



# Flinch

*Robert Ferrigno*

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## **Flinch** Robert Ferrigno

Frightening, feral, and funny, **Flinch** is a fast-paced noir set amid the frenzied freak show of Southern California. Tabloid journalist Jimmy Gage and his plastic-surgeon brother, Jonathan, have long had a twisted and sometimes nearly fatal rivalry, but the ante was upped when Jonathan recently married Jimmy's ex. So when Jimmy begins to suspect that Jonathan is the serial killer known as The Eggman, he's neither surprised nor displeased. What ensues is this harried and hard-edged whodunnit that involves everything from petty porn stars to WWF wannabes to gut-wrenchingly gruesome gangsters and gang lords. **Flinch** is an intricately plotted whirlwind of a tale that will grip you until the very last page.

## **Flinch Details**

Date : Published January 7th 2003 by Vintage Crime/Black Lizard (first published 2001)

ISBN : 9781400030248

Author : Robert Ferrigno

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Thriller, Noir

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## From Reader Review Flinch for online ebook

### Jerl Louk says

A refreshing book for me... the characters are so much fun and develop so quickly that I really got hooked early. The story itself was very original and a lot of fun.

I will definately read more Ferrigno in the future...

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### A. Bowdoin Van Riper says

Jimmy Gage is a jerk. He's abrasive, confrontational, and at times needlessly hurtful to people who don't deserve it. He drinks too much, drives too fast, falls for the wrong women, and hangs out with cops, small-time crooks, and LA lowlifes on the make. He also has serious investigative chops, a bullet-proof sense of personal integrity, and a world-class set of *cojones*. He is, in other words, a hard-boiled detective hero for the new millennium: "A knight in slightly tarnished armor," wielding a cell phone.

*Flinch* is the story of Jimmy's interactions with his epically dysfunctional family, his search for the identity of a mysterious serial killer known as The Eggman, and his unlikely role in a theft where the Persons of Interest all seem to have walked out of a Donald Westlake novel. Three plots, multiple subplots, and a dozen significant characters make this a more complex story than the blurb or the length of the book suggest it will be, but Ferrigno handles the mechanics of the story deftly, delivers a satisfying resolution, and manages to make Jimmy into a fully-rounded hero while letting him remain a jerk. Several supporting characters develop more depth than the story strictly requires; that one of them is dead when the story starts, appearing only in flashbacks, hints at the author's talent.

This is the kind of novel that's easy to recommend by comparing to the work of other, better known authors: "If you like Robert Crais, or Carl Hiaasen, or Don Winslow . . ." and so forth. All of that's true, but it's also slightly misleading. *Flinch* is very much its own book, with its own distinctive feel: There's more sourness under the flashy humor, more palpable regret in the characters' back stories, and more grit in the action. I've read a couple of dozen books like it, but never one *exactly* like it . . . and, having done so, I'm intrigued by Ferrigno.

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### Jason Kay says

Ferrigno is an excellent writer, and he always seems to come up with original stories that keep you guessing until the end.

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### Barbara Elsborg says

I really liked this one. The ultimate game of Flinch. Clever, fast moving and I was kept guessing all the time. I fell in love with the characters in this one. I even felt some sympathy for the villain. Very good read.

### **Lynn says**

Flinch features something Robert Ferrigno excels at, gritty crime with individuals who operate under their own moral code or lack thereof. Jimmy Gage is a writer, his latest gig was at SLAP magazine which covers the underbelly of Los Angeles and area. A serial killer, tagged the Eggman, has been operating in the area for a number of years. Jimmy has received several taunting letters from the killer, but the police considered the file inactive as no new evidence has emerged. Jane Holt is a detective in the homicide division who is as obsessed with the case as Jimmy. They run their own unofficial investigation.

While the hunt for a killer is on, a second storyline winds through the book. Jimmy was involved with a young ex-addict who was trying to protect his wife and daughter from a violent dealer. Tragedy resulted and it doesn't sit well with Jimmy.

I wouldn't classify Flinch as a serial killer book, in some ways this plot line seems incidental to the story. It's all about the sordid side of life which goes unnoticed by most of us. Although this isn't my favorite Ferrigno novel, I highly recommend his books to people who don't mind crime novels that expose a darkness we may be oblivious to.

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### **Mark says**

My 1st Ferrigno and I find this one a fun read...this is the 1st of 2 books in the Jimmy Gage series...great dialogue and off-the-wall characters reminiscent of Elmore Leonard's novels...Ferrigno may be able to replace Leonard in this genre, now can we find someone to fill the void left by Robert K. Parker???

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### **Jack Heath says**

Synopsis: journalist Jimmy Gage recently married his brother Jonathan's ex. He also suspects that Jonathan is a serial killer. It's a whirlwind.

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### **Frederick says**

Flinch by Robert Ferrigno - I liked this book a lot. Just a really good and original mystery with some decent humor too.

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### **Maddy says**

RATING: 3.5

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**Mary Thurston says**

A great book dedicated to a great guy by his great brother.

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**Bagpipe says**

Pretty good. Reminded of the books by Elmore Leoanrd.

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**?? ????? says**

Beautifully written, but so dark, cynical and graphic I couldn't finish it.

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**Eleanor Schmidt says**

It's a great book. The only reason I'm giving it 3 stars is halfway through I realized I had already read it and started to recollect the plot of the book. i know I liked it much more the first time around

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**Chuck says**

A tabloid movie critic, along with a lady detective, on the trail of a serial killer. Written in Ferrigno's own inimitable style; smooth, witty, intelligent. Good story.

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**Vickie says**

Still working my way through the works of Robert Ferrigno. I love it that his novels take place in Long Beach and Orange County.

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