



Pursuit

Gene Hackman

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Gene Hackman, acclaimed actor and author of *Payback at Morning Peak*, “takes aim at a clear target: telling a good story” (*St. Augustine Record*) in this contemporary thriller.

GENE HACKMAN brings his richly diverse literary voice to a gripping new thriller that pits a devoted police sergeant against a predator who may cost her everything that matters.

“I’ll say this for the last time. Take your hand off the shotgun.” In a tense standoff with a shopping mall shooter, Sergeant Juliette Worth has the suspect about to surrender—then in a few explosive seconds, she takes him down.

Usually a by-the-book cop, Julie has too much at stake, raising her daughter on her own, to break protocol—until the mall killer pushes her over the line. Instead of kudos for saving his hostage, the Missouri State Criminal Investigation Unit hands Julie cold case duty. Among the forgotten files, she uncovers a disturbing connection between disappearances from years ago—all pretty girls, all presumed runaways. Now Julie’s instincts have her hunting a predator still very much in the picture. Someone who pulls Julie into a harrowing chase—by abducting her own daughter. . . .

Pursuit Details

Date : Published November 26th 2013 by Pocket Books

ISBN : 9781451623598

Author : Gene Hackman

Format : ebook 368 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Fiction, Literature

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From Reader Review Pursuit for online ebook

Jennifer says

I thought many times about not finishing this book - but because I have always enjoyed the author, I finished it. While the overall plot was a good one, I felt like this missed by lack of consistency from one transition to another, lack of emotion by the main character when her best friend was killed, and a lack of depth by the main character when she pursued her daughter's kidnapper. While I found many things lacking, I did appreciate the ending - I certainly did not see that one coming.

Robert says

The second novel penned by actor Gene Hackman, the first being a western. This one involves a Sergeant with the Missouri State Patrol digging into an old cold case that becomes quite hot when her daughter gets abducted. The story is actually quite good and Hackman has the right stuff here. With a bit of polish this novel could have hit an easy four stars. It just seemed a bit rough around the edges.

Debbie says

I was curious about this book because of who wrote it. I like Gene Hackman as an actor. I think I like him even better as an author. The book held the suspense to the very end. Never a dull moment.

Claudia says

A plucky heroine, a twisted bad guy, and a daughter in peril. Hackman's characters are drawn from cliches, but manage to escape that label for the most part.

What bothered me about this book was at the sentence level. There were sentences which were supposed to be beautiful, complex expressions, that lost me completely. Several times I had to stop reading, because I was determined to find the subject and verb of the sentence if it killed me. Once that happened, the writing became a distraction.

Settings were interesting! Loved that Broken Arrow was mentioned. If I had a map at my fingertips, I would have checked his geography. But I trust he and his editors got that right.

Sojourner says

Gene Hackman is no stranger. As two time Academy Award winning actor, he is a household name worldwide. He acted in such classics as The French Connection, The Conversation , Unforgiven , Superman , and Young Frankenstein. He retired from acting in 2004 and began a second career as a novelist. After co-

writing a number of historical novels, he wrote a fine western titled Payback at Morning Peak. And moving forward from there, he is crossing over to thriller with his latest novel.

Pursuit is the story of Sergeant Julie Worth of the Missouri State Patrol. She's a no-nonsense cop, sharp and strong-willed. When she takes down a shopping mall shooter, the Missouri State Criminal Investigation Unit hands Julie cold case duty. Confined to the office, Worth browses through old files when one particular case involving the disappearance of a teenager catches her attention. When she is unintentionally drawn into an investigation that closes in on the kidnapper, things begin to take a dangerous turn. Cheryl, Worth's teenage daughter, is kidnapped.

Now it is up to Worth to get her daughter back. But Charles Clegg is no ordinary soul. He is a monster, who kidnapped and killed women. Pushing herself almost off the edge, Worth hunts for Clegg while Cheryl's life is hanging in the balance.

Pursuit by Gene Hackman is wonderfully crafted. It will keep you on the edge of your seat with its gripping story and sharp plot.

Melanie Chabrol- says

Who doesn't know Gene Hackman? Didn't realize he was an author. I gave this a 4 as the ending disappointed me. Well written though, had me on my feet guessing.

Sgt Julie Worth is a single mother and works with the Police force in Missouri.

She works by the book. Who would imagine going into the mall would end up being chaotic. There's a hostage situation. "put your gun down, I'm a police officer" without waiting for backup she took down the perpetrator. She gets 2 weeks in the basement of working with coldcases as a disciplinary action. She comes across some cases that maybe related as she digs more she finds out her daughter, Cheryl abducted. Being so close to the case she finds herself wondering should I go with instincts or by the book.

Linda says

It was ok as a detective story but it wasn't deeply engaging and that's because the story and the characters were thinly rooted. As a lifelong Missourian, it was fun to have it set in the state until the actual pursuit began. The geography in the story made no sense. I used to live in central Missouri and know the directions the Missouri and Osage Rivers flow and where they converge. I know where Iberia is, and where the Lake of the Ozarks is. If you're going to set a story in a rural area, use a map. Have respect for the area and the people who live there. Rural people here don't sound like Ma and Pa Kettle. Missouri is an interesting setting for stories but if you're not a native, you need to do your research to reflect its true spirit.

Ryan LaDage says

This was a pretty good read. It followed some typical "thriller-type" story lines, but did keep me guessing throughout the way with plot twists and surprise connections that I didn't see coming. I enjoyed Gene Hackman's writing style of connecting events in the past with the present time, along with writing about similar events in the novel from different character's perspectives. Worth the read!

Lenore says

I have to admit that I was disappointed with this book. I thought Gene Hackman (retired actor) did a great job on his western Payback At Morning Peak and was looking forward to this detective thriller. Parts of it were quite good but a lot of it was full of extraordinary coincidences and weak writing.

Julie Charles says

Predictable Pursuit

Predictable and unbelief. Serial killers are rarely this well behaved and in control and their victims almost never live to tell about it and cops aren't this naive.

Jeremy Hurd-McKenney says

This was unpublishable-y bad--I don't know how an editor could allow this to slip through the publishing house without laughing hysterically--it had to be an office joke.

The story is generic when it isn't incomprehensible, which isn't very much of the time. The protagonist is a one dimensional bitch, almost as if she was written by a dirty old man who hasn't bothered to notice how a woman talks or acts since the 1980's. She also is the type of woman who names her daughter "Cheryl," even though she is my age, and the book was published in 2013.

I would unretire from acting if I were you, Gene Hackman.

Cornerofmadness says

Honestly that third star is pretty generous of me. It's more like 2.5 or lower. Mr. Hackman is a better actor than he is a writer. Not that the story was entirely bad but the characters were flat. The biggest emotional responses were from the villain of the piece. In fact, we get to know him best and that's not what I look for in a mystery/suspense book.

Sergeant Juliette Worth was involved in a shooting at a mall and is 'punished' by having to work the cold case files (that was problem number one for me. As I understand it, this goes to experienced detectives, not to someone in lieu of 'desk duty.' Worth finds a link between several cases of missing women but not much of one until someone tries to run her off the road and kill her.

It's driven home that she might be on to something when her best friend is murdered and her daughter kidnapped by this man. Of course we know who it is because we spend a ton of time with the killer/kidnapper/rapist. We do need to because this wouldnt' work otherwise but we spend more quality time with him than we do Worth.

Like I said, not a bad set up but it's really hit and miss. There's very little emotional context for Worth, especially when it comes to losing her friend. She does better with her daughter. But all the characters are flat as three day old pop.

There seems to be some sort of agenda when it comes to health care professionals too because they're all assholes. The psychiatrist who works for the police and Worth has to see her, accuses Worth of being a murderer. Um...okay. The doctor who tends to Cheryl, Worth's daughter, more or less accuses Worth of being the one to hurt her (somehow missing the police guard on this girl). I got the idea that Hackman had some issue with doctors.

And the ending was just plain bad. I hated it.

Would I read another one by Hackman? If the library had it, maybe. (The only other one I know of at this moment is a Western so...)

Todd Charlton says

Gene Hackman has co-written three and authored two books solo. Writing a novel is a hard thing to do, and both of Gene's solo efforts; *Payback at Morning Peak*; and *Pursuit*; were written after the author's 80th birthday. It is testament to the strength of the man, to start a new career when most people have been dead for ten years!

Pursuit is a police thriller with a female protagonist. She is a Sergeant, she has problems with authority and her 16 year old daughter has been abducted by a very sick individual.

I have to say it's all been done before; the girl locked in the basement; the escape; the chase; the cops working out the clues to the revelation. But Hackman pores new wine from old bottles with his preternatural understanding of a strong woman character who is a single mother and a cop. She has to deal with departmental procedure, a skeptical captain and an arrogant ex-husband. Good thing Big Todd is a good partner.

Pursuit is a character driven slow-burn with no over the top action. Gene Hackman has placed his story firmly in the real world.

Tomi says

It was okay, but only barely...Gene Hackman is a good actor, but not a writer! The book was disjointed; it was written more like a script for TV than an actual book. The characters were flat and the action was erratic. I won't be looking for any more of his books.

Amy says

Needs an editor. Lots of sentence fragments, too many characters are whackadoodles with strange language tendencies.
