



Ethan Justice: Origins

Simon Jenner

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In the morning, he's struggling to remember. By the evening, he's struggling to survive. John Smith's risk avoidance policy just expired!

Waking up beside the gorgeous Savannah Jones, John is shocked to learn she was for hire, and he can't pay the price - a thousand pounds or broken legs. In desperation, he turns to best friend, Mark, for the money. Only one problem - Mark has a dagger in his back.

John and Savannah are plunged into a dangerous world where wits and adrenaline are their only weapons and trust in each other their only certainty. As the body count mounts, they discover Mark wasn't the person John thought, and his terrifying invention may well end up killing thousands, John and Savannah included.

A race to recover the missing invention pits the unlikely pairing against ex-SAS psychopath, Gregory Fisher, a man who will stop at nothing and kill anyone in his way to wreak revenge against the Government who stole his livelihood.

When Smith and Jones team up, the result is explosive.

This is a fast-paced, action-packed, character-driven thriller, guaranteed to make you laugh out loud, cringe, cry and cheer.

This book contains a few violent scenes, a dash of sex and the odd bit of bad language, so please don't buy it if you are easily offended.

Ethan Justice: Origins Details

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Author : Simon Jenner

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From Reader Review Ethan Justice: Origins for online ebook

Sarah says

This was given to me in exchange for an honest review by the author.

The novel is a third person action thriller with some chapters in 1st person from the antagonists point of view. I really like Simon Jenner's writing style and the way he added a first person perspective from the antagonists point of view as it really helped to get to know the kind of person he is and helped to get into his head better than it would have done in third.

I really enjoyed reading this novel and I finished it quickly as I just couldn't put it down. The suspense and the action through the book just kept on coming and increased in intensity throughout to finish with the perfect ending. When I wasn't reading the book I kept thinking about it, that for me, is always a good sign that it's a good book.

I felt like I really got to know the characters and felt like John, Savannah and Johnson changed for the better by the end of the book. (view spoiler)

I would definitely read more of Simon Jenner's work in the future and would recommend this book, its well worth the read.

Laura Pilcher says

4.5 / 5

Really enjoyed this book. Yawn!! another late night as i HAD to get to the end of the story.

We meet John Smith (yes John Smith!) who is coasting in life on his parents money. His parents have effectively cut him off until he can live life to his full potential. After a night of getting drunk with his best friend Mark (a high flyer financial whizz) he wakes up next to an unknown women. Cue Savannah Jones, a Sexy beauty who has had a rough few years in life. Savannah turns out to be a prostitute and is demanding £1000 for her "services", which Smith doesn't have. Realising his friend Mark as set him up he storms over to his apartment, only to be thrown into a hunt for a killer and a race to save Twickenham from a missing invention which could spell disaster.

A fast paced thriller with a touch of sex, bad language and a fake russian accent. Engaging characters who all come with baggage - just how i like them lol.

I loved the character of John Smith, not too keen on the choice of name. I assume it is to emphasise his average-ness and how unsepectacular he and his life is. When tested we see John Smith is anything but average and as his life changes his name changes to Ethan Justice to reflect this. John Smith is as good as the Jack Reacher, Alex cross's of the literary world.

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I gave it 4.5 stars instead of 5 because i had it in my head that this huge twist was coming and it didnt come

(not the authors fault just the workings of my strange mind lol). This isn't exactly a spoiler but if another reader was expecting the twist i was then it will ruin the suspense.

I was expecting the whole story to be a set-up by Mark. I thought this was a Rich boy's ploy to help John Smith's parents give him a kick up the backside he needed to sort his life out. I thought in the last few pages John would find out Mark had faked his own death. Especially the way he set up John with the prostitute. He seemed to go from good friend to bad ass friend PDQ and i thought it was to get the set up rolling. I was obviously off base with this but thought it would have been a good twist lol.

Definately worth reading and thanks to Simon Jenner who gave me this book in exchange for an honest review.

Heather Payer-Smith says

Book Review for "Ethan Justice : Origins" by Simon Jenner

John Smith leads a life as uneventful and uninspiring as his name. Born to a wealthy family, he has been afforded privilege and opportunity that he has mostly taken for granted. Though intelligent and a graduate of Oxford University, John works a menial job, lives in a flat his parents pay for and is the main source of stress and disappointment to his father. It is only after a surprise intervention from his family and best friend, Mark, that John is given an ultimatum to make something of himself or lose the financial support from his family.

Begrudged, but out of options, John Smith vows to take steps to move up in the world to please his family and get his father off his back.... That is... until Smith's world gets turned up-side-down.

A drunken night with an expensive prostitute, the murder of his best friend, a psychotic killer with a deadly agenda and a puzzling connection to a secret government organization entangles John Smith into the thickest web of lies, deceit, adventure, lust and love that spins Smith into an action packed drama that will change his life forever.... If he can survive.

Ethan Justice: Origins is a cleverly crafted tale full of dynamic characters, humor, twists and turns in an action packed plot that will leave readers reeling with suspense.

Author, Simon Jenner, has an artful way with words, capturing details that truly bring the story to life. He presents this story through varying points-of-view from the handful of main characters, giving readers multiple perspectives to chew on as the plot thickens with every turn of the page.

If I have any criticism of this book, it is that it took me a couple of chapters to find myself truly engaged with the characters; but once I connected with them, I was hooked! I absolutely love the relationship between John and Savannah (the prostitute) and how smoothly that relationship develops throughout the book. One thing that fascinates me is that, while we are given insight to each character's POV, it is through 3rd person with the exception of one character.... Jenner chose to give readers 1st person encounters with the most uncomfortable, disturbed character of them all, Fisher, the deranged murderer. What an unexpected choice that really makes the portrayal of this tale all the more chilling! While in the end I feel the changing POV's really add to the overall dynamics of the book, there are a few select areas where it was a little jarring to the flow of the story to have to switch gears and figure out who, as a reader, I was following, but it works for this book and I wouldn't have it any other way.

I highly recommend this book to readers who love a little bit of everything, from humor to drama, action to

romance... Ethan Justice offers it all in one very concise, enjoyable package.

Carrie Terrell says

It really makes me mad when you read a book and it prompts you to keep going! Isn't this what all authors want, for their readers to want to continue reading their work whether it's a stand alone or a series? This is the case with Simon R. Jenner. First I would like to thank him for being that author that truly wants to help his readers get access to a book in whichever format they can. Simon helped me to understand and accomplish this task on my eReader. This alone opens up a whole new world to me. Again, thanks!

As for Ethan Justice Origins...I was given access to this book through Goodreads after I didn't win in the giveaway. I would say this is a sci-fi mystery love story. It isn't until near the end of the book that Ethan Justice actually gets identified, yet you are reading about him from the very beginning. After a good friend is murdered, John Smith is tangled in a web to identify the reason for the killing and seek revenge on the killer. Once you have this knowledge, where do you go from here? If you choose to do nothing you get killed for having the knowledge, and if you continue, you risk your life in the process. Be careful the information you obtain from your friends, as their web may be worse than the web you have built around yourself!

Tamason says

“Ethan Justice: Origins” (Simon Jenner)

Calling all bookworms – this is a novel to read in one sitting! Simon Jenner has created a gem that you will not be able to put down.

Posh layabout, John Smith, has been given an ultimatum by his parents. Get a proper job or find your own way; no flat and no bills will be paid. Now for most people, John has a reasonable job but not everyone has an honours degree from Oxford and a prestigious family name. Even his best friend, city whiz, Mark, has been roped in to help.

Feeling betrayed by all, John goes home and spends a week moping around wondering what he could possibly do with his life that would make his parents proud. Eventually, he agrees to meet Mark for drinks...one things lead to another and he ends up at home with Savannah, a “high class” escort that needs paying for.

Waking up, unable to remember the night before John clings to the hope that Mark will not only be able to shed some light on the situation but pay the £1000 escort bill as well. Little does he know at this point that his best friend is currently in his own compromising life or death position.

Being threatened with broken legs and just 48 hours to pay, John rushes round to Marks posh penthouse to insist he helps him out. Unfortunately, he is too late and instead of the funds he finds a dead body which leads to him having to fight for his own life, and Savannah's.

Savannah's life has been nowhere near as comfortable – her mother dies of cancer, her fathers a drunk and she loses her home. To compensate for this, she seeks help in a person she believes is a friend. This friend, offers her a roof over her head for a small price – she becomes the property of someone else.

In a few short hours, the lives of these two individuals are thrown together. With only each to rely on John agrees to help Savannah but will she do the same?

She believes that he has lost his marbles and agrees to help him knowing that she will betray him as soon as her predicament allows. What neither of them realise is that there is a 3rd party involved and both are now entangled in something far more dangerous.

A secret force, Earthguard, apparently working for the good of the country, are hot on their tracks and believe they know far more about Mark's "city" work than first appears. All their lives quickly become entwined into a spy thriller that will have you gripped.

Will they survive? Who turns out to be the person they can trust?
If all secret service interviews work this way I can see why only the best are chosen.

This is a high action novel that takes you into a world which makes you question just how much we know about the people that protect our country. How many secret forces are there?

From cover to cover, the twists in this story make you question whether there is going to be a happy ending – will you be able to put the book down before you find out?

T.W. Barton says

I saw this advertised on another site and went to Amazon to look at it and get more information. I generally like to read the first few reviews to get a feel for the book and see if it is something I might like but on this one I never got past the title of the first review that said the book had a good plot but too much sex and language for the reviewer. I bought the book!

I admit that was a eye catcher but having completed the book I can only surmise that the reviewer has a very delicate constitution. There really is only one sex scene (and that is od the G rated version) in the entire book although sexual situations do crop up a few times and the language is tame by most standards.

Having now read the book I can tell you that the book was an enjoyable read. The main hero of the book is unique in that he's no Jack Reacher or any of the like. He is what would be classified as the reluctant hero who turns out to have the goods when the chips are down. His partner in the story manages to be interesting and the catalyst to the hero's unlikely performance when the rubber meets the road.

It was good enough that I will buy the second book in the series and hopefully the characters will grow more into the roles that the plot line suggests and will compel me to read the rest of the series. At the end of the day what more can you ask for.

Sandra says

This first book in the series was an exciting, fast-paced read with lots of unpredictable twists. The main characters were somewhat quirky at first, but we get to know them better and empathize with them as danger mounts and the thrilling plot unfolds. An exciting debut!

Jody says

From the first page I was hooked! Maybe its because I had just read it a couple of month's ago, but this novel kept reminding of Carl Hiaasen's "Bad Monkey." And that's a good thing. Jenner's characters are anything but stock much like Hiaasen's.

The novel is told from the third person point of view like a lot of books. However the author also chose to make one of the character's view first person. I loved this decision. Not only does it you give you a peak into the mind of the character but it gives a certain amount of mystery around the character. Just like you don't often give background information and motivations on decisions that you make during your day neither does this character. The reader discovers things about the character as the other characters do.

I also like the fact that the reader doesn't even hear the name 'Ethan Justice' until the second half of the book. By the time the name is mentioned I think most readers know what is coming, but through at least the first quarter, the reader is wondering 'where is this Justice guy.'

A fast-paced, well written novel. I can't wait to read the next Ethan Justice novel.

Olga Miret says

ETHAN JUSTICE: Origins by Simon Jenner

I don't read spy books very often and my memories of them are of very hefty tomes with lots of weird names, convoluted plots and characters I did not much care for (I apologise to the lovers of the genre and I'm sure I just read the wrong books). I found 'Ethan Justice: Origins' refreshingly different. The main character, John Smith (his name a never ending source of amusement to everybody he meets and nobody believes is his real name) when first introduced appears to be an underachiever from a good family who feels he can't live up to the expectations of his parents. When his best friend, who is successful at everything he undertakes, is killed in mysterious circumstances he ends up involved in a dangerous adventure. John is the reluctant hero we have come to know and love in many novels and films, but he doesn't just become by magic an all confident super-man. He is plagued by doubt and insecurities. Savannah, who in another book would be the typical prostitute with a heart of gold, is not really into the business and has many more resources than the stereotypical role would suggest. One of the strengths of the book is that all major characters are multi-dimensional, the agents who follow them (Wilson and Johnson, with mental meltdown and all), the baddie (Fisher, who narrates in a very effective stream of consciousness), and the central characters. For followers of the genre, there are also gadgets, a beautifully over the top MacGuffin (and I won't reveal what it is), chases, violence, sex, Russian gang members (nearly), nasty pimps...The ambiance is somewhat reminiscent of late film-noir but with the twist that this is a UK-based spy thriller although international connections abound.

Although I haven't read many books on the genre I'm pretty sure you won't be disappointed when you read it.

I leave you with one of the great quotes from the book: 'That was the great thing about guns; they brought back good manners to those who most needed them.'

Valerie Shisler says

I just finished the book today. I am a big fan of mystery/psychological thrillers and your novel did not disappoint. Each time I thought I had it "figured out" a new twist would emerge. I also enjoyed the fact that it was written with a British perspective -- references to lifestyle, local color ect. I found myself rooting for Savannah & John to become a couple. Again, I was not disappointed -- the chapter where he bears himself to her was moving; I could actually see the two as if I was present.

I enjoyed watching John grow as a person, going from a guy with no real direction to becoming Savannah's hero. It's nice to see a regular guy as the hero.

I will be sure to tell my friends about it and can't wait to read the next one!

Catherine says

I was given a free copy of this book by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Ethan Justice: Origins is a fast paced thriller with some little comedy gems woven into it. Written in bad-guy-first-person and good-guy-third-person, it's a little different from your common or garden thrillers in that it gives an insight into the thought process of the baddie right from the get-go. Each character is well developed with a thorough back story, and the plot is entertaining, although I felt it lost a little pace about halfway through. Maybe that's just because pesky real life intervened and I had to stop reading though! The characters are likeable, if a little scatty sometimes, and Savannah in particular stood out to me as having a lot of potential - this book is the first in a series and I think she's going to be a lot of fun in future books! I particularly liked the unusual style of having the baddie written in first person, and having read the preview for book 2 (Relentless) it seems that Simon Jenner is continuing this theme in the follow-up. Looking forward to reading the next one!

Jody says

I had signed up to win this book on goodreads giveaways but lost. I lose a lot more than I win so life goes on. That should be the end of this review, but wait...what's this...the author has just e-mailed me asking if I would like a preview copy of the book sent to my Kindle. Thought about it for a few moments and said yes. The next day I have the copy and begin reading and was hooked. The hook was set so deep that when I got about 45% done with the book and could go no further (preview copy) I immediately went to amazon.com and bought the book so I could finish it. I don't normally do things like that, but like I already said, I was hooked. Mr. Jenner, if you read this, your evil plan to get me to read your book worked. It was a really good book. I don't know if it was "hard to put down" because I didn't even try. I just read it and enjoyed it. On to the review...

Have you ever wondered what you would do if the guy in the elevator turned crazy and attacked you? What about if you were in the grocery store and it got held up? These are the things I think about. Simon Jenner helped answer some of these questions by taking an ordinary guy and putting him into some sticky situations. How ordinary is this man? His name is John Smith. You cannot get any more plain than that. It starts with action and ends with a good solid closing. I was satisfied after reading this book. Satisfied as if I had eaten a great meal where everything was just right. I mean everything from the setting of the table to the washing of the dishes.

If I had to describe John Smith to someone I would liken him to a combination of Lee Child's "Jack Reacher" character and F. Paul Wilson's "Repairman Jack" in a very likable way. There are some twists and turns in the plot but not so many that you have a hard time keeping up. This was well written and I believe the author had a great time with it. I hope Mr. Jenner is satisfied with this book because I sure was.

Sue says

I received a free download of "Ethan Justice: Origins" by Simon R. Jenner in exchange for an honest review. All I can say is WOW! This book was amazing. This novel is a fast-paced, action-packed character-driven thriller that totally grips you and never lets up. It is written in the third person with some chapters in the first person from the antagonists point of view, which works well allowing for more insight into the character of the killer.

John Smith is thirty-two years old, comes from a wealthy London family, living in an apartment his parents pay for, working a menial job, without any direction in life. His parents have given him six months to strengthen up his act...or forget the freebies!

But John's life finally changes when he wakes up with a gorgeous prostitute in his bed and no way to pay her. John, scared of what Savannah's pimp might do to him, quickly goes searching for his best friend, Mark, to get money for the night he can't even remember clearly. John finds Mark murdered and his own life in danger so he teams up with the most unlikely partner, Savannah herself, and together they begin to unravel the mystery of what happened to Mark and why.

Two American agents, Johnson and Wilson have been following Smith to see if he is involved in Mark Bradshaw's murder. They explained to Savannah that Bradshaw had something of theirs and that they needed to get it back before it fell in the wrong hands. The agents proposed a deal, and told her if she can get John to help them catch Bradshaw's killer, they will handle her pimp. Who can say no to that! But John and Savannah were way over their heads and could face great danger.

And so the drama and thriller starts. And the killer is psychotic, clever and dangerous and is following the detectives! He wants revenge.

This was a book that I couldn't put down. The action was non-stop and the characters were very believable. Thank you Simon for allowing me to read your book, while my husband setup the Christmas decorations.

Kathryn says

This is an action/thriller with an accidental hero and a really twisted bad guy. The story threatens sympathy for the bad guy, but our hero is not to be fooled. The action is fabulous. The suspense is edgy and surprising.

The opening scene is gruesome, made even more so by the shiftless counterpoint that is our hero's life. The pace of the story is balanced as the point of view switches between the two main characters and incorporates the perspective of the secondary characters periodically. There is no problem with shifts in the point of view, they are clear and well done. Except for the problem of overly common surnames (*which one is he again?*),

you always know who you are with in the story.

The storyline is not predictable although it is sometimes implausible. Strong character development and good dialogue with well-placed humor keep the story moving until the plot catches up. There are laugh out loud lines and I hope Jenner is able to sustain the wit in the next book in the series. The female character is well written. She thinks thoughts you would expect a woman to think and reacts the way a woman would react, especially to our hero's particularly blundering moments.

Technically, the book is well edited with very few errors which I greatly appreciate. Typos, missing words and spelling errors drive me to distraction. There is little of that in the e-book.

For the American reader, there are a few problems with English translations. What's a stone, for instance? I thought the English use pounds to measure weight as well as money. The reference to a stone doesn't give me any idea of whether the guy is the size of a chimpanzee or a gorilla. The phrase, "He pushed away the thoughts that fed the ball . . ." is meaningless to me – is that a rugby reference? Although a bit colloquial for an American audience, these and other idioms are easy to ignore and do not weigh the story down or make the action impenetrable.

There is an American character in the story and Jenner is *spot on* with the fast-car loving, impatient, does-not-tolerate-stupid, everybody hates the Yankees stereotype.

There are a couple of minor plot detail errors. For example, at one point an embroidered linen napkin is thrown by a son onto a gravy filled plate (the mom should have had a fit right there – it caused me to gasp). Next thing, the napkin thrower is pushing potatoes around his plate and there is no mention of the soggy, stained napkin. Well, where'd it go? And another, reference is made to a BMW 3 series which then becomes an M3 coupe with a V-8 engine – different cars, I think. There are a few others, but nothing to undermine the strength of the overall narrative.

I enjoyed reading the book. I like the characters and look forward to reading the next in the series.

Kath Middleton says

This book begins with a dissolute 32 year old man with the bland name of John Smith, being taken to task by his parents and best friend for wasting his life and talents. He has a good Oxford degree and is working as a junior clerk. His parents own his flat. He becomes involved with Savannah Jones (Smith and Jones eh!) in tracking down a murderer, helped and hindered by two special agents.

There's a huge amount of action in here and quite a lot of dark humour. The interplay of characters is very good and the villain of the piece, a rogue ex-SAS operative, is creepy and uncomfortable in the extreme. I was very much engaged with the story and the people Simon Jenner has created and I know I shall read more of this series. Highly recommended!
