



Reckless Endangerment

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Deputy D.A. Butch Karp knows why people kill. For revenge ... profit ... survival ... pleasure. But for some, murder is beyond reason ...

An elderly shopkeeper is found brutally slain in Manhattan.

An undercover cop is shot to death while off duty.

A third victim is spotted floating in the Hudson River, his skull pumped with five .22 caliber slugs.

Three crimes linked by a single cryptic message. Three crimes that will plunge an entire city into an explosive urban nightmare. Three crimes whose far-reaching consequences will touch Butch Karp and his family in the most intimate, unexpected, and terrifying ways imaginable.

Reckless Endangerment Details

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Author : Robert K. Tanenbaum

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From Reader Review Reckless Endangerment for online ebook

Jon says

There were fifteen of these before my fave guy Michael Gruber quit writing them, and I'm sorry to see that now there are only three left that I haven't read. This one was a real page-turner, but had a bit too high a body count for me--too much like a Die Hard or Jason Bourne movie for my taste. In fact there were times when it almost read like a screenplay for such a movie. The carefully complex plot centered on the interaction between Arab terrorists, Mexican drug runners, and Hasidic Jews fighting it out on the streets of NYC in 1981, all of them presented from law enforcement's point of view as pitiless, hateful troublemakers. The book was written several years before 9/11, so has a certain air of prescience about it. But it still has the usual cast of characters I've grown to know and admire over 12 books now, and some very endearing family moments. And the denouement is contrived with such perfect poetic justice that it almost makes you smile in spite of all the violence and mayhem.

Rob says

Once you read the first two chapters, the book's theme becomes repetitive. Political insider enriches self at expense of public with aid of Congress, never pays penalty. The history of the subprime mortgage origin is interesting, with emphasis on how racial and class envy politics leads to bad policy.

Annie says

The first 50 pages are so terrible. Every non-essential character is written as a stereotype. Once you get past that, the plot is exciting. But there are so many exciting books out there, don't waste your time with this one.

Trevor Morris says

Too much outrage and very "ranty", which made it hard for me to read. I tend not to trust books which have a very strong agenda and present only one side of things; maybe there really is only one side in this case, but I tend to doubt it. I think the book is based on a lot of detailed reporting but, at least to me, it didn't do a good job of presenting the big picture - Countrywide and Fannie Mae clearly had big problems but how much of the crisis was directly attributable to them? Seems like there were a lot of huge companies in bad shape and plenty of bad decisions to go around.

Dennis says

Once again I believe Tanenbaum brings in far too many players and most have names that I would not identify with and then sometimes the same person can have abbreviations or nick names which makes it difficult to follow. Interesting plot once again.

Judy says

This is my favorite Butch and Marlene story to date. I felt like in this book we got to spend more time with the other characters in the book instead of it being so much Butch and Marlene. I was able to follow how all the different plot lines wound together better in this tale as well. I appreciated that Marlene's crazy behavior was more tempered this go round. That said, we have a Mexican assassin and some Middle East terrorists to do all the crazy stuff for us. Parts of the novel read like a serious action/adventure screenplay, but what the heck it worked. Lots of Lucy and Tranh, which was nice but I wonder if they are going to over-shadow B&M in future novels.

Ed says

Though written in 1998 and set in 1981, this story is as relevant as yesterday's latest terrorism news story.

The ongoing relationship of Butch Karp, his wife Marlene Ciampi and their family continues in this and subsequent novels. A fascinating group they are.

Tanenbaum and his co-author Michael Gruber have the ability to start a story with seemingly insignificant events that eventually all inter-relate and wind up coming together in the climax. This technique hooks the reader and forces him or her to pay attention to seemingly unrelated details because they are sure to become important later.

This particular story has Butch, in a staff role at the NYC DA's office, pursuing what looks to him like a possible terrorist plot but is ignored by all but a few of his colleagues and associates in law enforcement.

Marlene, spending much of her time helping out at an abused woman's shelter, uncovers a connection to what her husband is working on but neither of them know it. She is also constantly struggling with her personal demons that manifest themselves as her seeming inability or unwillingness to avoid serious trouble and violence.

The supporting cast of Tran, the Vietnamese bodyguard, ass't DA's, police investigators, Islamic terrorists, Mexican drug lords and an unbelievable Hispanic assassin all contribute to the fascinating story.

This is one of the better efforts of the Tanenbaum/Gruber collaboration.

Alyn says

Not too much character background maybe because the book is part of a series, and the author expects the reader to read them in order. (this is my first!)

Sufficient suspense and thrill to hold the reader's attention. A classic case of cops and robbers (or in this case terrorists).

Jemera Rone says

Here the power faces a couple of out-of-town assassans -- some from the Middle East and another from Mexico -- who collide in an unlikely blow-out in Queens, killings scores, including police. And that's not even the denouement.

Suzanne says

Another well written novel by this author. Tanenbaum's mysteries featuring Butch Karp always take you, the reader down many intricate paths. I especially enjoyed the daughter "Lucy" her edgy linguistic talents added much to the story. I would recommend this book to all...no offensive language, no really "blood and guts" murders, just good old fashioned mystery writing.

Sheila says

The story turned out to be suspense of disbelief, murder, terrorism, cops and everything else. Mostly series have similar story and same characters.

Nancy Ellis says

Best one in the series so far!

Susan Cantey says**Complicated plot; interesting characters...**

I enjoyed this crazy romp. I couldn't wait to pick up my Kindle fire to continue the unpredictable adventure. Even though the bodies piled up, the ending was satisfying.

Mary says

I ended up with this book because I was trying to put a hold on the financial book with the same title. When I saw it was a mystery set in NYC, I figured I would read it anyway. The saddest part of this book are the comments about terrorism and the number of officers killed in the line of duty. This book was published in the late 1990's with 9/11 just around the corner.

Eric says

Looking for something new and different to read I picked this book up by whim at the library. I did not realize until I had finished that it was part of a series based upon the main character, Butch Karp. That would explain my sense that there was not a lot of character development - it had already been accomplished in the previous 9 volumes, I assume.

Written in the 1990s, this book is based upon the growing reality of tension between Jews and Muslims in New York City, while also throwing in interests of a Mexican drug cartel. Reading the book post 9/11 makes one realize that the book was likely an accurate reflection of growing tensions in the city in that era which made it a plausible read at the time. A small sect of Islamic terrorists is planning an attack on a gathering of Jewish women. Through some twists and turns through other deaths and their circumstances, the real target only becomes clear well into the book.

This was an okay read. Compared to other crime/action stories this one is probably pretty average. Again, I did not know the characters well, and so perhaps missed some of the interactions that more veteran readers may have picked up. Ultimately, a good book to pass some leisurely reading time. But I can't say I am inspired to read others in the series.
