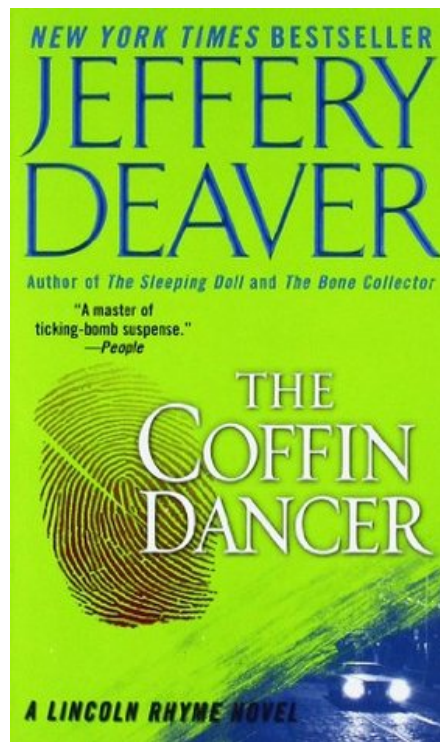




The Coffin Dancer

Jeffery Deaver

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NYPD criminalist Lincoln Rhyme joins his beautiful protege, Amelia Sachs, in the hunt for the Coffin Dancer--an ingenious killer who changes appearance even faster than he adds to his trail of victims. They have only one clue: the madman has a tattoo of the Grim Reaper waltzing with a woman. Rhyme must rely on his wits and intuition to track the elusive murderer through New York City--knowing they have only forty-eight hours before the Coffin Dancer strikes again.

The Coffin Dancer Details

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From Reader Review The Coffin Dancer for online ebook

Mike says

This is the book that hooked me into reading suspense novels. Back in 2002, I was at Super-Walmart waiting for my car to get an oil change so I decided to kill some time in the book aisle. I picked up a John Grisham book and was reading the plot summary when somebody said to me "if you want to read a good book then read that one". She was pointing to THE COFFIN DANCER so I took her advice and bought it. I have read about 120 novels since and nothing has topped it yet. I felt the first chapter was the best that I have ever read and the ending was a pure shock for me. Since that was my first Jeffery Deaver novel, I now know what to expect from him. So if anybody thinks they can suggest a book in the genre that will top this for me then let me know.

Klodovik2 says

Dosta dobar triler s inteligentnim i nepredvidim zapletima ali mi nešto fali u cijeloj pri?i. Nešto što bi me poistovjetilo s nekim od likova. Nešto što bi me uvuklo dublje u pri?u, odnose i motivaciju likova. Na žalost izostala je ta povezanost pa sam pri?u promatrao iz pti?ije perspektive.

Iskreno i ti zapleti su u nekim trenutcima djelovali malo i prepametni da ne kažem nestvarni. Što samo po sebi nije neki problem jer se radi o fikciji ali opet fikciji koja želi realna i autenti?na u malom milionu sitnih detalja. Pisac se u tehni?kom smislu dobro pripremio. Sve pršti od stru?nih izraza i protokola ali narativni dio je otišao "a little to much" u nadmudrivanju naših istražitelja i ubojice

Sve u svemu nije loša knjiga ali nije me oduševila ni emotivno povezala.

Doživljaj bi bio i manji da me raspleti nisu par puta iznenadili ko grom iz vedra neba. Ali kad ih ima desetak onda postane malo zamorno

Janie Johnson says

When I started this book I went into it with pretty high expectations. I thought this installment started off just a bit slow for me and I did not think I was going to enjoy it as much as The Bone Collector. And I really didn't, but it did pick up the pace a lot and had some great plot twists in the story. Soon enough I found myself somewhat engaged and enjoying the overall story.

So in this installment of the Lincoln Rhyme series we have the perp called '*the coffin dancer*'. He is hired, supposedly, by Phillip Hansen, to kill 3 people. He succeeded in killing the first of the three, Ed Carney. The ones left was Ed's wife, Percey, and then Brit Hale. So Lincoln and Amelia need to find the perp and take him down before he takes out the other 2 before they can testify for the grand jury to nail Phillip Hansen.

One of the characters really rubbed me the wrong way, and that being Percey. The author created her in such a way that I really wanted to shoot her myself. I thought Rhyme and Amelia should have offered her up as a sacrifice. She pretty much acted like she did not care for anyone but herself and her business. If that was his intention then he totally succeeded with that idea.

I found Rhyme a less annoying in this book, and more controlled, so that was good. He did not come across

as rude as he did in this first book. I guess though that part of him is what intrigues readers. He is good at what he does so he almost seems to throw his weight around to get what he wants. And well, it works for the most part. I loved Amelia in this book. I saw so much more confidence in her and I loved that. She does not seem as afraid to speak her mind. She is really blossoming I think and I look forward to her character more in the rest of the series.

I also kind of felt like the story was too smooth, by that I mean it seemed like there were no secrets kept between Rhyme and 'the dancer'. They seemed to know each others moves far too quickly to make it a realistic story. It was every second they had guess what the other was planning to do, in which case made it too perfect and very predictable.

But just because of the 'too perfect' and the unrealistic feel to the story I have to give it a 3 star rating. I guess I expected too much from it by comparing it to *The Bone Collector* where they had to work hard and figure out what the clues meant, and that makes a good mystery. I do however recommend to mystery lovers because there is plenty of that in the book.

John Culuris says

★ ★ ★ 1/2

I've heard several movie aficionados say some version of: "I'm glad I saw it but I have no need to ever see it again." I had similar thoughts as I was finishing *The Coffin Dancer*. There is a lot of bad in this novel. There is also a lot of good. I'm not sure if it's for better or worse but most of the bad came first.

This novel is the sequel to the acclaimed *The Bone Collector*, which introduced paraplegic forensic genius Lincoln Rhyme and his protégé, NYPD officer Amelia Sachs. This is where we run into the first problem. Having met these interesting characters, we eagerly return for more and what do we get? They are plopped into a room with a bunch of other people and they say or do nothing of interest. We learn absolutely nothing new about them as they are drowned out by numbers and reduced to mouthpieces needed to introduce the parameters of the new case. In fact, for the first quarter or so of the book, the most interesting character is the target of the assassin for whom the novel is named.

Having just lost her husband to an airplane explosion--a flight on which she was supposed to be the pilot--Percey Clay must now be protected by Rhyme and his team. Which brings us to the second problem. We follow the man who killed her husband, share his thoughts, and as often as not this "professional" escapes capture by pure luck. He **is** clever; but not brilliant. He should be no match for Lincoln Rhyme.

A lot of these issues stem from Deaver's apparent love of interspersing plot twists throughout his books. There's nothing wrong with this--except when those plot twist are transparently obvious. Such as:

(view spoiler)

There are also problems with the portrayal of Amelia Sachs. Mistakes that were allowable in *The Bone Collector* when she was new to the job are unacceptable a year later. She blunders into a situation ahead of SWAT because she was frustrated with their orders to wait. And she loses her weapon not once but twice. It borders on incompetence. And then there is her ridiculous jealousy of Percey Clay regarding Rhyme, something that could easily be settled by just saying something--anything!--by either of them; as befitting two people who work together closely and presumably like and respect each other.

But I said there were good things too and, yes, Amelia is allowed to shine. Her oft-mentioned intelligence is eventually displayed. And she has a crisis of confidence that doesn't reflect on her competence. Her struggle to overcome it is well worth following. But the best parts of this novel surface when Deaver settles down to simple, basic storytelling. There is an extremely suspenseful airplane ride. And all the action sequences read great, particularly the final one. Not coincidentally, it's where we see Amelia at her best.

And Percey Clay is not the only new character of interest. The man assigned to protect her is equally as compelling. Even the killer is appropriately twisted. As the reader becomes more engaged with these characters, the plot twists become more than mere sleight-of-hand.

Not that I begrudge Deaver his plot twists, particularly as it seems to be the part of the process he enjoys most. And in all honesty, because some of the bigger ones didn't work, it's easy to forget that most of them do. The moves and countermoves once the killer finds the safe house are without question engrossing. And the final out-the-door twist--which is the trickiest to pull off--is absolutely fair. If not set up properly it can appear as if the author is posturing, essentially calling attention to how brilliant he is. Deaver absolutely knows how to layer in what he'll need later. It's when he fails to disguise it properly, when the reader sees ahead of the curve, that's when it begins to detract from his accomplishments.

So the quote above turns out not to be completely true. I can safely say I'll never reread the **whole** book; but if I ever find the book in my hand at a moment where I have the free time, there are two scenes--two of the scenes referenced above--that I would reread. And that's encouragement enough to see where the series goes.

Magdalena says

It's the second instalment in the Lincoln Rhyme series and it doesn't disappoint. Fast-paced, well-written, with a surprise twist at the end it's definitely worth a read.

Zach Judkins says

this is my favorite book by Deaver and the only one I would really give five stars. It is a great, creepy, fast paced thrill/mystery book, with all the twists and forensic tidbits one might expect from Deaver. What really makes the book is it's brilliantly sadist villains. The mindplay between the main character (Lincoln Rhyme) and those villains is enthralling, and adds about as much action and suspense to the book as any other in the series. For anyone who has not read the other Lincoln Rhyme books, Lincoln is a detective who has been a quadriplegic since an accident on the scene. He was the best, but since then, he's been suicidal and it is interesting to see him battle psychopaths from his bed while battling himself and who he's become. This one is about him trying to stop his nemesis, the "Coffin Dancer", a hitman who is brilliant and only known for the tattoo on his arm. It's a very fast paced, thrilling book with great twists and I would recommend it to anyone (well, adults and up:)!

Jane Stewart says

I was not magnetized and drawn in, but I was curious enough to keep reading.

When I finished the book my first thought was the killer's abilities and actions were not believable. But I

could accept them because it made an intricate and complicated puzzle for Lincoln to figure out. The killer was able to do too many things, too frequently, and get away too easily every time. And he always seemed to have full knowledge of everything the authorities were thinking and doing - so you need to suspend disbelief.

There's a twist at the end which was both good and bad. The bad: it felt like a trick on the reader. It would have been better if some of it was developed earlier in the story, so the reader could see "how" it worked, instead of being "told" at the end. I have a big blank area in my mind not knowing any details about it. But the good: there is a surprise at the end - something so intricate that only Lincoln can figure it out. No clues are given to the reader prior to then.

I preferred the first book *The Bone Collector* (TBC). One of the reasons was the development of the interesting relationship between Amelia and Lincoln in TBC. Their relationship is on hold/not changing in this second book. Instead we see some flaws in Amelia. She was jealous of Lincoln's relationships with others. She had a chip on her shoulder - walking off in a huff. One time she stupidly went after someone alone and was almost killed. There were other cops nearby she could have taken with her. When the main character is smart, I don't like seeing them do stupid things.

Part of the story was a lot of chemical and technical analysis of particles collected from places. That is Lincoln's special talent, but it didn't wow me or surprise me. By the middle of the book I was losing interest, but I was curious enough to keep reading.

I would have liked one part shortened - the too-much-technical-talk when a pilot is flying a plane.

I loved one scene. Lincoln felt guilt and self pity because he had to rely on machines (as a quadriplegic). Percey a pilot responded by saying her life is in the hands of machines when she flies. One little thing goes wrong and she dies.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Story length: 390 pages. Swearing language: strong, including religious swear words. Sexual content: none. Setting: current day mostly Manhattan area, New York. Copyright: 1998. Genre: crime suspense thriller, quadriplegic.

Mauoijenn ~ *Mouthy Jenn* ~ says

I'm just starting to get into this series after a long period from reading *The Bone Collector*. Excellent suspense and writing. Looking forward to reading the rest of these gems!

Harry says

By far, Jeffery Deaver is the one author with that uncanny ability to develop plot twists and very complex characters that leave you stunned to the end. If you've seen the movie, trust me, the books are far more ingenious and developed as compared to what we were presented with on the silver screen. *The Bone Collector* is a series novel starring Lincoln Rhyme, our famous forensics expert bound to his bed and mobile wheelchair.

Reading this novel I am reminded to never commit a crime. The art of forensics as described by Deaver leaves one little doubt as to trace evidence left behind at a crime scene. Of course, this leaves Deaver no

choice but to create such stunning criminal minds that they are indeed a match for our hero Lincoln Rhyme...that the possibility does exist to get away with it in spite of Mr. Rhyme's calculating mind.

But it's not just about the crime...primarily Deaver takes his time as he develops his cast of characters across a whole series of ingenious books...enveloping all of the primary human emotions within such characters: from romance, to jealousy, to hatred, to loyalty, betrayal, and so forth.

P.S. Same review for the whole series. If you've read this review of Lincoln Rhyme, you've read them all.

Nikki says

If you haven't read *The Coffin Dancer*, and you want the plot to surprise you, do not read my review after this first paragraph -- do not read anyone's review. I don't know whether I'm quicker or slower on the uptake than the average reader of Deaver's work, but a cursory glance at reviews here was enough to flick the switches in my brain and have me figuring things out ahead of Rhyme and co. So if you want to be left reeling, play it safe and stay out of people's reviews.

Yeah, there was some stuff that I didn't get, but it was mostly the minor stuff. The Chekhov's guns, the little details that locked possibilities into probabilities. (Which, by the way, I deeply admired. There is *literal* Chekhov's gun moment, and I loved it.) The betrayals, identity issues (still trying not to spoil it for the unwary reader), the motives -- that I got. I still think it was well done, in all those respects, but I envy people who get to come to this novel without any clues beforehand.

What caught me off guard was how much I care. Lincoln Rhyme could be my modern Peter Wimsey: a detective I become invested in on a personal level as well as just for the mysteries. That adds so much to these sorts of stories. Like, I was somewhat ambivalent about NCIS, because Gibbs seemed so goddamn immortal, and it was just about wrapping up the case, and then came the end of season two and then over the whole course of the show, more and more comes spilling out about Gibbs' past and just -- yeah. And I have that investment here, already, in Sachs and Rhyme. Less so in the supporting cast, but still. I found myself feeling edgy, because I wasn't sure if things would go right, on a personal level as well as in terms of the case.

Couple of things did bother me: the latent homosexuality thing, the abused as a child thing, the killer with OCD thing. Come on. I wrote essays about crime fiction from decades before doing this sort of thing. It's not new. It's a cliché. Can we move on, now?

Arielle Walker says

I'm working on a theory: just as every second-hand book seller has at least one, unwanted copy of *The Da Vinci Code* (and 2+ if it's a Hospice or Salvation Army shop), every summer holiday bach has at least one Jeffery Deaver book.

At least all the ones I visit seem to, which is great because these make the perfect beach read. Yes, even with all the violent crime, I find this series wonderfully easy-going and summery.

The Coffin Dancer is not as good as the best Lincoln Rhyme, but also not the worst. The planes were a nice touch. Somehow I'll have to find a bach that has some of the later books in the series though, eventually... I

think I've made it through all the early ones now.

Obsidian says

Wow. That's all I have. What a fantastic second book in The Lincoln Rhymes series.

It's a year since the events in the first book. Lincoln is now working as a consultant to the police and FBI with Amelia assisting him. Pulled into a case involving the hitman named as "The Coffin Dancer" Rhymes has personal reasons for bringing him down.

I loved Rhymes in this one. He was less acidic in his interactions with everyone. Though it's clear something is off with Amelia, though Rhymes ignores it since he is focused on the case and keeping her safe.

Amelia has definitely learned a lot from Rhymes. Though she's starting to realize she wants more out of the relationship. I loved all of the scenes with Amelia walking the scenes and investigating. Her reactions to one of the witnesses started to feel a bit much though.

The secondary characters shine in this one too. Rhymes and Amelia are doing what they can to track down the Coffin Dancer to stop him from killing two witnesses. One of the witnesses, a former Navy pilot has to deal with the fact she's lost a husband and is doing what she can to save their business.

We once again have the killer's POV in this one. That was the weakest part of the book. I also don't want to read the words "worm" or "wormy" for a long time.

The writing had a lot of technical aspects in it, and though I couldn't follow all of the flying jargon, I got the gist of it.

The flow was a little off when we shifted to The Coffin Dancer. Everything else was pitch perfect too.

Once again New York shines in this one. But instead of random historical areas, this time we focus on airfields and safe houses.

The ending has a great twist and a wonderful next chapter for Lincoln and Amelia.

Ivy says

Bei dem schwachen Anfang, habe ich mich gefragt ob das wirklich der Nachfolger von "der Knochenjäger" ist. Zum Glück kriegt Deaver durch seine vielen Irrungen und Wirrungen noch den Bogen und die Spannung steigt und steigt und am Ende haut er dann Einen nach dem Anderen raus.

Auch in diesem Buch gibt es viele interessante kriminaltechnische Details aber bei den ganzen Flugtechnik-Darstellungen war ich dann teilweise raus.

Dafür ist Rhyme, mit seinen Ecken und Kanten, immer noch eine der interessantesten Figuren, denen ich in Thrillern begegnet bin. Die Entwicklung zwischen ihm und der Polizistin Sachs gefällt mir und ich bin begeistert, wie die beiden im Team arbeiten.

Dazu sind Täter und Opfer und die anderen 'kleineren' Figuren auch komplexe Persönlichkeiten und durch die wechselnden Blickwinkel, nimmt die Geschichte einen schnell ein.

Auch das irre Gedankenspiel zwischen Rhyme und dem Tänzer hat mir gefallen, wobei Deaver es versteht einen ständig auf die falsche Fährte zu locken, weshalb sich mir nicht immer erschließt wie Rhyme dann immer zu seinen Geistesblitzen kommt.
Bleibt auf jeden Fall eine super Serie!

Ana T. says

The second book in the Rhyme/Amelia series shows them facing a killer that is almost as smart as they are. The Coffin Dancer is an old nemesis of Lincoln Rhyme and the man he most desperately wants to catch for personal reasons as much as professional.

He is a hired killer and his next assignment is to kill two federal witnesses, who may testify against an arms dealer, and Rhymes is determined to stop him. As in The Bone Collector Amelia does the legwork and Rhymes analyses the information and decides where to look in a fight against time to keep everyone safe.

Unfortunately, not all the witnesses like to stay put and safe and it seems the killer is working with a partner so not only they have to follow the puzzling leads but they also have to control the witnesses. Deaver manages to include quite a few surprising plots twists in the action and the book really is a page-turner.

I quite liked how he developed Rhymes and Amelia's relationship, it wasn't always easy for Amelia and she was a bit lost for the a while but the end is promising.

Grade: 4/5

Bobby Underwood says

The Bone Collector was this reader's introduction to paralyzed Detective Lincoln Rhyme, and Amelia Sachs, who became his pupil in scene-of-the-crime gathering of evidence. While the first book was a very enjoyable thriller, the second entry in the series, might have been better.

Coffin Dancer is about a killer who has eluded Rhyme, a fact which haunts the detective. He became known as Coffin Dancer during the slayings because of a tattoo of the Grim Reaper dancing near a casket. In this entry, the hitman has returned after a long absence. Rhyme must once again use Amelia as his legs in this quickly paced and complex thriller. Rhyme's personal connection with a woman involved in the case forces Amelia to confront her feelings for Rhyme, changing their personal landscape by the end of the narrative.

Through the streets of New York, from airports to subways, the narrative has Rhyme and Amelia moving swiftly through a complex maze, toward a surprise few readers will see coming. The familiar characters from the first entry are back, but not all of them will survive their last waltz with Coffin Dancer. I must confess that I no longer read this series, as I find later entries disappointing. But Coffin Dancer is a good one, full of atmosphere and character development as Rhyme and Amelia become closer. This is a fine book in the genre and worth reading.

RedemptionDenied says

As good as the first book in the series - though, some of the characters were a bit more grating, this time round. Sachs' seems to have forgotten about self preservation and nearly gets vaporised, after going to a supposed victims home. Actually, she did a few things that were impromptu - which seemed a bit out of character. Dellray (FBI) is still talking in his street lingo (or whatever it is) - so that was a bit annoying; especially when he's not undercover. He probably thinks he sounds cool but, he sounds like a doofus. Then again, they all talk in lingo, every so often. Dellray is the worst offender, though. And Rhyme' has the occasional tantrum. I think my favourite character was Stephen Kall: hitman. It was quite amusing, listening to his inner monologue.

Lightning strikes twice, when Rhyme' has two visitors, Lon Sellitto and Jerry Banks, requesting his assistance. Rhyme' is already working on a case for Thomas Perkins' as one of Dellray's boys, Tony Panelli, has gone missing. Disappeared. Poof. All that was found at the scene of his disappearance: a few dozen grains of odd sand.

Anyway, Rhyme' becomes interested in what Sellitto and Banks' has to say, when they tell him; the Dancer is back in town. Linc' has a personal (vendetta?) stake in catching The Coffin Dancer; because, five years earlier, two of his techs were killed in a blast. So Tony Panelli will have to stay missing for a bit longer, when Rhyme puts that case on hiatus, and helps Selitto and Banks, catch his nemesis.

The first victims of the Dancer' are Ed Carney and his co-pilot. His wife, Percey Clay, was supposed to be flying with him but, she had a migraine and cancelled, so didn't get vaporised, when the plane blew up. Carney, Percey, and Brit Hale, were to give testimony, before a grand jury in a case against, Phillip Hanson. So it's up to Rhyme and his team: Amelia, Mel Cooper, Sellitto, Banks, Dellray, etc, to catch the Dancer' before he can eliminate the other two witnesses. Can Rhyme' outwit the Dancer?

In Summation: I'm really enjoying this series, so far. The evidence collected and then analysed - is what makes it intriguing - with Cooper looking through his Gas-Chromatograph, Scanning Electron Microscope and Compound Microscope, checking the trace evidence, for any clues, as to where the Dancer is going to strike next - and to ascertain who he is. The conversations were interesting, too.

Why isn't there a movie or, better still, a TV series? Abrams' make it happen.

TANYA says

4.5 stars!!! It's official! I have new favorite author and series. All the clues used, the evidence solved by Rhymes and Sachs are fascinating.

Kelly ... says

I am intrigued by Lincoln Rhymes., and I admire Amelia Sachs. These two characters are far from perfect -- flawed, obstinate, stubborn, fearful, arrogant. They are similar to real people which makes them more interesting because they seem more like people I could know and like. Mr Deaver has taken a man in bed -- a quadriplegic - and allowed him to be intelligent and vibrant. He has also allowed him to be unlikable at times. He has taken a man in a bed and made him into a character who is loud, smart and full of motion. He doesn't

ever appear to be stagnant or stuck. I like this as it is very easy to see disabled people as living less life. Amelia is, of course, an able-bodied woman. But she is also complicated and compelling. Despite her career, Mr Deaver has written her to be a character who acknowledges her fear and her anger. He allows her to seethe and simmer, and then to overcome all of it. I will definitely be buying #3 very soon.

Terri Lynn says

Typical Jeffery Deaver mystery involving two of my favorite characters- Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs. This time they are tracking a devious killer who has a tattoo of a snake dancing around the victims' coffin on his arm. I love the interplay of Lincoln and lover/partner Amelia as she acts as his legs at the crime scenes and learns to be a fantastic crime scene detective under his tutelage.

Vivian ònh says

Chính th?c là fan c?a Jeffery Deaver sau K? t?m x??ng và V? ?i?u c?a Th?n ch?t! Tác gi? miêu t? chi ti?t cách khám nghi?m hi?n tr??ng, cách l?c và thu th?p các b?ng ch?ng t? m? ??n m?c ?? th?y trình ?? chuyên môn c?a ông trong l?nh v?c này chuyên sâu ??n c? nào, ch? không nh? m?t vài quy?n trình thám khác ch? nói qua loa cách phá án là xong. Mình khâm ph?c tác gi? ? ?i?m này k? t? b? ??u tiên K? t?m x??ng r?i.

?ã không ??c thì thôi, ?ã c?m lên ??c là không d?ng ???c. Thêm c? cái plot twist khúc g?n cu?i làm h?t c? h?n n?a, m?i phát hi?n ra b? tác gi? d?t m?i ?i ngay t? ??u luôn r?i! Quá ??nh!

Th? thêm tim vì m?i quan h? c?a Rhymes và Sachs ?ã t?ng thêm trong b? này hóng c?p này quá ?i *tung bông*
