



Good Intentions

J.D. Trafford

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The path to justice is paved with good intentions.

Judge Jim Thompson's world is unraveling. He's facing public backlash on a decision-gone-wrong for a young boy in foster care and, even worse, he's just discovered that his mentor, Judge Meyer, has been murdered.

Despite his self-doubt in the face of media scrutiny, Jim is determined to continue his friend's legacy—and find his killer. As he digs into the mysterious death, Jim comes across a case that had haunted the judge for decades—a case he couldn't let go of. Judge Meyer had worked hard to find the right solutions for foster children, but rulings in such cases are never simple, and his decisions may have cost him his life.

As Jim searches for answers, he begins to see similarities between his mentor's past and his own present. Now it's up to him to learn from his late friend's mistakes and track down a killer—before he loses everything that matters to him.

Good Intentions Details

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Author : J.D. Trafford

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From Reader Review Good Intentions for online ebook

Robert Enzenauer says

This book is the second by this author for me. And this book, although excellent, was very difficult for me personally. As a pediatric eye doctor, I deal with child abuse on a weekly basis, since it is often my duty to document retinal hemorrhages when an injured child presents with a parental story that doesn't make sense. This I correctly described as a legal thriller. But it is also a concurrent murder mystery with lots of twists and turns. And this author describes very well the over-worked child welfare system, from the social workers to the attorneys and advocates to the judges. The story moves at a good pace. The plot sucks the reader in.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

I read Little Boy Lost by J.D. Trafford last year and was blown away by the book's fabulous story. So, picking Good Intentions by J.D. Trafford was not a hard decision.

Judge Jim Thompson mentor has just been murdered and he's the first to stumble over the body. As if that is not bad, he's under media scrutiny after a boy that he decided to go back to his mother was later found dead. He's under pressure, trying to figure out why his mentor Judge Meyer was killed, as well as dealing with media and a new case.

I enjoyed reading Good Intentions. Just as Little Boy Lost is the story in this book engrossing and it's not hard to be upset and angry when everyone seems to be out for blood. Jim's blood. He's under enormous pressure from work and he can't let go of a feeling that there is something in the past that could be the reason for the death of Judge Meyer. Perhaps an old case...?

The book is well-written and the last part is really tense! I recommend this book warmly!

I want to thank Thomas & Mercer for providing me with a free copy through NetGalley for an honest review!

Judy says

Good Intentions captured my interest from the very first page. It is a compelling, page turner of a mystery with lots of twists and turns. The story matter, although appalling, is intriguing and made me think about how I might handle decision making in these types of cases. I found myself thinking about the book when I could not sit and read, leaving projects undone because I had to know what would happen next.

Good Intentions is a book I want to share with family and friends. I think it would make a great book discussion selection, and I can totally see it made into a movie. This is the first book I've read by J. D. Trafford. I definitely want to read more.

Thank you to NetGalley and Thomas & Mercer for an eARC!

Diane says

This is the second book I've read by this author. I chose the first because he once lived in my home town. But I came back for more because I really like the way he writes. His stories are compelling. I learn something even though the story is fiction. Judge Thompson felt real. I liked him and was rooting for him all through the story. The topics he deals with can be difficult, but are true to life. Even when I'm tired of the "legal thriller" genre, I will still choose to read his work!

Laura says

This is a fascinating legal thriller with masterfully done court scenes that are riveting. Legal thrillers are one of my favorite areas to read as they delve into the law in a way we laypeople do not normally deal with. This is a complex, enthralling look at the life of a family court judge. I enjoyed the authors previous works and was thrilled to receive this for review. Thank you for the ARC which does not influence my opinion.

The legal system of child protective services are very difficult. The judges have to make life changing decisions about who is responsible for abused and neglected children. Jim is an appointed judge trying his best to make good decisions. His job is very stressful and he is under tremendous pressure. He is under media pressure in regard to a certain case and feeling the pressure. When his mentor and father figure is murdered he is lost and misses his confidant that he depended on for courtroom advice. Jim decides to get involved with a investigation on his own of finding the killer. Along the way his career is near imploding and he fears his future. He continues on finding a list of possible suspects he never imagined and secrets about his mentor that changes his view of the court. As he traverses the clues of his mentor's murder he finds various suspects and possibilities. In the end the murderer is found and brought to justice but Jim's life is forever changed. This is a fascinating read and I enjoyed the court scenes. I highly recommend this book for all that enjoy legal thrillers. A fast paced interesting read with high courtroom drama and thrills.

Carol says

This was a good legal novel with a judge who handles the type of work I do every day as an attorney, so I was very interested in procedure - not just in the plot & characters. The plot and characters were good, and I really liked it. As far as child protection procedure and court procedure in that type of case, it was pretty close to what we have in New Jersey with some exceptions. For example, no judge can handle 2 dozen child protection cases in one day, much less one afternoon. We might get through 5-6 in an afternoon here where I practice - maybe 15-18 in a whole day. So that's weird. But it is correct in most other ways and I appreciate the author's sensitive approach to how important these cases really are. I also liked that the ending was complete with the loose ends tied up - no cliff hanger here! Seems to be a stand alone novel, which is fine with me. I'm not sure I want to follow this judge/main character into a series because he was not really a terribly strong character. It was annoying that he made such poor choices at times and was not a sympathetic character for the most part.

Joann says

I won this Kindle Freebie in a Goodreads Giveaway. Thanks to all. I was happy to read this book and also give my honest opinion. My first thought is "Yes" a thrilling book can be written with no foul language - except two little minor ones. Judge Jim Thompson is under scrutiny after his mentor is killed and his decision on a case years ago has come back to haunt him. All the characters in the novel were well fleshed out and the writing held my interest till the end of the story. I don't know how many books Trafford has written, but this was a very good read.

Rob says

A good read

Ended a bit too tidy for me but a good read with an interesting story line. The main character was flawed and real enough to be believed yet likable

Suzanne says

Surprisingly docile family court judge in Alameda County, CA faces the murder of his mentor and the messy aftermath while personally running his own secret investigation. The tension between his professional ennui, and curious uncertainty regarding his future focus on the bench, and his lack of clarity about his mentor, while pursuing information about his death, make for an interesting tale. Author J.D. Trafford offers enough detail to make the court scenes very realistic. The book is fast and highly engaging. I received my copy from the publisher through NetGalley.

Linda Klager says

I thought this was a well written book. The author had very difficult subject matter to write about and he did it with finesse. There was only 1 curse word and I can imagine a hardened felon saying it. I am so glad that the author did not go into details when describing the love scenes. There was some gruesome material that a convicted criminal did to his family.

It must be very hard to work with child custody cases. A judge hears much sordid events daily. It must be very trying to do the best job for the children involved in these cases.

How very difficult it must have been to be married when dealing with the caseload that this judge was under - his wife was very loving and patient, too.

Owl_ . says

What happens when you have the power to change lives and are you able to live with the consequences of that decision? This book looks at that question. It had just enough courtroom drama mixed with the right amount of personal problems and police investigation to create a fast moving story. It was an quick, easy read. Thank you #netgalley and #thomas&mercier for the eARC.

Patty Nobles says

“Good Intentions” by J.D. Trafford is one of those well-written novels that grabs on to the reader and does not let them go until the last page is turned. Judge James Thompson is a relatively new judge who hears the cases of families in crisis, and he is often called upon to make decisions that in hindsight were not always a perfect choice. The two things that keep him going is his mentor and knowing that he is trying to make life better for a child. When his father figure and mentor is murdered, the many secrets of the system he has worked hard for is suddenly revealed and he is forced to question everything he knows. This novel is gripping and eye-opening to many aspects of an overwhelmed underfunded system that has been set up to protect our most vulnerable citizens. I was given an advanced copy of this book, and all of the opinions expressed in this review are my own.

Lady Delacour says

This book was a Gift
from my Buddy Reader.
She did not steer me wrong.
Very enjoyable, fast paced
court centered, murder mystery.
Listened with TTS.
Cleanishhh.
Small amount, Foul Language.

SacBibliophile says

Well written. Clear there was some research, but how much with folks who actually do juvenile dependency work? Very early on, comment that hearings are open to the public (explaining why a reporter is in the courtroom). Nope. Dependency cases are closed to the public. Anyway....
Love that the author chose this field (child dependency) to write about....

Listened to Audible version - liked the timbre of the reader's voice but not his robotic tone/timing. Also REALLY didn't like his portrayal of women's voices.

Trish R. says

So, another first person book written by a man that wasn't half bad. But I really couldn't tell you if our MC, Judge Jim Thompson, was tall, short, bearded, bald, a head full of hair, fat, thin, or pigeon-toed. No idea why male authors want to keep the characters looks a secret from the readers.

However, it was a really good book. The mystery of who killed Judge Harry Meyer, Jim's close friend and a mentor. At the end it told of the trouble Judge Thompson got into for looking into, and solving, the murder. I thought that was kind of strange. It was also about the case of 4 kids being taken from their parents and the parents losing their parental rights, and the POS father who wanted them back.

It was a good courtroom drama and police procedural story that I enjoyed.

There was absolutely no sex, only about 4 kisses on the cheek and the F-bomb was used 1 time when a lawyer simply repeated what his client said. There was actually no swearing to speak of: hell was used 3 times, damn 4 times and shit 0 times. It wasn't like real life so I can't see myself reading this author again. I wanted a REAL life murder mystery, swearwords and all. I need to find some really gritty mysteries, don't I?

As to the narration: This was my first listen of Will Damron and he was awesome. He read with emotions and his women's voices were perfect.
