



The Knowland Retribution

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With tainted meat the weapon and corporate greed the motive, this is a topical suspense-revenge thriller. Walter Sherman, aka The Locator, is a tracker who honed his skills in Vietnam. The colorful cast of characters includes a bartender with a mysterious past, an old black man who smokes like a chimney, stuttering publicity shy NY Times obituary columnist Isobel, Southern lawyer Leonard who has lost everything and trimmed down, toned up, learned to shoot specialist rifles for revenge, and villains who think money will save them from justice.

The action runs across a tiny Caribbean bar on the island of St. John, the editorial boardroom of the NY Times, the gleaming skyline of Atlanta, the isolation of northern New Mexico, Adirondack hideouts, Manhattan suits, to Mississippi backwoods. One season based on the book ran as amusing action TV series "The Finder" with a younger Afghanistan vet Walter, Florida Key bartender retired lawyer Leonard, U.S. Marshal Isobel, and Willa, Gypsy teen on parole.

The Knowland Retribution Details

Date : Published July 1st 2011 by MIDNIGHT INK (first published 2004)

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Author : Richard Greener

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From Reader Review The Knowland Retribution for online ebook

Tymur says

It's probably a good enough book, at least writing is. But when you realise that to get to the action you have to learn the whole life story of each character, and there are many, and it is middle of the book already and you still don't quite understand what is the point of all this...

Well, good luck to others, I'm going to read something else.

Jeni says

Difficult to get into at first, but worth it. I admire authors who make readers work a bit to get it, it's much nicer than being slammed over the head with "meaning" and "Wow! Look what I did with words there!" Their is new real mystery in the book, but the delight is in the full story slowly unfolding, while characters are developed more fully.

The new show, The Finder, is loosely based on these Walter Sherman books. I've enjoyed the show Bones, which was developed by the same people working on The Finder. I also enjoyed the books by Kathy Reichs that Bones is based one. So I figured that's two good reasons to give these books a shot. Glad I did. I will certainly be looking for the next one.

Bethany says

I started reading this book because it was the basis for the short-lived TV show, The Finder. I enjoyed the somewhat cheesy TV show, so I wanted to give the book a chance. It was not exactly what I was expecting but was pretty good. I guess you would consider it a murder mystery, or a who-done-it, but it was not as suspenseful as most of the mysteries I like to read. Pretty predictable and had a slightly weak ending but I enjoyed the story and the writing.

Douglas Debner says

How to rate a book that is good but for idiosyncratic reasons is off-putting to you? Here corporate execs run the risk of thousands of deaths due to e coli infected beef because a recall would end a deal worth hundreds of millions. Now I never worked in such rarified air or with such callous people, but I did work as a lawyer for 20 years and I am familiar with the culture of American business and the story of the Knowland Retribution is uncomfortable accurate about that culture and government's inability to effectively regulate it. So, for me, this book failed to be the escape from reality I was looking for. Still, it was well written with an interesting main character (Walter Sherman). It is easy to see how author Richard Greener's "Locator" books became the basis for an excellent tv show ("The Finder" which, unfortunately did not have a large enough audience to continue for very long). Therefore, I am confident that this book deserves the four stars I gave it even though for me personally it was a 2.5 star experience.

Two years after a Leonard Martin lost his wife, daughter and two young grandchildren to bad beef he

receives information about how corporate executives knowingly ran the risk that killed his family. Martin begins to take his revenge on the people who put money ahead of his families. Once he makes a start some of his would be victims use their connections and money to hire the "Locator" to find Martin.

Bottom line: the Knowland Retribution is a well written suspense/revenge story with excellent characters and ambiance.

Eric_W says

I have always thought that Americans confuse justice with revenge. When they cry for justice, what they really want is revenge. That could be a theme of this book.

A firm in New York calculates the cost-benefit ratio of cleaning up a meat plant known to be contaminated with e-coli against possible deaths from eating the bad meat. Three of the 864 people killed happen to be the wife, daughter and grandchild of Leonard Martin, a very successful real estate lawyer in Atlanta.

Martin goes on the skids, sitting around drinking and eating, until he receives a disc and an apology from a researcher who had just committed suicide in New York. Martin pulls himself together, sells his share in the law firm and all his possessions and investments, creates a shell Evangelical organization, pretends to buy property and a skiff in the Bahamas, but really buys 270 acres in the middle of nowhere New Mexico. There he exercises, eats properly, becomes fit and buys and becomes extremely competent with sniper rifles and ammunition. He sets out to achieve what he considers justice by killing those responsible for making the wrong decisions.

Suspense is built by switching between three players: Walter Sherman, a locator, who, as a child never lost anything and developed a skill at finding people; three businessmen who desperately need a killer found, yet they don't know who this person might be; and Leonard Martin. A fourth key individual is Isobel, an obit writer for the Times who is used by both Sherman and Martin for their own ends. Sherman has his own ethical concerns because it has been his practice to simply find people, not follow through once the lost have been recovered. The executives have their own ideas of justice/revenge for the killing of their own.

If you are a vegetarian you will find much to like in this book since the author goes out of his way to condemn the way animals are killed and processed and the lackadaisical method of inspection, not to mention the callous indifference of corporate executives interested only in how a cost-benefit analysis of people dying from e-coli poisoning will affect their stock prices.

You can see what's coming but it's really well put together and just rivets your attention. Some may feel that Greener's occasional screeds against the media, meat industry and corporate indifference to be not germane to the story. I did not find that to be true. And I must admit to some sympathy for Martin. In fact, I remain surprised that there are still some Wall Street execs walking around.

Meredith Kaupp says

I got this one because I heard that it was the basis for the TV show "The Finder." I was surprised at how little

the show follows the book, but then I remembered that it's by the people who made "Bones" which follows the Kathy Reichs books by about 3%.

Anyway, I love the characters in the series, but they aren't as interesting or layered in the book. Overall, I like the show better, which is rare.

On its own, the story was very interesting. It makes you think about how far you would go in a similar situation. It brings up the difference between justice and revenge.

In the end, I'm not sure I want to eat ground beef anymore. I also don't know if I'll read the next book. This one was fine, but I certainly didn't love it.

SPAM says

Sadly one of those books where the book had more detail, but the TV show was actually better.

Eileen says

Anyone who loved the TV show Leverage would like this book.

Adrian says

I was first introduced to the character of Walter Sherman through the crossover episode in Bones. He was an interesting enough character that I felt compelled to check out the books he was based on. This book did not lessen my opinion of that, but he felt highly underused and the bits where he wasn't involved were... not great. I can see why; he seems like a tough character to write. If the connecting story was interesting this could have worked, but there was little to get you invested in the drama or the stakes, and the outcome was flatly predictable, with only Walter potentially acting as a wildcard himself.

Disappointing, but not enough so that I wouldn't try again with the character. Maybe I need to track down the TV series, or he would work better in short stories. Ah well.

An Odd1 says

"The Knowland Retribution" (The Locator, #1) by Richard Greener is the payback three years after Texas Knowland & Sons packing plant sends E.Coli contaminated ground meat across Southern U.S. "left 864 dead and thousands more sickened" p133 (no count of permanent disabilities), three generations of lawyer Leonard Martin's family painfully dead. Dr Ganga Roy "lovely Indian" p79 spends 12 boring and harrowing SARS-like symptomatic pages advising corporate bigwigs that their hypothetical circumstances was unlikely to kill, unless DNA mutated. When proved wrong, she mails her suicide note, the meeting record of guilty participants, to Leonard. He retires, drops from sight in a remote wilderness acreage where he can slim down and train on top-quality long-range guns. Isobel Gitlin, a white Fiji island-cosmopolitan-accented stuttering

publicity-shy *New York Times* obituary columnist, first connects three murders to the cause p130. Two of the richest surviving villains, hyper-nasty top company owner Nathan Stein and second blustery Irish Tom Maloney hire mid-fifties Vietnam vet divorced Walter Sherman from Caribbean island St John's, known as "The Locator" after three weeks of jungle horror and subsequent career. Blue-eyed, but grey-haired in his mid-fifties, he mourns ex-wife Gloria, and drinks Diet Coke with breakfast. Will thirty million buy his silence, or a contract on Leonard?

X-rated for F-words, VietCong torture p336-341, "old enough to be your dad" p155 hot tumbles p247, and explicit colonic threat p317 when he learns Maloney hired another team who would kill Isobel and Leonard both. Specifications about weapons may be accurate; buried in DNA bacteria-virus combination jargon is the too-common misconception that virus-caused influenza could be cured by antibiotics, ignorant patients who insist on prescriptions from compliant doctors, spawning resistant new bugs and SARS crisis epidemics. Research effluent stops suspense, encourages skimming. A sequel will answer how different was the televised version.

In the just (May 2012) cancelled amusing and fast-action TV series, "The Finder" is a cute scruffy young veteran from Afghanistan, talent accentuated by wartime explosion damaging brain, into a physical compulsion and phenomenal ability to find what he seeks. Isobel is an ambitious resident U.S. marshal; their "friends with benefits" relationship disguises mutual love. Business partner chocolate-skin Leonard, older owner of remote Florida Key bar "Ends of the Earth", handles money transactions. After his wife and daughter suffered fatal food poisoning, his large body fell into the same documented abyss of depression, booze, obesity, retirement from high-flying dodgy big law firm. But here he spouts world philosophy wisdom and credits Walter for curbing murderous vengeance. He employs, and backyard trailer houses Willa, adorable snub-nose teen with long wavy blonde locks, a Gypsy inherited ability to unlock, questionable clan commitments, and knit caps that turn from brown to blue in the same scene. I just caught up with all the episodes when the series ended abruptly. The hot sun, sky and skin plus comic relief made the fun unique.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_LmBu... trailer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nT45Zv...> promo

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/406/66...> petition

(Spoilers:

Leonard promises the last two that if they subsidize a new consumer organization run by Isobel, and subsist on \$500 weekly, they can live, then vanishes. Walter donates his fee there too. Isobel dumps Walter for the new job in Atlanta. Does the second book influence the TV series more?)

Tim says

For those who are interested in reading this because it's the basis for the TV Show *The Finder*, don't expect it to be at all similar. The main character has the same name and lives in a tropical location and hangs out at a bar, but that's it for the similarities.

Now that's done, let's discuss the book. It's centered around Walter Sherman, an Vietnam vet who has a knack for finding people/things. He's been hired to find a person who's been killing people associated with a company who sold E. Coli-tainted meat that caused many deaths.

We find out the identity of the killer pretty quick and the book goes through the viewpoints of several

different characters including: the killer, Walter, the potential targets, and a reporter.

Having a person who is just someone who finds people makes for an interesting approach to what could otherwise be a relatively standard thriller. The characters, including a sympathetic villain, make it a better novel and the ending is different than one would expect.

Donna says

Great story

A great read. Quirky characters and a great story make this a book you don't want to end. There is only one more book in this series and I hope it is as good as this one.

Ken Schloman says

An entertaining book about revenge and justice. The author developed an interesting main character who finds people. He is surrounded by a colorful cast of supporting characters. The "villain" is actually a sympathetic character seeking revenge for the death of his family caused by corporate greed. The chief weakness of the novel is, in my view, an unrealistic conclusion. Kind of a letdown. The main character's back story is well developed although somewhat slowly. The TV show "The Finder" was loosely based on the novel. I stress loosely. The novel is significantly better. I listened to the book via Audiobooks and I think that the reader did an excellent job and added to the mood the text creates. If you like social conscious thrillers this book is for you.

Damond says

This is the first of the two books from which the new show "The Finder" is based. The book cannot be any more different from the show. In the show Walter is a guy in his thirties who finds anything, Isobel is a U.S. Marshal and Walter's girlfriend, and Leo is a former attorney who works at Walter's bar in Florida. In the book, Walter only finds people, lives on a Caribbean island and is called The Locator instead, Isobel is a woman who writes obits for the New York Times and is the person who figures out there's a connection between three seemingly unrelated murders and a horrible e coli outbreak two years earlier. Together they figure out that Leo, a former real estate attorney who lost his wife, daughter and grandsons to the outbreak, is the person behind the killings. Still, despite the differences, it was an entertaining read. I'll definitely read the second book. I would have given this four stars, but the first few chapters were a little too difficult to wade through with all of the factual information about e coli and the economical ramifications for the companies involved. Plus the chapters jump around in time for the first third without and indication at the start of each chapter, which would have been more helpful than having to figure out where in the timeline you were while reading.

Luisa says

Read it because I watched the Finder series and I figured the book must be good too. It was an exciting read, but I thought the female characters lacked something.
