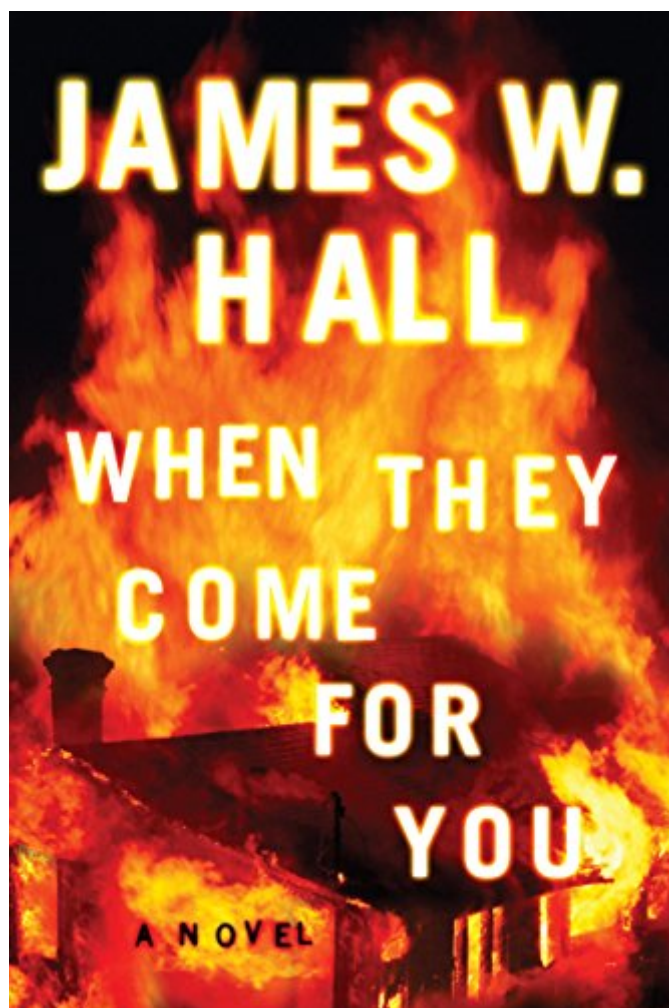


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When They Come For You (Harper McDaniel Book 1)



Synopsis

An Charts bestseller. After her journalist husband and infant son are brutally executed in a fire in their Florida home, photographer Harper McDaniel has nothing left to live for—except settling the score. When the local police fail to take the arson seriously, Harper takes the reins and discovers her husband was investigating some mysterious deaths at a cacao plantation on the Ivory Coast. Now she's convinced he was targeted in a corporate conspiracy to silence him. Aided by her former mafioso grandfather and well-connected financier brother, Harper embarks on a global manhunt, flying first to Africa, then Zurich to expose a high-level cover-up inside a powerful chocolate conglomerate. But Harper has a few secrets of her own—starting with her lethal martial arts skills—and she's not afraid to take on any hired guns or guerrillas standing in her way. In trying to cover their tracks, the conspirators made one fatal miscalculation: they didn't count on Harper McDaniel coming for them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I chose this book as my free Kindle First selection for August. I always like to explain my selection process a bit for others with similar tastes that might be trying to make the same decision. My main advice would be to read the samples by clicking on the covers and decide for yourselves, but if you still can't decide maybe my take will help. As primarily a fan of mysteries and thrillers, it was between this and the Suspense title for me. When I saw that the other had a cliffhanger, ("An abrupt ending might frustrate some readers, but hopefully a sequel is forthcoming." -Publishers Weekly) I knew it was not the book for me. With this novel being the start of a new series, I knew I ran the same risk, but the other 4 books did not really appeal to me so my choice was made fairly easily, if only for lack of options. The sample cuts off mid-way through Chapter 3 but I really wish it went just a little farther, as it starts to get a lot more interesting right after that. While I truly enjoyed the story, the book was not without it's flaws. So while the "whodunnit" IS solved, there are still unresolved issues in the end that set up for the next book in the series. While I understand why authors do this, I still don't care for it. Even in a series, I prefer standalone stories in which the characters are interesting enough to make you want to read the next installment without relying on a cheap gimmick like a cliffhanger. That being said, I really enjoyed the story line in this one. It was twisty and turny, and at times seemed a bit convoluted, but then things come back around nicely. There is definitely some ridiculous implausibility but this is fiction after all. At 290 pages I thought it was going to be a quick read but it felt much longer. I read this all in one sitting, in about 5 hours, which is longer than a book this length would usually take me so I guess I was relishing it. It certainly wasn't difficult reading at all, I don't think I had to look up a single word, which honestly was a little disappointing personally. One aspect of reading I enjoy is expanding my vocabulary. The one major problem I had with the writing may also be just me personally but oh my god, SO MANY SENTENCE FRAGMENTS! I'm not a stickler for perfect grammar, and I've never even been a teacher but I've never wanted to take out my red pen so many times and just add one or two words to make a fragment a full sentence. And I was reading on my Kindle. I don't find sentence fragments in general to be offensive, especially in first person stories, as people don't always think in full sentences. But this story is written in third person and I found all the fragments horribly distracting. I blame the editor more than the writer for this. All that being said, I did still enjoy this story and I do not regret reading it all, I would just clean up the writing a bit. But I'm guessing that's just this author's style. I did think he did a pretty good job of writing as a female, I often find male writers trying to write from the female perspective too awkward. While not full of swear words, there is a LOT of violence and vulgarity that I'm sure will turn many readers off. If it were a movie it would be R for sure, maybe NC-17 even. I am not a squeamish reader but I even found myself wincing during a

few scenes. I would possibly read more in this series if they were offered for free like this one but there is no release date for the next one yet, and honestly I will probably not remember if and when it is released. I'd still recommend it as a free Kindle First selection if you don't find any of the others appealing, the story was intriguing and I'm sure in this era where the text/tweet rules all many will not be bothered by the incomplete sentences one bit.

I think that the book was very well-crafted. It was extremely suspenseful in a way that kept me turning the pages. There were little clues that made me gasp. The evil chocolate people were excellent villains. The cold-blooded nature of people who only cared about business was great. It kind of reminded me of Barry Eisler's John Rain books, although there are a lot more unanswered questions by the end. It's pretty suspenseful - the tension that runs throughout the book really kept me engaged. I really wanted to find out the answers. I thought that his descriptions of people's physical characteristics were a little overdone, but overall the book was quite good.

Wow. This book can get you yearning for more, and I can't wait for the next Harper McDaniel story. I hope Mr. Hall is busy creating Book #2 pronto. The story is compelling, intricate but the language is that of good literature. It's accessible, and as a friend once said about Don DeLillo's writing, it's "handsome language." The story is laid out well in the description of this book, so I won't repeat it. It's so good to have such a warm, human, realistic woman as the protagonist and her sorrow over the most horrific events one can imagine is not overstated: it is real. Her hidden skills and training are unique and powerful, as is her fierce determination.

I was not sure at first it had been years since I read the first book, but half way through the first chapter I knew. Hall's Harper stays with you. Her strength and loyalty make you envious. The story line holds you, so that a couple of years between books isn't too long, maybe just right to absorb her Harper's world.

A good mystery with lots of action and a good plot. The characters are well developed and they fit together well. The story keeps you interested, but I must admit that the ending left me up in the air. It seemed like the book was not finished. I guess the next book will take over.

I liked the characters and the personalities...a sequel with Harper would be a fun read. But would be just as good without the bad word. Was not necessary and I do not like that. Fast read so I could

skip the parts with bad language. Otherwise a good read.

At times some characters seem to be super heroes. At times there is no way out of a bad situation. At times doors open where there was no hope. Great descriptions, lots of action and ending with a need to find out what happens next.

There is a lot of action, interaction, and adding of characters in this book. I enjoyed it, and it was a fast read. The heroine was likeable, but nothing great. I will read the next book in the series when it's available.

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