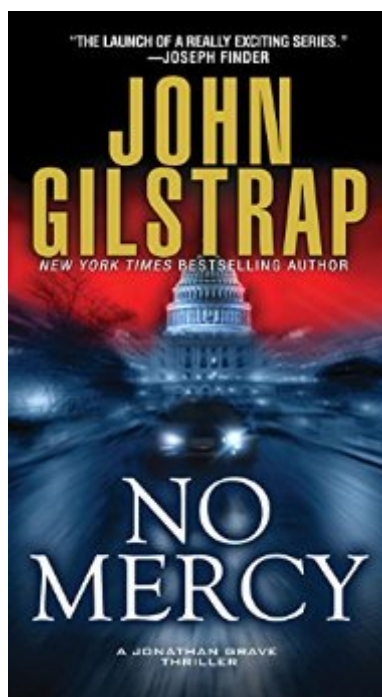


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No Mercy (A Jonathan Grave Thriller Book 1)



Synopsis

When those inside the corridors of power need help outside the law, they know who to call. Jonathan Grave, covert rescue specialist, always gets results. No names. No feds. No trace evidence. When an Indiana college student is abducted, Jonathan and his team of ace operatives unravel a deadly scheme the government wants ignored. Someone wants to control a devastating secret. Someone rich, powerful, and willing to kill anyone to get it. Even the people Jonathan loves most.

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Customer Reviews

Gilstrap's newest thriller "No Mercy" grabs the reader from page one, and holds tightly right to the finish. Cleverly written, with engaging twists and turns, along with a smattering of humor, this is a novel you won't want to put down. The story begins quite simply with the kidnapping of a college student. But quickly, it turns into a good guy, bad guy intrigue. You'll be on the edge of your seat, and perhaps a little queasy at times, as you follow Jonathan Grave, along with his friend and employee "Big Guy" as they work through the murk that comes from pure greed. As the story

develops, one looming question is who are the good guys. Is it Grave who's job can force him to kill? Or is it, Irene Rivers, the FBI Director who wants the "incident" to disappear? Perhaps it's Gail Bonnevillie, the Sheriff of Samson, Indiana. When she took office, she promised to fulfill her duties without fail. Can she ignore the fact that she knows who saved the college student from his kidnappers, and who now has blood on his hands? At first, it appears that the kidnapped boy's parents, Stephenson and Julie Hughes are good guys. As the story unravels, however, not only are they responsible for something terrible, but their actions endanger their lives and many others. As in real life, it's not always easy to discern good from evil, but by this book's end, the good guys will leave an indelible mark on the reader's mind. Gilstrap did a masterful job with "No Mercy". Not only did he weave a story with amazing character development to capture, and hold, the reader's attention, but he also provided an ending to be applauded. Too often, reader's enjoy the journey of a story only to be disappointed by a sappy, or poorly written, conclusion. Not so with Gilstrap. The ending leaves the reader wanting more suspense, more intrigue, and more Jonathan Grave.

Like Nancy Martin, I first "met" John Gilstrap on the AOL message boards and loved all of his books, especially Nathan's Run, which I recommended to so many people. I just finished No Mercy and wish I could recommend it too. But poor editing and a story full of holes has left me scratching my head and so disappointed. I expected better of John. This was a riveting and fast-paced story, but there were so many errors and omissions that the book was spoiled for me. Twenty hours of good editing could have tightened up the book and eliminated the holes. I know that publishing money is tight, but I bet John could find five or ten faithful readers who would read his manuscript and make suggestions.

Few authors deliver a great read ...out of the gate ...every time. John is one of the rare ones. Jonathan Graves is one of the meatiest protagonists in years. Ex-Delta Force and Gilstrap is more familiar with Delta than most since he wrote the only book the secret force has ever cooperated with, and endorsed, "Six Minutes To Freedom." NO MERCY is one of those books where the words "joy ride" and "train wreck" threaten to become interchangeable at every turn. This is one exciting read, guaranteed. Don't pick it up unless you have enough time to finish it. Congrats, Gilstrap and congrats Gilstrap fans. I'm waiting for the next Graves offering.

This book actually started off with what looked like a good plot, however, there were warning signs early. A kidnapping victim is being held by two total morons in a cellar. Our hero who is a veteran of

an elite army unit blows the doors off of a cellar door with a deafening blast. He bursts in and immediately starts talking to the kidnappers who have no difficulty hearing him! Then, even though he is pointing his weapon at them, this highly trained operative allows both morons to draw their weapons and fire shots at him before he finally shoots them. Early on we are given an explanation of the state of the art security system employed at our hero's home/office fortress. However, late in the book bad guys easily break in and subdue one of his aides who is caught completely unawares and of course is unable to set off an alarm or grab a weapon! In the concluding chapter our hero jumps from a moving helicopter from a height above the treeline, suffers a severe abdominal gunshot wound, still chases down the main bad guy and is engaged in a life or death struggle all while bleeding to death as the cavalry arrives and saves the day. To sum it up, imagine the worst B rated action movie you have ever seen and then imagine something worse.

Wealthy private investigator Jonathan Grave takes on cases he finds interesting and using the state of the art equipment that no one else knows exists. He can afford to strive to meet his long term strategic vision of killing terrorists who he admires for their desire to die for their Cause. He hides his identity as he does not want kudos when he rescues innocent victims of predators. His current case is a bit more personal than usual. He searches for missing investigative reporter Tibor Rothman, married to Grave's ex-wife, Ellen. At the same time Samson, Indiana Sheriff Gail Bonneville wants to bring in Grave for his role in a shootout during a hostage rescue mission of an Indiana college student that turned ugly. Over the top of Hoosier Hill, NO MERCY is an enjoyable action-packed thriller starring stereotypical characters, villains and heroes, who turn the exciting tale into a fun Indy run. The story line is ultra fast-paced yet also loaded with non stop violence as vengeance is the name of the game. John Gilstrap provides an exhilarating accelerated thriller that lives up to its title as there is NO MERCY when it comes to revenging an alleged wrong. Harriet Klausner

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