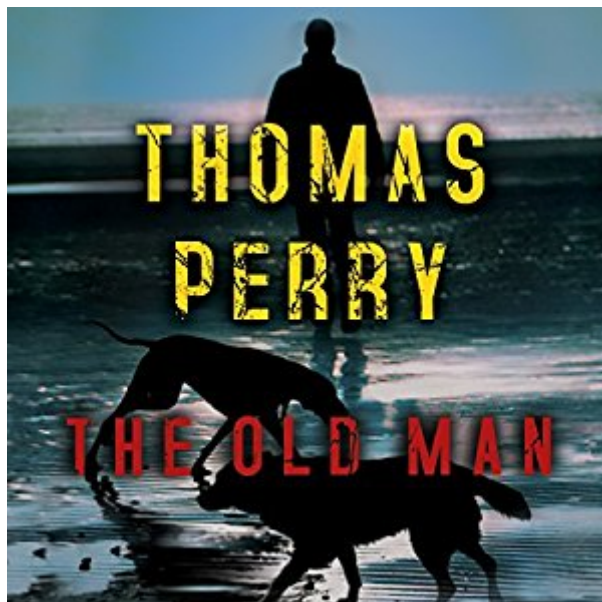


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The Old Man



Synopsis

To all appearances, Dan Chase is a harmless retiree in Vermont with two big mutts and a grown daughter he keeps in touch with by phone. But most 60-year-old widowers don't have multiple driver's licenses, savings stockpiled in banks across the country, and a bugout kit with two Beretta Nanos stashed in the spare bedroom closet. Most have not spent decades on the run. Thirty-five years ago, as a young hotshot in army intelligence, Chase was sent to Libya to covertly assist a rebel army. When the plan turned sour, Chase reacted according to his own ideas of right and wrong, triggering consequences he could never have anticipated. And someone still wants him dead because of them. Just as he had begun to think himself finally safe, Chase must reawaken his survival instincts to contend with the history he has spent his adult life trying to escape. Armed mercenaries, spectacularly crashed cars, a precarious love interest, and an unforgettable chase scene through the snow - this is lethal plotting from one of the best in crime fiction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you've never read anything by Thomas Perry, there are a few quirks to his writing that you need to know. First, his stories always involve travel; more specifically, characters either chase or get chased, all across the country and sometimes out of the country entirely. No matter the underlying plot, you will encounter cars, buses, trains, planes, and - in this instance - skis and snowshoes and a bicycle. Second, his characters are oddly unemotional. Everyone thinks coldly and rationally, no matter how fraught the situation. They are also incredibly clear about their own motivations. I

happen to be such a fan of the author that I have all his books in hardcover, but I do recall when I first read one that the coldness of the characters were somewhat repellant, and the constant traveling was distracting. Now I'm used to it. The plot is not particularly believable, and at least one of the subplots is even more unlikely. But, having said all that, I found the book enjoyable enough to read in one sitting. It is fast-paced, as *The Man With Many Names* keeps switching identities and eluding multiple murderous pursuers. The best thing about it? Carol and Dave, the dogs.

This was not one of Perry's best books. I missed the biting dialogue. While the hero was under constant pursuit, I missed the "anticipate, move, counter-anticipation and counter-move" of most of Perry's other novels.

This seems to be a book bent on having as many twists as humanly possible to fit in a book. Because people want or like twists in a story so then one should put as many and as one can keep them coming. I think an author can lose sight of the story by trying to squeeze in as many as possible. then the reviewers can say "so many twists in this book." the old man is running away from his pursuers and even though he's an old man he still got what it takes. The old man is an interesting character and you are rooting for him very strongly.

I could not put this book down!!! I have read several Perry books, but this one was among the best. You will love the character, the plot, and the action. My only concern, hence the 4 instead of 5 stars, is that the ending was rushed. It seemed that the author sensed the book was getting too long and forced the ending too soon and without the necessary development. It is, however, still a good read and will keep you up at night.

The characters are fleshed out, round and real. The writer has gifted the protagonist with a cold analytical mind, yet he does not see all. There are layers of onion peeling away with each page turning. This story is about three people capable of bloody deeds to protect family and themselves. After reading, you will want to go back and reread portions because the book was finely crafted. The real storey is what happens after the ending.

An excellent stand-alone that gives the reader a sense of the challenges the world of 2017 might hold for Perry's long-term series heroine Jane Whitefield, as she attempts to conceal people and change their identities in a world of universal surveillance and facial recognition software. Long

underground after a botched attempt to correct a failed mission Perry's hero (who takes many names throughout the course of the story) is living with two big dogs and no worries. But his enemies find him and the chase is on. Finally he become proactive, returning to the Middle East alone to finish the job that started all his trouble in the first place. Perry handles the new locales and international settings with the effortless skill of a native, and he invents a completely believable older hero. Much of the "Old man" s skill comes from spinning stories his colleagues, allies and victims will believe. He may be an expert; Thomas Perry is the master.

This my first time reading Thomas Perry, but it won't be the last. The tale is filled with details that will aid anyone looking to disappear. Those details made me wonder if I was seeing a realistic case of covering one's tracks or a display of deep paranoia. I suspect it's both. You have to bring to this book the acceptance you feel toward high-action, improbable movies with bigger-than-life heroes. Begin with that mindset and you'll have an enjoyable trip through the book, with one exception. The backstory of one character is too crazy to accept. Worse, it wasn't even necessary. It could have been left out of the book with no problem, thereby strengthening it. You'll know what I'm talking about as soon as you get to that backstory late in the book. When I say this isn't great literature, that doesn't mean the writing itself isn't good. It is. It's just not "literary".

I'm a major fan of Thomas Perry's writing, and it is with good reason. His is a master story teller, and character creator. If you go all the way back to Butchers Boy and Island and Metzger's Dog, you will see this has been his talent from the beginning, and it has not diminished in the 30 some years he has been writing. Others will give you a synopsis of the story, but I want to stress the great talent of this writer. You will see the movie in your head as you read his words. Don't miss out. Any and all of his books are worthy of your time.

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