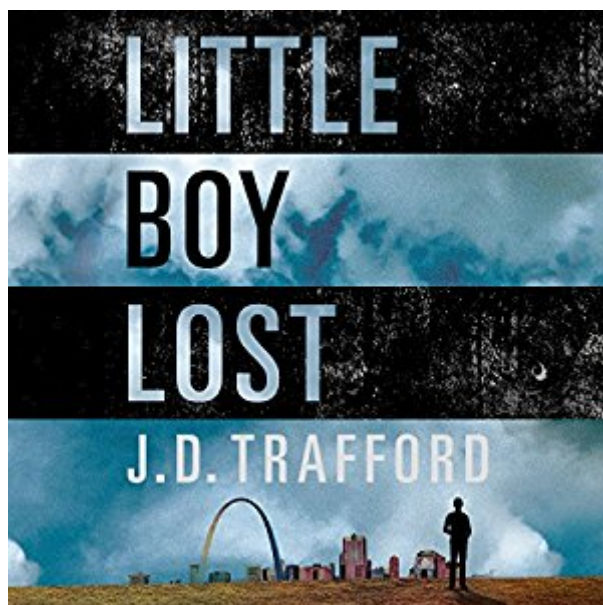


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Little Boy Lost



Synopsis

In a city divided and broken, this revelation will set it on fire... Attorney Justin Glass's practice, housed in a shabby office on the north side of Saint Louis, isn't doing so well that he can afford to work for free. But when eight-year-old Tanisha Walker offers him a jar full of change to find her missing brother, he doesn't have the heart to turn her away. Justin had hoped to find the boy alive and well. But all that was found of Devon Walker was his brutally murdered body - and the bodies of twelve other African American teenagers, all discarded like trash in a mass grave. Each had been reported missing. And none had been investigated. As simmering racial tensions explode into violence, Justin finds himself caught in the tide. And as he gives voice to the discontent plaguing the city's forgotten and ignored, he vows to search for the killer who preys upon them.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 8 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: August 1, 2017

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B071KLPPGF

Best Sellers Rank: #5 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Legal Thrillers

#6 in Books > Literature & Fiction > African American > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense #26

in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Urban Life

Customer Reviews

Kindle First is back on track, two good months in a row. For anyone else like me who gravitates toward the mystery / thriller genres, you are likely trying to decide between this and the historical mystery title. I read the samples of both and this was the one I really wanted to continue reading. There are 69 short chapters in a 316 page book which makes for a quick, easy read- this is a compliment from me, not an insult. I prefer books with good story-lines that don't get too off-track with unnecessary details. I enjoyed the characters in this one, and I thought the pacing of the story was just right. The main character is a lawyer, although in this story he is forced to behave more like a detective. Legal thrillers and P.I. stories are some of my favorites, so that was a good combination

for me. I chose a similar book last month (in genre only) and really liked it, even more so than this story. I was surprised when negative reviews for it started flooding in, but it was mostly due to people being offended by the language. Personally, I have no problems with "bad words" as long as they are fitting with the story and not done just for shock value, but I know a lot of readers do not share this sentiment. After finishing this book, I really couldn't recall any foul language, but I used the Kindle search function to double check. There are exactly 5 F-words, all in the same short section, all uttered by the same character, early on in Chapter 8. Other than that, the writing is pretty clean so hopefully people can get past that because it's an enjoyable read. No graphic sex scenes or anything like that. There is some violence but if you're into this genre, that's pretty hard to avoid. It wasn't excessive at all. I can't say I would have purchased this book ordinarily, but as a free Kindle First selection I'm glad I chose it. Especially now reading the reviews that the other 'mystery' selection is really another romance novel in disguise. The sample is true to the rest of the book, which isn't always the case, so read the first 3 chapters before you commit and see if you are left wanting to see where the story goes like I was. The ending felt a bit rushed but I still think most mystery readers will enjoy this novel. It did not end on a cliffhanger, however it does set the scene for book two in the series. I will read it if I can remember a year from now. What I would enjoy even more is a story told from Emma's perspective, with more of her backstory. She was my favorite character by far and definitely interesting enough to be a main character in another book. I'm putting his 3 previously written books, a legal thriller trilogy, on my to-read list as well. 4.5 stars

Little Boy Lost was a great idea for a story, though it would be hard to place it under the thriller label. I felt the book properly belonged in the legal/mystery genre. As such, author J. D. Trafford has presented an excellent tale, injecting it with enough procedural items to keep it interesting without overloading the reader. The main character, Justin, has a lot on his plate. He runs a struggling law practice, is a widower, has a daughter who is having problems with other children at her school, and he is dissatisfied with the justice system. He also has family pressures and still thinks about the demons that tried to possess him after his wife passed away. The author has successfully introduced a complex character who many people will probably be able to identify with. The story had me hooked, and I was waiting to see who was abducting all the missing children. Unfortunately, the ending was not satisfactory. Anytime an author is going to brand a character as a killer, I want to see reasonable justification for why the killer did what he did that didn't happen with this story, and a book that could have been powerful all the way through flatlined at the end. I hesitate to say more without injecting spoilers. As previously stated, I believe the author has

talent and his writing style is smooth and effective. The only issues I had with the book was that the "thriller" label did not describe the thinly veiled discussions on racism and class warfare. At times, it appears that this was the agenda and a story was written around it. Mr. Trafford can certainly write on whatever side topic he chooses. I purposely try to stay away from political books because no matter what side of the political aisle the author sits on, the presentation usually is heavily slanted. If one is going to address a volatile issue such as racism, it serves no purpose to only stand on one side of the issue. Only calm examination of the problem from all sides will enable solutions to the challenges to emerge. I removed no stars for the author's choice to write about the issue as he did, just as I don't remove stars for vulgarities (which there are near the beginning, though they virtually disappear after a few appearances). I do inform readers what is present in the book and allow them to make their own choices on what they prefer to read. Overall, a good effort by J. D. Trafford. The writing is excellent, and though I was dissatisfied with the ending, the procedural aspects were interesting and the plot throughout most of the book moved at a decent pace. Four stars.

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