's life in shambles or maybe there was a crazy cliffhanger??? No....They walk into a store and arrest the guy with very little effort, and Stone and Holly get richer at the end. Wow. And after all the stupid perverted sex scenes the reader had to read, Holly doesn't even end up with Stone by the last page. She just sends him \$, and Stone hopes to see her again, probably just for more sex. Gimme a break.

I could say so many things. But I will just say that many of the minor characters felt like shadows with no face and generic text when speaking. In fact, Stone was even sometimes hard to identify in conversations. You might get lucky with his smartass remarks, but other than that, he was like Holly's twin, aside from her stubborn trait of being obsessed with chasing Trini. Other things that happened were stupid. Like the heroes were just sitting around talking about some guy named Vito, and then guess what? Vito calls them! What a surprise. Super convenient. Or they need some breakthrough in the case. And then Herbie, some useless idiot, literally pops out of nowhere and gives them a piece of info!! I mean the book literally says"...when Herbie Fisher appeared at their table, like an imp from a magic lantern"! The author is literally putting no thought into this! Herbie just needs to be there because the heroes of the book are lazy bums who rely on everyone else to do their hard work.

What a terrible book. I did not want to read a book about 2 horny cops eating out and flirting everyday while some generic bad guy goes on a killing spree in the background of the story. I don't care what kind of sandwich they are eating, or how fancy their beer is. This author has the wrong priorities. Makes me wonder if this book is just a projection of the author's fantasies. Being a rich cop with lots of connections and sleeping with any woman he wants, and pretending that he's a hotshot by sticking his nose into violent crime cases. And then gets richer by the end. Wow. One of the worst books I've ever read at this point of my life. I gave it a 1.5 out of 5 simply because the generic scenes where cops would storm a place caused me to turn the pages a little faster hoping that something interesting would happen. But it never happened, of course. If anyone likes this book, I have to seriously ponder their mental maturity. It's fine if you like this book. More power to you. But I can assure you, that you are a minority.

Amy Wright says

This is the first book I have read by Stuart Woods and this is also the first book I've read since before my son was born (almost a year and a half ago) so my harsh critiquing isn't quite as solid as it used to be...I was just happy to be able to pick up a book in general and as a result, found some enjoyment from this book.

In the beginning, I was intrigued and enjoying every page but as the book went on, I started to notice how annoyed I was with Holly and how redundant the book seemed to be getting. The chase of Trini Rodriguez was way too drawn out and dramatic for the very non-climatic ending. The ending definitely just left a blah taste in my mouth. It definitely didn't have me wanting to look for the book that follows this one.

This is very much a book from a man's perspective as there is little to no character building, very little description of anything for that matter. It lacked depth, to put it simply. Woods still did a good job of making everything clear - there was no confusion and it was straightforward and easy to read. And the lack of character building could be because this is one book of a whole series, of which I haven't read any others. There is also no romantic or sexual description of Stone's very frequent escapades with Holly which was a little disappointing considering it was a large chunk of the book.

But overall, I give this book 3 stars because I do enjoy any mystery crime books involving the mafia. If you want an easy read that won't take a ton of focus to follow and involves a little crime mystery, this is worth

reading!

Thomas Strömquist says

Absolutely horrible - at least by Woods standards, and I found myself seriously doubting he penned this trainwreck. This is obviously the bringing together of two (cardboard) characters that each have their own book series (and for once my "to read"-pile did not get any higher) and most of the narrative is 3-4 word sentences dialog. I think I'll stop now.

Will says

Holly & Stone join the CIA; Trini Rodriguez Part III. Stone is enlisted by Holly Barker to help find and arrest Trini, a fugitive from FLA justice but also an FBI informant in Witness Protection. Holly hustles Stone to bed for a new training program. Lance Cabot appears from dust and involves himself and retains Holly and Stone on retainer to the CIA as consultants. He finds himself giving aid to Holly in a wrestling match with the FBI over custody, and fails until Trini kills and FBI agent escaping and goes on the lam. Eduardo assists them in finding Trini, and Vito assists in delivering him back to FL. Holly contemplates CIA employment.

David says

Perhaps sometimes we set the bar too high. Having read a number of books by Stuart Woods, I was really looking forward to Reckless Abandon. However, this book really lost my interest quickly and I was starting to wonder if my tastes have changed or if his writing has changed. Either way, this was certainly not enjoyable. The most astounding issue is the complete and total lack of depth for these characters... it's just a whirlwind of eating out (at the same place) and "gettin' jiggy with it" (in various places). Shallow layered upon shallow. We all enjoy a light read every once in a while, but this just doesn't hit the mark.

Wendi Manning says

I would have liked this one a lot more if Holly's actions had even mildly matched her training. She was acting like a spoiled brat through the entire book. All of her military training would have taught her that running around, constantly putting everyone in danger just because she didn't want to wait, was usually the wrong decision. When Stone is your voice of reason, you've really screwed up somewhere.

Mark Giordano says

If you've read one Stone Barrington novel then you've read them all. Sure, they're entertaining and easy to read but they follow the same format story after story. In this one he brought back many characters from other stories as well as some of the main characters from his other series. Great vacation read but I'm starting

to lose interest in this series.

Judi says

One of the worst books I've read in a long time. It is almost like a romance novel for men. Two dimensional characters, predictable plot, no surprises and the sex scenes were laughable. I can't believe this guy has an agent.

Joe White says

This is a book written for men. A few hours of good fast light reading after football season. Lots of money, always eating out - good food, hot babes, guns, action, fast cars - you see the relevance. Short, to the point cryptic speech. Almost no useless fill in prose to set a tone or deal with emotions. No tortuous character development.

The lead character has his own business with a good secretary, a good car, several contacts with the right top-of-the-line place and equipment to use. He has his own plane.

In a hurry you can read this in an hour or two. At a slow pace it'll take maybe 4 hours and won't leave you struggling with character regrets about their personal tragedy or unfulfilled "what might have been's".

Just dead bad guys, a rich main character, and you haven't wasted a lot of your life seeing a glimpse of a lifestyle you might like to try out.

It's easy to give it four or five stars unless you're looking for a pretense at real literature.

Steve says

2-20-2018 DITTO - my 2014 notes on Vito still ring true!!!! Page219 (not a spoiler but please don't skip page 219!

4-2-2016 Still one of my favorite stories by Woods

Oct 2014 re-re-re-read. I need to NOT re-read this one for 4-5 years.

also a book on tape this time.

I like my Jan 2014 notes. Why Vance would consider her for a sensitive role when she has displayed such disregard for facts and the law makes her character unbelievable.

Side note: Woods has given Vito a great sense of humor, albeit macabre. Was truly a laugh out loud moment (can't bring myself to do the LOL thing).

Jan 2014 re-read. I reduced it back to 4 stars.

The Holly character has too much "reckless abandon" to be even considered for CIA work.

the character doesn't think first, rather wants to rush into dangerous situations and to do things with zero thought of consequences.

I must have been in a different mind set in Sept 2013 because it is NOT a 4 star on character.

Sept 2013 re-read as hardback. I think this is now my favorite Stone book. I raised the rating to 5 stars - a rarity in my world.

June 2010

book on tape.this is a joint holly and stone book both in new york and florida pre-CIA.

somewhat farfetched with the Trini character but stone and holly made up for it. good read.

Laura Lavender-blackwood says

This episode made me mad. Stone does not think period when it comes to a woman. I swear a woman is going to be the death of him one day. I really didn't care for Holly and her bull dog tactics and not wanting to listen to anybody. Glad to be through with this one hopefully the next episode I will not have an all consuming urge to shoot Stone.

Mary says

Stupid, ridiculous, idiotic. Holly was turned into a oversexed teenager, locked up in a basement hearing her captors dig her a grave she decides to have sex with Stone give me a break. The hunt for the bad guy goes on and on. Not well written or thought out.
