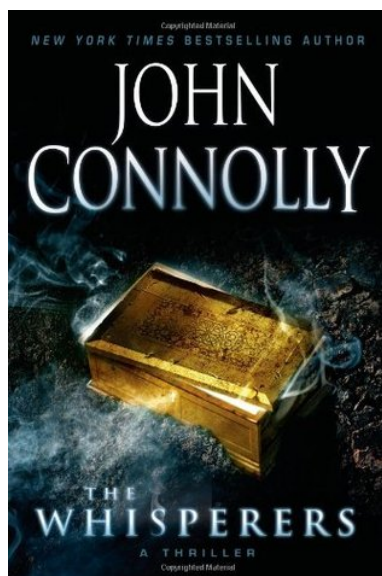


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What people Say:

Phrynnne

Another excellent book in the Charlie Parker series which is such a great mixture of mystery, horror and the supernatural. My only problem is that this is number nine in the series and I am rapidly catching up with the author who is preparing to publish number thirteen this year. I am now trying to pace myself because I don't want to get to the end! An excellent book in an even more excellent series recommended to any one who enjoys

or

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Maxine Marsh

I. Cannot. Get. Enough. Of. This. Series. Or Charlie Parker, or Angel, or Louis. Even The Collector is starting to grow on me.

Okay, now that I've had my fangirl moment, here's the real review. John Connolly--or J-Con as I like to refer to him--is one of those guys who just can't write a bad book. He has a way of weaving a story together flawlessly. For example, in The Whisperers, there are a plethora of characters: some secondary, some primary, some good, some bad, some in between, but all are dr

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When I hit 15% in *The Whisperers*, I could not stop reading. You won't be able to either. You get a good mystery regarding stolen artifacts from Iraq, a new baddie who is just awfully evil, a returning baddie who I'm actually starting to like (yikes), as well as fan favorites Angel and Louis. The plot is solid, the ending has a nice twist and we get deeper into the supernatural aspect of the series.

The story gets more and more gory and then the ending pretty much kicks ass. I mean, it was awesome.

Ryan

Almost gave this one 3 stars, which is the first time I've even considered it for this series. but just about made the 4 star cut. Maybe I'm holding Connolly's high standards against him. He's manages to be as consistent as he is dark throughout this entire series. Not the best in the series but still very good. Maybe it was a little light on Angel and Louis? always the best bits of the book for me! However Connolly not quite at his best is still better than most.

Brandon

A few months ago, I heard that John answered all his messages on his official Facebook page. So, I thought, "Hey, I like Connolly a lot, perhaps I'll tell him that". So I sent him a message expressing my appreciation for his work and his signature Charlie Parker character. Much to my surprise, he actually did respond.

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Anyway, onto my review:

I'm not going to sit here and tell you that I know a whole lot about the Iraq War. Most of what's fed to me comes from either John Stewart, Saturday Night Live, or, most recently, the film, "The Hurt Locker". That isn't to say I'm opposed to the war, I just don't have enough of an opinion either way.

When I picked up John Connolly's newest Charlie Parker thriller, I was surprised that he wasn't dealing with pimps, religious oddities or child molestation. This time, he was delving into the world of post-traumatic stress felt by soldiers returning home from overseas. Except, that it's not REALLY dealing with that. Connolly always loves to mask his thrillers with a relatable issue only to delve into something supernatural. That's not a spoiler folks, Connolly is now 10 books into the Charlie Parker universe and if you haven't picked up a hint of otherworldly forces intruding into Parker's life, then something is missing in your understanding of the series.

Over the past 9 installments, Parker has amassed such a gallery of impressive adversaries. Somehow, Connolly keeps coming up with enemies that outdo the last one. In

, we're introduced to Herod and his commander, The Captain. Herod is driven by a promise of relief from the cancer that has stricken his body. In obtaining that in which The Captain seeks, he will be given a much better existence on the other side. So basically, nothing is going to stop this guy. The Captain, described as "evil incarnate" is chilling. Appearing in only the reflections brought about by mirrors, still water and windows, Connolly writes him in a way that can disturb the reader, even without supplying the character with any dialogue or substantial actions. Just his described appearances are more than enough.

My only real beef with this novel is that the witty banter between Louis, Angel and Parker is stifled. I'm a massive fan of Parker's friends and am a little disappointed in the size of their roles in the two most recent installments. Perhaps Connolly is planning a follow up to the mostly Louis and Angel standalone entry, The Reapers. Who knows? Either way, I could've use a little more humor and sarcasm injected.

Overall, while it doesn't live up to the feelings I had after finishing both

Barbara

Odd things are going on in Maine. Several veterans of the Iraq war, including Damien Patchett, have recently committed suicide. Damien's father, diner owner Bennett Patchett - stricken by his son's death - has other problems as well. He's worried that his waitress is being abused by her boyfriend Joel Tobias, who happens to be Damien's former platoon mate. So Bennett hires PI Charlie Parker to check out Tobias, hoping the investigation also casts light on his son's suicide.

Parker's investigation

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Parker's investigation of Tobias reveals that a cadre of Iraq war veterans are using a semi-truck to smuggle things across the Maine border - from Canada to the United States. The reader (though not Parker) soon learns that the 'things' are treasures looted from Baghdad's Museum of Antiquities. Unfortunately for the looters the stolen riches are far from benign. They harbor evil spirits - 'whisperers' - that drive people who come in contact with them to suicide.

The smuggling operation catches the attention of Maine mobster Jimmy Jewel, who wants a piece of the action. Others are also interested in the stolen goods including Mexican gangsters; a curator of the Baghdad museum; Herod - an obsessed, cancer-ridden man guided by an evil wraith called 'The Captain'; and 'The Collector' - a demon known to Charlie Parker. The latter parties are particularly interested in a mysterious item called 'Pandora's Box' which - if opened - could unleash chaos on the world.

The stolen antiquities cause a spate of mayhem - including torture and murder - as the veterans try to profit from their loot while other parties try to wrest the goodies away from them. There are also eerie occurrences where spirits drive people crazy and make them do odd and deadly things. Some of these supernatural scenes are amusing in a bizarre kind of way.

Private detective Charlie Parker - though a little fuzzy about exactly what's going on - wants to stop the deaths of the veterans, save the waitress, and preserve the world. Thus he enlists the help of his old friends, Angel and Louis, two tough birds who like nothing better than killing bad guys.

I thought the story was interesting and shed some light on veterans suffering from PTSD and their need for more government assistance. The underlying theme of the story - soldiers stealing treasures from war torn regions - was also compelling (though I don't know how realistic this is....some of those statues are pretty big).

Overall, though, the the book was just okay for me. Some parts of the story were overly detailed and very slow moving, and I wanted the action to move along faster. Also, the mixed 'private detective' - 'supernatural phenomena' genre isn't my favorite. Still, there are a good variety of characters in the book (some more well rounded than others) and the story held my attention.

I would recommend the book to Charlie Parker fans and to fans of supernatural mysteries.