



## Mark for Blood

*Nick Thacker*

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**Mark for Blood** Nick Thacker

**All Mason Dixon wants is to mix classy drinks for classy people...**

Mason owns a bar, and he's not getting any younger. He wants nothing more than to retire in peace, fishing and drinking with the locals.

But his past as an assassin is catching up with him.

Mason moonlights as an assassin, taking jobs to remove "marks" from the playing field. It pays well, and he's good at it.

So when he makes a mistake, things quickly get out of hand and he finds himself racing against the clock to save a life he inadvertently put into danger.

"Sure to be the new Jack Reacher..."

"In a word, *unputdownable*"

If you're a fan of Lee Child, Douglas Preston, and James Patterson, you'll love this new series!

## Mark for Blood Details

Date : Published June 17th 2017 by Turtleshell Press

ISBN :

Author : Nick Thacker

Format : Kindle Edition 354 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Mark for Blood for online ebook

### Meenaz Lodhi says

I got this book when I preordered book 2, reading the blurb I knew I'd love reading this new series from Thacker! It's different from the other books I've read so far from the author, but I'm very glad to read it. A somehow contradicted character, not your typical hero, but hey, we're not perfect, right. It's an easy read, full of action, intrigue, mastery that has me and Mason Dixon mystified! Can't wait for the next installment. I've totally MARKED IT!

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### John Walker says

Mason Dixon (now there's a name for you) runs a bar in some sleepy little town. Things are rather nice, people are friendly, but Mason has a secret, a Big Secret. It seems that every once and awhile he gets a contract (their called tokens) to kill somebody.

A woman and her brother walk into the bar, and if that were all it would be a sleepy book, but no someone or organization is out to get them after their father was well, murdered (won't say who-it would spoil the fun). What follows is a mad dash to save 'la femme' from the bad guys, which Mason along with his pal Joey seem to be well equipped for...okay maybe the FBI friend of Mason's does help a bit, Action packed, there is a second book out, but it's only on Kindle. I hope it comes out in paperback.

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### Andrea says

#### Better than I expected

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.  
I also bought a copy of the book as well.

Thrillers aren't my normal genre fiction. So I didn't expect to love it. Thacker is a good writer, so I knew I would at least like it. But I was pleasantly surprised.

I loved it. There were parts that were repetitive and others were convenient. The main character, Mason Dixon, was not my favorite. But the plot movement and 'just a bartender' focus overcame all my complaints. My favorite character is Joey. I can't wait to see more of him! I did appreciate how aware Dixon was of his limits. I also really, really enjoyed the nods to hard boiled detective fiction from the 50s and 60s.

Thacker's strongest writing skill is the action scene. He gets you right in the thick of it. You can see what is going on and he is able to hit the feels at the same time. I also liked the realistic look at romance in this book. The action scenes and wrap-up sections really boosted my enjoyment of the book.

I look forward to seeing what is next for Dixon and Joey and the bar.

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### Michael Eitniece says

Mark for Blood really surprised me with how much I enjoyed reading it. Nick is a great author and I usually enjoy his books, but I this book is a little different than what I typically read. Mason Dixon is not your typical hero, but I found myself really enjoying the character after reading through the first quarter of the book. I'd say a Jack Reacher type of comparison is pretty close and the action flows pretty steadily. If thrillers are your type of story, you'll definitely want to give Mark for Blood a read.

The characters in this book were very well written, which is pretty much what I've come to expect from Nick's books. He does a great job of creating characters that you want to root for or root against, and these characters fit with those groups. Mason Dixon is not really a hero, more of an antihero. He just wants to run his bar and live out his life. The problem is, he has a particular set of skills and a strong sense of justice. He does the wrong things, for the right reasons. This is not typically my favorite type of character, but the more I spent time getting to know Mason, the more I enjoyed him. He really does want the best for good people and wants to see the bad guys get what they deserve. I'm sure I wouldn't have liked him if it weren't for his strong moral code (despite the killing) and his devotion to his friends. It made him much more likable despite his murky path.

The other characters are great also. I love the friendship between Mason and Joey (even though neither of them would admit to it being that). They make a great team together throughout the story. The villains are truly villains. They're evil for the sake of being evil and you don't feel so bad about them getting what they deserve. Complicated villains can be interesting, but sometimes you just want a villain that you love to hate. This villain didn't disappoint.

The story is a fairly quick read, but not in a lacking content sort of way. It's just a good, enjoyable story that you'll speed through because you can't wait to see how Mason gets out of the next situation. I really enjoyed reading it and it didn't feel overly predictable to me. Mason's inner dialogue could potentially slow down the story too much for some readers, but I actually enjoyed getting a better look inside his head. It helped me better relate to the character and come to appreciate him as the story progressed.

I would not hesitate to recommend this book to fans of the thriller genre. I feel like comparing Mason to Jack Reacher or even a grittier version of MacGyver is a fairly good example of what to expect from this character. I'm looking forward to seeing how Nick will continue the series in light of how it ended (no cliffhanger here). I can't wait for book 2!

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### **Donna says**

This book was built on an unusual premise - a bartender hitman who finds out that his 'mark' is someone he has agreed to help. It's well written and full of great action, driven by brilliant characters. I especially liked the main character, Mason Dixon, as he was funny, decent, only violent when necessary (I hate books where there's violence just for the sake of it), and has an amazing knowledge of alcohol and how to serve it! In fact, in places it seemed like the book had more of a 'bartenders guide' feel to it than a hitman story (the only reason it lost a \*)!

However, I did enjoy the story and would recommend it to other people who enjoy thrillers, murder-mysteries and the like. I know that the next book in the series is due for release soon, and I'm looking forward to reading it and seeing what Mason and Joey get up to next!

NB I received a complimentary copy of this book, but I always give an HONEST review based wholly on my own opinions

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## **James F. Stiles IV says**

### **Grit and reality**

This is a book that is really hard to put down! Mason Dixon - a character with the ability to know his own mind. If I had any criticism of this book it would be that it was just a bit wordy. However, that said, everything written added to the reader's understanding of Jason's outlook on the world around him. The main characters are really well drawn without going too deeply into their backgrounds. Although the hints given show each of them are as complex as needed for the story line. The action scenes are both varied and believable, something lacking in many books written today. I look forward to the next Mason Dixon novel.

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## **Jack says**

Mr. Thacker captured me with the opening line, "I knew I would kill him as soon as he walked in."

This is the first in what I hope is a long line of Mason Dixon Thrillers (see, it says #1 in the parenthetical part of the title--I can read goodly).

Mason Dixon owns a bar. And has a side job. While the bar serves as a good meeting place within the story, kind of home base, the story is more about the side job. Much more interesting, much more dangerous, much more deadly. Suffice to say, trouble ensues after that opening line.

The first 10-20 pages are a little confusing to read. Said confusion clears enough after that, but mysteries abound and deepen. There is a woman (there's always a woman, right?) that captures Dixon's attention. She and her male companion are passing through to her father's funeral.

This feels like a modern-day noir. The main characters are well drawn and sympathetic(ish). Mason Dixon himself is capable of inflicting damage, but he's nowhere near impervious. Settings are always dark, even in the middle of the day. Plot is reasonably complex, though there are some open questions at the end of the story that will (hopefully) be addressed in Book 2. (At least Mr. Thacker indicated to me they would be.)

Excellent introduction to a new series. Highly recommended.

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## **PJ says**

This is a good story with an interesting character and surprises throughout.

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## **Dusty Sharp says**

I had been looking forward to this book ever since Nick Thacker posted a teaser for it a while back. I've read most of his Harvey Bennett thrillers and have enjoyed them. But with this book, his new protagonist Mason

Dixon promised even more of what I like. He's hard-boiled, rougher around the edges and a bona-fide tough guy. When I read the full novel I was not disappointed. I enjoyed reading a more concentrated plot, geographically localized with only a few characters. Which is quite a departure from Thacker's other thrillers, which are much more sweeping in scope, with globe-trotting sets and large casts. *Mark for Blood* allowed him to concentrate more on the characters and a tighter plot, and I enjoyed it.

What cost him that last star was something I've always wanted out of Thacker's books, which is more thorough editing. I think the prose could have been tightened up in a few places, and there were a few typos and mistakes that should have been filtered out. I'm one of those confounding people who does get jarred out of the story by these. Despite that, another solid book from Nick Thacker, and I'm looking forward to following Mason Dixon in his next adventure.

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### **Farhan says**

The author makes all the mistakes the Lee Child wannabes make: the self-proclaimed tough guy keeps talking and talking about his special skillsets which turn out to be below-average when it comes to actual action; all the superman bragging vanishes towards the end and the hero suddenly feels 'his years'; the badass hero has to be rescued by the cavalry in the end and is unable to save the day on his own.

I have seen the above happen to even very well-known authors. Guys, you need to read a lot more Lee Child and much more carefully, too.

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### **Randall Krzak says**

*Mark for Blood* (Mason Dixon Thrillers Book 1) by Nick Thacker was a riveting story. Bartender Mason Dixon has a secret—an on-demand secondary job, which leaves victims out in the cold. Assisted by his short-order cook and occasional fill-in bartender, they take care of the latest mark. Except there was a problem. The person didn't provide the standard token confirming their identity. Troubles abound as Mason becomes a target himself—who is after him?

This is the first novel by Nick that I've read and I guarantee it won't be the last. With excellent characters, a laid-back manner of presenting the plot, and twists and turns galore, this is an excellent thriller!

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### **Tony Parsons says**

Charleston, SC. Joey (waiter, cook, sidekick, retired US Navy) worked for Mason Dixon (bar/restaurant owner, narrator, former assassin).

Hannah Rayburn 39, sister, & Daniel Rayburn Hannah's brother, were staying at the Marley's B&B. Hannah informed Mason Bradley Rayburn (their father, Crimson Club owner) had just been whacked.

She was wondering if he could help find the killers.

The Crimson Club was not exactly uppity-up business.

Underage porn, sex trafficking, etc.

Marley's B&B. Mason had gone back to see Hannah.

Blood was everywhere. Marley (co-owner) & Daniel had been killed.

Hannah was nowhere to be found.

Will Joey & Mason get Hannah back alive/well?

Warning: This book contains extremely graphic adult content, violence, or expletive language &/or uncensored sexually explicit material which is only suitable for mature readers. It may be offensive or have potential adverse psychological effects on the reader.

I did not receive any type of compensation for reading & reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers & authors, I am under no obligation to write a positive review, only an honest one. All thoughts & opinions are entirely my own.

A very awesome book cover, & great font/writing style. A very well written crime thriller book. It was very easy for me to read/follow from start/finish & never a dull moment. There were no grammar/typo errors, nor any repetitive or out of line sequence sentences. Lots of exciting scenarios, with several twists/turns & a great set of unique characters to keep track of. This could also make another great crime thriller movie, or better yet a mini TV series. There is no doubt in my mind this is a very easy rating of 5 stars.

Thank you for the free Turtleshell Press First Edition; BookFunnel; Author; PDF book  
Tony Parsons (Washburn)

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### **Bob says**

Just a so so read, Mason Dixon is a bartender in his own small bar in a small coastal town, but he also has another job, when a customer comes in and presents a special token Mason knows this is his next victim. In the beginning its a shadowy figure who sends these token carriers to his bar, but the results are that Mason quietly takes them out and his helper and cook disposes of them. I won't tell you why, but just say one day wires sort of get crossed and woman comes into the bar and they get to talking, later he steps out his back door and sees a shooter preparing to shoot the woman who is on her phone, Mason steps in and dispatches the shooter and become more involved with the woman as a result which ends up getting him in no end of trouble. It was ok, I may try the next one to see if I like it any better.

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### **Brent says**

First, I would like to say that I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

I have read the three free Nick Thacker books available on his website and enjoyed them. The free books include "The Golden Crystal" which was his first published work. I was looking forward to reading Mark for Blood to see his later work. This book is different but in a great way. The biggest difference was that Mark for Blood is written in the first person. At first it took me a bit to get used to this as I had never read a book in first person perspective but it really grew on me. I envisioned to the protagonist better, and had an easier

time picturing his personality. This also helped to feel closer to Mason's buddy Joey.

I really liked the dynamics between Mason and Joey. They work alongside in the bar, but also together on moonlit adventures. He handles both very well as he can cook some awesome bar food, but Mason can also trust him with his life. This fact was not just stated and expected to be believed, Nick did a good job with the back story to establish why Mason came to feel this way. There were twists that I did not expect, that I did enjoy throughout the storyline.

Nick Thacker's love of Whiskey and the fine attention to detail related to the interest lent itself well to a thriller about a bartender assassin. This is a perfect combination for him to write, I am stoked that this is Book 1 of a Mason Dixon Series!

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### **Linda Ellis says**

Mason Dixon is a killer. Maybe not for hire, but definitely working for someone. He also runs his own bar, which makes for interesting digressions on the merits of different whiskies and how to mix the perfect cocktail.

Mason is in his bar one night when his latest mark walks in, pushing all the right buttons to make Mason despise him and look forward to the pleasure of executing him. The mark leaves the bar unobserved and Mason dashes outside. He is just in time to stop the mark attacking a young woman and kills him in front of her.

From that moment Mason's life gets more and more complicated. He reveals more than he intends to the girl, who - rather than being shocked - promptly tries to hire him; the guy he killed turns out to be a rival, not a mark; his boss refuses to pay him; threats to the girl keep escalating; and his car breaks down at the most inconvenient moment.

The book is full of surprises - from the nature of the threats to the girl, to the identity of "the boss". The characters are well drawn and make you want to know more about them.

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. When I first heard what it was going to be about I was doubtful whether I would take to it - serial killers are not my favourite characters to read about - but I found that I did enjoy it, and I'll be looking out for the next book in the series

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