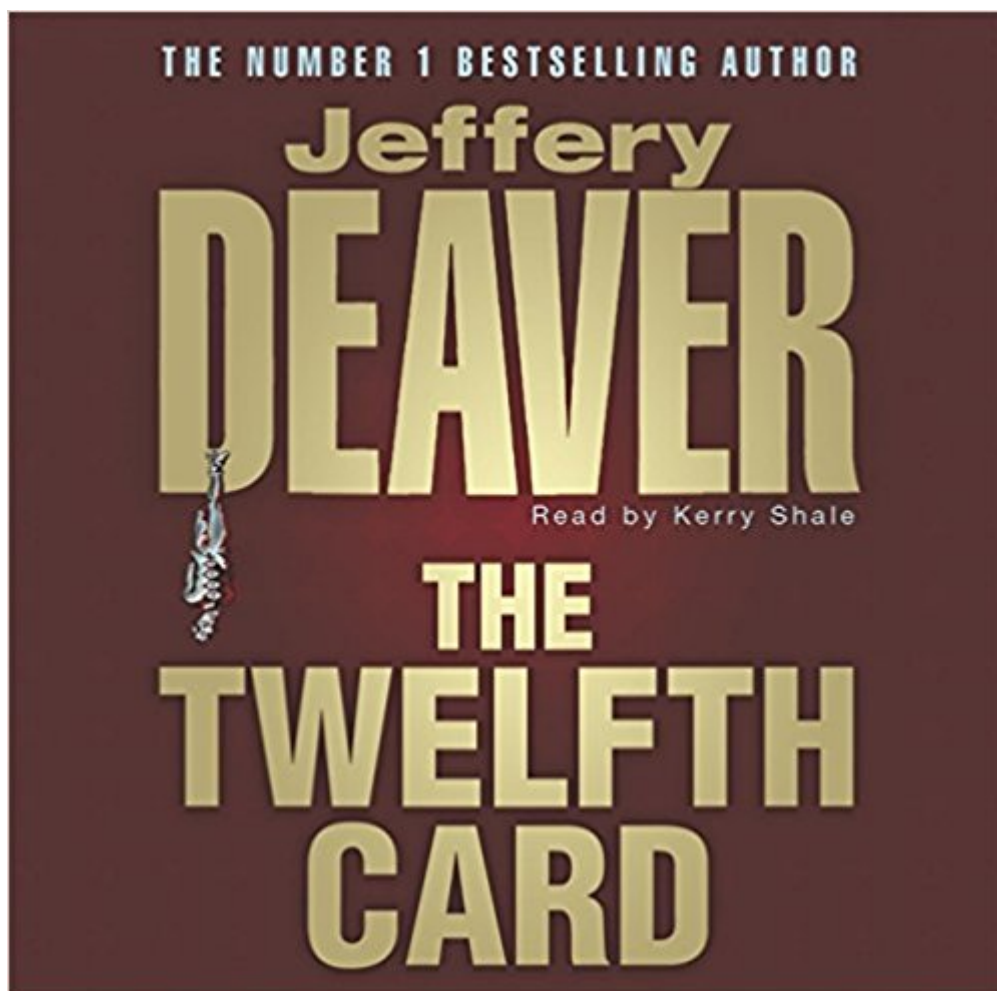




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The Twelfth Card [Unabridged]



Synopsis

Geneva Settle is a bright young high school student from Harlem writing a paper about one of her ancestors, a former slave called Charles Singleton. Geneva is also the target of a ruthless professional killer. Criminalist Lincoln Rhyme and his policewoman partner Amelia Sachs are called into the case, working frantically to anticipate where the hired gun will strike next and how to stop him, all the while trying to get to the truth of Charles Singleton, and the reason that Geneva has been targeted. For Charles Singleton had a secret - a secret that may strike at the very heart of the United States constitution, and have disastrous consequences for human rights today. And Sachs is going to have to search a crime scene that's 140 years old before she can stop the killer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lincoln Rhyme, Deaver's popular paraplegic detective, returns (after *The Vanished Man*) in a robust thriller that demonstrates Deaver's unflagging ability to entertain. But even great entertainers have high and lows, and this novel, while steadily absorbing, doesn't match the author's best. Geneva Settle, who's 16 and black, is attacked in a Manhattan library while researching an ancestor, a former slave who harbored a serious secret (not revealed until book's end). Amelia Sachs, Rhyme's lover/assistant, and then Rhyme are pulled into the case, which quickly turns bloody. After Geneva are a lethally cool white hit man and a black ex-con — but even when they're identified, their motive remains unclear: why does someone want this feisty, hardworking Harlem schoolgirl dead? To find out, Rhyme primarily relies, as usual, on his and Sachs's strength, forensic analysis; the book's tour de force opening sequence consists mostly of a lengthy depiction of their painstaking

dissection of evidence left during the initial attack on Geneva, and every few chapters there's an extensive recap of all evidence collected in the case. Deaver offers more plot twists than seem possible, each fully justified, but this and the emphasis on forensics give the novel more brain than heart. Geneva, a wonderful character, adds feeling to the story, and there are minor personal crises faced by other characters, but as the novel's focus veers from police procedure to odd byways of American history, execution techniques and one more plot twist, the narrative loses grace and form. Even so, this is one of the more lively thrillers of the year and will be a significant bestseller.

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A new Lincoln Rhyme novel is cause for excitement among fans of twisty-turny thrillers. This time out, Rhyme, the quadriplegic forensic investigator, is trying to find out why a man was stalking a high-school student. Turns out it might have something to do with the death of one of the student's ancestors nearly 140 years ago. Deaver, who must have been born with a special plot-twist gene, somehow manages, in every book, to pull two or three big surprises out of his hat. He also has a knack for drawing us immediately into the story. For some readers, it's his detailed description of investigative techniques; for others, it's Rhyme himself, the crusty, bad-tempered (but secretly lovable) detective who, with the help of his protege (and lover), the beautiful Amelia Sachs, solves crimes that most other investigators couldn't begin to crack. The Rhyme novels are among the cleverest of contemporary detective fiction. It is disappointing, however, to report that this one has a rather noticeable flaw. He attempts to render the dialogue of an African American character, in a kind of written Ebonics ("S'up, girl?") that is very distracting to read and pulls us right out of the story. One of Deaver's strong points has always been his ability to write flowing dialogue; the awkward effort here to translate oral idiom into written language is an unfortunate slipup. Aside from that, though, it's a typically well-written, suspenseful story. David PittCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I can't write a review without pointing out that the premise of why Geneva Suttle needed to not only be killed, but hunted by 2 professional killers who were offered a quarter million to do so was pretty weak and a little unbelievable. I would think that throwing away the article probably would have been sufficient to achieve the same goal or just count on a teenager losing interest or not being able to put 2 and 2 together. Plus, the person who master minded the whole thing really didn't seem to

have much of a motive for needing her dead. He stood to lose a job, that's it. But having said that, I thought the book was really a good read. The characters are well developed, the writing provides a lot of surprises throughout the book. With the premise being as weak as it was, my review speaks volumes for how much I enjoyed reading it. I will be reading all the books in the series for sure.

Somebody is trying to kill Geneva, a black schoolgirl. Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs are trying to protect her and find out why she is in danger. As usual in these stories, nothing is what it seems and it's only in the last pages that the truth is discovered. Geneva researches, with the help of Amelia, events that happened to one of her ancestors 140 years ago. The plot is thin and I found myself not caring one iota what happened to this ancestor and nor, for that matter, to Geneva herself. And why would a civilian forensic crime expert be allowed by the NYPD to lead an operation to protect a possible assassination victim? Come on, Mr. Deaver, this is laughably unrealistic. I do love the Lincoln Rhyme series, but this has to be the weakest one so far; not even close to *The Bone Collector*, *The Skin Collector* or *the Vanished Man*. 2 and a half stars, really.

I am a great fan of Jeffery Deaver's Lincoln Rhyme novels, this is the best I have ever read. A Harlem high schooler, Geneva Settle is searching for anything she can find out about an ancestor, Charles Singleton who fought in the civil war. All she has are letters he wrote to his wife that an aunt gave her. In the archives of an African American library she finds bits and pieces of his life in old periodicals. Thinking she is alone, she hears a man on his cell phone. Herein begins numerous attempts on her life. There are clues piling up that lead nowhere, suspects grow in multitude. If you enjoy Lincoln Rhyme novels as much as I do, don't pass this one up.

I have always enjoyed the novels of Jeffrey Deaver, the author of *The Bone Collector*, the book upon which the movie was based. His plots have been well-developed and unusual, his characters seemingly real people. Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs are my favorites. However, this book's convoluted plot contained one or more red herrings too many. In the beginning and through the middle of the book I was fascinated, but by the end, I was tired and ready to offer up the victims and have the bad guys escape into literary oblivion. Still, I would recommend this book to Deaver fans and those who enjoy forensics and post Civil War history.

I have read many Deaver books and am delighted to suggest that you read this one. Two crimes, one from the far past and one new one come together in a very interesting way. This book

will keep you intrigued. Don't miss it. Although part of a series it's a stand alone book.

The trick to all great writing (and especially to great genre writing) is to do old things in fresh ways. The tried and true, without novelty, is dull and predictable. The truly 'novel', lacking an anchor in nature and convention, is simply weird. No one understands this better than Deaver, who characteristically combines fresh material (usually forensic material, but sometimes historical material) with the key elements of thriller/suspense. In THE TWELFTH CARD he even adds one of the chestnuts of traditional fiction, the appearance of a mysterious stranger, who enjoys a special relationship with one of the central characters. My only reservation is that he also, characteristically, includes at least two 'unexpected' twists and turns as the narrative moves to its conclusion. Since he does this consistently, the plot twists lose their impact, at least for his devotees (among whom I count myself), who come to expect them.

I like a book that has a good surprise twist, i really do. And I've loved the previous Lincoln Rhyme novels in this series. But this book has SO many surprise twists, some of them coming after deliberate author deception and misdirection to send you to a different conclusion, that I got irritated at the blatant manipulation. I enjoyed the book, but this one gets dropped to four stars due to too many manipulatively deceptive twists and turns.

One of the most deliciously twisted Lincoln Rhyme thrillers! I took special delight in the pseudo historical plot, development of characters, crossroads of many lives, and the return to the good old money motive.

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