



The Trophy Taker

Lee Weeks

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'The Trophy Taker' is set in the seedy underbelly of Hong Kong, in a world of hostess bars, triads and gangsters. Young Western women, lured to the East by the promise of easy lucre, are being killed at the hands of a ruthless and twisted killer and bags of body parts are turning up all over the city.

The Trophy Taker Details

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Author : Lee Weeks

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From Reader Review The Trophy Taker for online ebook

henrys-axe says

Maybe it's my age, maybe it's some long buried aversion to extremes of any sort but I should never have picked up this book. The author is certainly good with words, maybe too good. When I read I want to be entertained, I want to learn, I want to wonder and be wowed. *The Trophy Taker* does none of that. It is a horrific insult to women, their sensibilities and their anatomy. I am not a raving/ranting feminist, just a human being who finally recognizes the inconsistencies in novels (and most likely non-fiction too) when it comes to preying on women. I found this book to be stomach churning in its violent descriptions. I won't be too specific for those who do enjoy these type of novels, not wanting to create any spoilers. In the past I have read and accepted these type of novels but that has now come to an end. There are way too many excellent crime/thriller/police procedural novels to read and enjoy. Just my two cents.

Georgia says

This was laughably bad and quite racist.

Cessa says

Ich habe es wirklich sehr genossen dieses Buch zu lesen. Generell gefallen mir Bücher die in China oder Japan spielen recht gut und so war es auch mit diesem hier.

In Hongkong verschwinden immer wieder europäische Mädchen aus dem Nachtclubgewerbe. Sie werden später misshandelt und verstümmelt ermordet aufgefunden. Zunächst ist absolut unklar wer hierfür verantwortlich sein könnte. Man erfährt hier auch einiges aus der Vergangenheit Hong Kongs und erfährt erschreckendes über die grausamen Triaden und wie diese geschützt werden.

Wer empfindlich auf deutliche Verwesungs-, Todes-, oder Sexualpraktikschilderungen reagiert sollte dieses Buch nicht unbedingt zur Hand nehmen. Wer aber wie ich gerade so etwas gerne liest wird viel Freude an diesem Buch haben. Gerade die etwas andere Art die den Erzählstil vom typisch amerikanischen Thriller unterscheidet gefiel mir hier richtig gut. Der Spannungsbogen wird sehr schön aufgebaut und der Autor hat es wirklich 5 Seiten vor Schluss noch geschafft mir einen AHA-Moment zu verschaffen und mich zu überraschen.

Cat Sheely says

If found the writing is clear and clean with a good the story. The exotic setting of Hong Kong is excellent and actually another character in this book. My first visit to the city was in 1971 and I've returned many times for both work and pleasure. I found this to be the most interesting part of the book in that the descriptions of the culture and night life were insightful and entertaining. An excellent setting.

That said, I found it hard to get 'into' the book. Mainly my issue was that I could not 'hook' into any of the characters. I couldn't get any emotion from them to make me really want to follow them to the end to see

what happened. As for the Detective, well, he's OK but again, I wasn't really 'into' him.

TC says

This book is one I picked up as a freebie quite a while ago. Not sure what I wanted to read next on my kindle I thought rather than choose I'd go to the one that had been on there the longest - The Trophy Taker. This was Lee Weeks' debut, and I see she has been described as a female James Patterson - high praise to me, a fan of his work.

Set in Hong Kong, Detective Johnny Mann is working to find a serial killer dubbed The Butcher. Body parts are being discovered, and post mortems suggest the killer is removing parts as trophies. The victims are young foreign women, and the police need to clear up the case before it impacts on tourism. Meanwhile Georgina (from a town not far from where I live, which amused me) travels to Hong Kong to meet her only remaining family, her cousins. She is put in danger when she is drawn into the seedy world of hostess clubs. When the case takes on a personal element Johnny is determined to bring the perpetrator to justice.

I thought this was great crime thriller fare, and there were plenty of suspects through out the story to pick from. However the case turned out to be more complicated than I had expected and wasn't as predictable as I had thought it was shaping up to be. The violence and details of the murders are disturbing but not overplayed.

There were a good mix of characters, the good (Johnny and Georgina) the bad (Johnny's former friend Chan) and the attractive, yet unattractive (Georgina's cousin Lucy) Johnny is a flawed hero with a real sense of right and wrong, determined to get justice for the victims. Georgina is a naive young woman who I warmed to, although I found some aspects of her relationship with her other cousin Ka Lei a bit far-fetched and out of place.

As a fan of books set in foreign climes I enjoyed reading about Hong Kong, even if a lot of the focus was on the seedier side, and the Triads. It brought to mind the background to the murder of Brit Lucie Blackman back in the early 00s, which made it a bit more chilling.

I thought this was a good debut, and having seen that the author has released a few more books, and with the sample of the next Johnny Mann book at the end looking promising too I think I'll read more by this author.

Kevin says

A Really gripping tale of Kidnap, Rape, Torture and Murder Located in Hong Kong post the Chinese Handover,

A story that is often shocking, with twists and turns on virtually every other page, it will keep you guessing right up to the last page,

This is my first Lee Weeks book, I am purchasing ALL her others on the strength of this one,

READ IT ! You will not be disappointed !

P.S I've now read it twice

Jay Saunders says

Weeks paints a filthy picture of modern Hong Kong - casual prostitution, deviant acts, corrupt officials and obsessed triad members. Yet somehow, he paints each character in manner where you respect each of them despite their obvious, and sometime despicable, flaws.

His protagonist Mann displays values you wish to admire, but is overcome with a reluctance to sort out his own personal life that makes you want to hate him - but you continually fail, especially when he pulls the occasional master stroke you wish you had in your arsenal.

Certainly not a book for the faint hearted, several scenes are so graphic you'll find yourself wincing (hence maybe not a book to read on the train - else your fellow passengers may cast you concerned looks) but holds a solid plot that has you desperately seeking justice for each and every victim Mann and his colleagues encounter.

Justice comes at a price - and it would appear that Mann is willing to pay it.

Maz says

Poor.

Love how the character 'Frank' is referred to as 'Flank' by the locals.. and 'solly' instead of sorry...

Pretty poor actually - the main character is an arse of the highest order and pretty surprised that a woman has written this - unless of course she's been flypaper for idiots...

Anyway - probably won't read any more by her.

Baoyi says

The book was pretty average. The sentencing was awkward in some places (and I'm not referring to the badly spoken English by the Chinese) which made the flow a little choppy. I didn't feel any thrill, nor was the story as terrifying as the book claimed it to be. It was disappointing. The foreshadowing I felt could be better done. I have no idea how so, but I had no trouble linking events together with the bits of clues and hints given when reading other thrillers - except for this one. It's was a little difficult to put the clues together, but I am willing to continue trying this series. Maybe I can't appreciate this book because I wasn't used to the authoress' style of writing.

Alexandra says

Overall if your a detective murder mystery type, this would be a good read.

I have read so many of these novels (good, bad and great) that I am a little bit jaded, when it comes to "good" books.

I figured out the mystery and most of the plot during the first third of the book, but it was still a page turner and while not totally original it had a lot of potential (keeping in my mind that this was Weeks debut novel). Our main character Johnny was a little bit cliché, tall dark handsome, deep troubling past, a small chip on his shoulder, commitment-phobe, the girl that got away ect. (Think Batman without the billions).

Overall I liked it and will be checking out more of this series, I was surprised that our main antagonist was killed (although it was not described in detail so maybe he will make a return?). Wonder where Weeks is going to take it from here.

Bev Taylor says

missing girls. a brutal killer. a city in terror

let me introduce u to detective johnny mann, half chinese and half english over 6 ft tall who governs the streets of hong kong. a true maverick, he takes no prisoners and will not always listen to orders. to him life is black and white with no grey

his first major homicide case - a man they nickname the butcher is taking foreign girls from the streets - who will not be missed. they r then systematically tortured over a period of time, killed, skillfully cut into pieces, a trophy or trophies taken and then frozen. h/e now some of those parts r beginning to appear

he and his team manage to put names to some of them but how long has this been going on and why r the body parts only turning up now ? they start trawling the nightclubs and commence their investigations but all is not as it appears

could the triad be involved in this in some way? one of whom is deputised by chan, a man who used to be his best friend but is now his deadliest enemy

the final body brings it really home to mann and not there will no stopping him

a very fast paced and well written novel with great characterization. chapters r short and to the point - think james patterson

just a few questions - why did they not follow up the lorry plates immediately; in the uk he would have been taken off the case because of personal involvement; F branding - this is the 6th letter; lucy would have need a visa; georgina's passport was missing but then she left the country; when she threw heroin out of the barred window surely the guard would have seen it and she would have needed to go into rehab, being in not fit state to travel; did he retrieve the triad weapons?

had to google the name Ng to find out how to pronounce it!

i guess triads r still alive and kicking ?

4.5 stars

bev

Afsana says

This is the first lee weeks book I have tried and am glad that i did.

I have several of her books which I will read.

It was a bit starge in so far as it was set in hong kong and it with the ending it didn't have everything all tied up but alot before the end of the book I did guess who some of the players were.

On the cover it states the female version of James Patterson. I believe that does ee weeks a dsservice as she writes with more depth and description then jp

it was a bit slow to start but gathered pace and you saw parts and you then saw how they connected to each other

Liked Johnny man and look forward to the next in the series

Sharon Haigh says

Mann, Genghis and Johnny all names for the main character. Ng and Confucius both names for another character. I don't even know how to pronounce Ng. Li and Shrimp both the same character. This drove me mad whilst reading the book. So many different names it took me a while to figure out whom I was reading about.

The storyline was pretty good and I enjoyed the read but I prefer her Willis and Carter novels.

Sam says

Thoroughly enjoyable, fast paced and well written. Keeps the reader interested and intrigued without going over the top, spoiling the storyline or losing the reader, a very good read

Martyn Halm says

Seldom have I read a more ridiculous book than this concoction by Lee Weeks. Not just were the actions unbelievable, but dialogue is stale and awkward.

When near the end of the book the protagonist throws a 'four-pointed throwing star measuring six inches in diameter' twenty feet and decapitates a man, that's when my bullshit radar overheated.

I threw the book twenty feet across the room into the waste-paper bin. Not recommended, 1/5. Should never

have been published. The blurb alludes that Lee Weeks is 'hailed as the female James Patterson'. I have no love for James Patterson, but compared to this book, his books are literary masterpieces.
