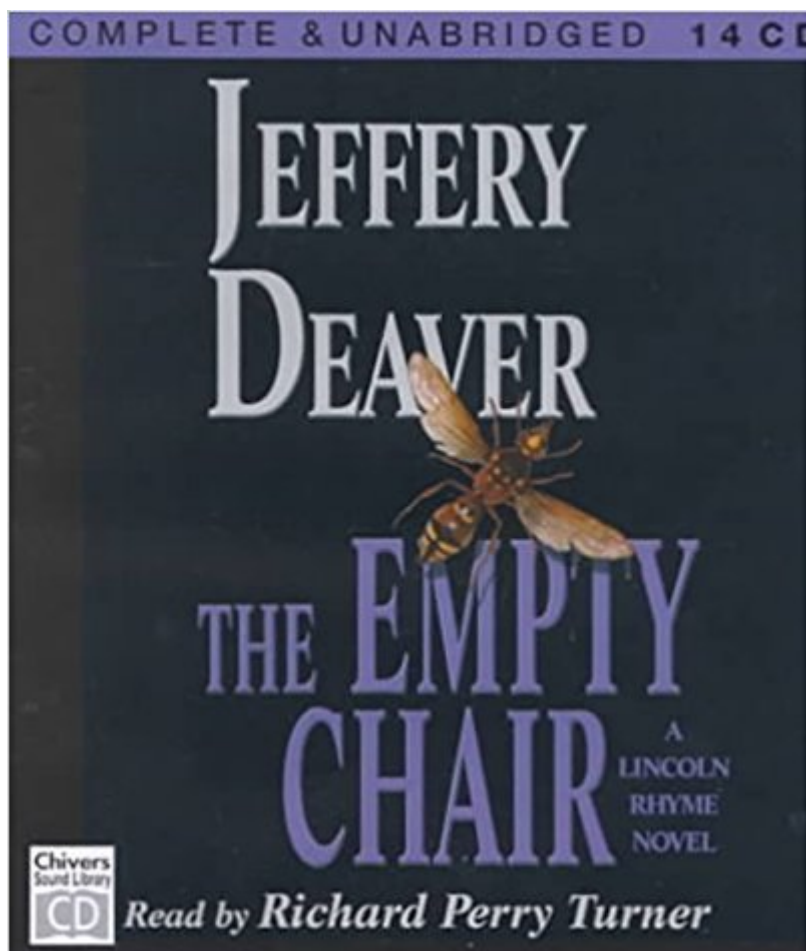




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The Empty Chair



Synopsis

From the bestselling author of *The Bone Collector*, this spine-chilling new thriller, pits renowned criminalist Lincoln Rhyme against the ultimate opponent - Amelia Sachs, his own brilliant protegee.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

It's not easy being NYPD detective Lincoln Rhyme, the world's foremost criminalist. First of all, he's a quadriplegic. Secondly, he's forever being second-guessed and mother-henned by his ex-model-turned-cop protégé, Amelia Sachs, and his personal aide, Thom. And thirdly, it seems that he can't motor his wheelchair around a corner without bumping into one crazed psycho-killer after another. In *The Empty Chair*, Jeffery Deaver's third Rhyme outing--after 1997's *The Bone Collector* and 1998's *The Coffin Dancer*--Rhyme travels to North Carolina to undergo an experimental surgical procedure and is, a jot too coincidentally, met at the door by a local sheriff, the cousin of an NYPD colleague, bearing one murder, two kidnappings, and a timely plea for help. It seems that 16-year-old Garrett Hanlon, a bug-obsessed orphan known locally as the Insect Boy, has kidnapped and probably raped two women, and bludgeoned to death a would-be hero who tried to stop one of the abductions. Rhyme sets up shop, Amelia leads the local constabulary (easily recognized by their out-of-joint noses) into the field, and, after some Holmesian brain work and a good deal of exciting cat-and-mousing, the duo leads the cops to their prey. And just as you're idly wondering why the case is coming to an end in the middle of the book, Amelia breaks the boy out of jail and goes on the lam. Equally convinced of the boy's guilt and the danger he poses to Amelia,

Rhyme has no choice but to aid the police in apprehending the woman he loves--no easy task, as she's the one human being who truly knows the methods of Lincoln Rhyme. Rhyme's specialty combines the minute scientific analysis of physical evidence gathered from crime scenes and his arcane knowledge of, it would seem, every organic and inorganic substance on earth. Deaver combines engaging narration, believable characters, and his trademark ability to repeatedly pull the rug out from under the reader's feet. Lincoln Rhyme's back all right, and the smart money's betting that his run has just begun. --Michael Hudson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Lincoln Rhyme, the gruff quadriplegic detective and forensic expert of Bone Collector fame, strays far from his Manhattan base to a spooky North Carolina backwater in this engrossing and outlandish tale about the hunt for evil. The hick town is called Tanner's Corner, where Rhyme--in North Carolina for experimental surgery--has been called by the local sheriff to oversee the search for a kidnapper and his victims. The kidnapper is 16-year-old Garrett Hanlon, a local youth of ill repute whose obsession with bugs has earned him the nickname "The Insect Boy." His captives are Mary Beth McConnell, who Hanlon has stalked for months, and local nurse Lydia Johansson, who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. A marathon chase ensues across North Carolina's perilous swampland by sheriff deputies and Rhyme's assistant and lover, Amelia Sachs. Rhyme, a former New York City cop whose on-the-job injury several years earlier left him with movement in only one finger, directs the search from his wheelchair at sheriff headquarters. As he examines forensic evidence from the crime scenes and points along the search route, Rhyme grows increasingly suspicious about which players are the good guys and which are masking their evil intentions. The story grows heavy in the middle, but eventually takes several of Deaver's trademark twists, cleverly camouflaged for maximum effect. The characters surrounding Rhyme in his third adventure are colorful, back-country cutouts who serve their purpose well. In the end, it's all a bit hard to swallow--particularly the ultimate revelations about Tanner's Corner and its strange inhabitants--but for thrills and surprises, Deaver is still aces. Agent, Deborah Schneider. Major ad/promo; Literary Guild and Mystery Guild main selections; Doubleday Book Club super release; Reader's Digest Condensed Books selection. (May) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If you are picking up a Lincoln Rhyme novel for the first time; rest assured you are in very good hands. Jeffrey deaver has developed his character extremely well over the three books and

though some people crib about the ploy of using a quadraplegic detective; trust me, it works and how ! . In the Empty Chair; Rhyme is not only a fish out of water(out of his familar NY surroundings) but he also has to grapple with trying to convince Amelia sachs that he has to undergo a complicated operation which could leave him worse off but which could also give him some additional mobility if things go well but before that he has the local Police department asking for his help in locating 2 kidnapped girls and from here on, you are in classic Deaver territory; he piles on the chills and the thrills without ever sacrificing the characters in favour of the plot, the ending is a virtuoso tour de force and it was virtually impossible to second guess the outcome of the book. Garnett's obsession with Insects was a great touch and though like one reviewer mentioned ; it is a little reminiscent of Silence of the Lambs; Deaver has managed to make that detail fit perfectly into place in the context of the book. I am not going to divulge the further twists and turns but believe me; if you start reading this book in the evening; you can be sure that you are going to have a late night trying to finish it. I would have given this book a perfect rating except for the fact that towards the end; great though it undeniably was, I could not help overcome the feeling that it was written to be made into a movie, it read too much like a screenplay. Don't let that stop you though, read it, it is one terrific ride and you are going to have a good time, Guranteed !

It was just a week ago when I read my first Deaver novel, The Coffin Dancer, and now six days later I have finished The Empty Chair and have three more on my night table, and I can't wait to get home to get started on the next one.I have always been proud of the fact that I can predict what will happen in almost every book or movie, until I found Jeffery Deaver. Its unbelievable even with just 10 or 15 pages left he finds a way to turn the plot around and I just gaze mesmerized at the pages. The Empty Chair has more plot twists than a slinky.This book is a great combination of thrills and chills but at the same time you get to see a personal side to Lincoln Rhyme and Sachs that keeps you feeling the anxiety of Sachs and the helplessness of Rhyme all throughout the well played out scenario. Its great to see Rhyme pitted against the only human being able to match his wits, his partner Sachs.All I can say is please Jeffery hurry up with the next one, I don't know what I'll do when I finish the three that are waiting for me at home. I'm hooked.

Lincoln Rhyme, renowned forensic criminalist and a quadriplegic, has come from New York City where he knows the environment to North Carolina, a massive culture and environmental shift. He has come to a notable medical center where promising surgery has been done on others in his condition with some improvements in their quality of life. Of course, with his condition, he never

travels alone. He is accompanied by his partner and lover, Amelia Sachs and his constant medical assistant, Thomas. While he is waiting through the pre-surgical tests and scheduling, the local sheriff turns up. He has heard that the famous Lincoln Rhyme is in town and he needs help. Two women have been kidnapped and a man has been killed. The whole town is sure they know who the culprit is. Garrett Hanlon is a sixteen year old boy, known as Insect Boy, for his fascination with insects. He is an orphan, his family having been killed in a car accident. His time in foster care has not been pleasant and he is suspected of many crimes in the area. Now he has disappeared with both a young college student who was on a historical dig and a nurse who was also in the area. Local law enforcement feels they need more expertise to solve a crime this complicated and they prevail on Lincoln. Restless as he waits for treatment, he agrees to give the local police force his assistance. Rhyme is at a disadvantage. He has left behind his lab, where he has every forensic instrument he could ever need. His expertise in items found in a city, not a rural North Carolina town with bogs and swamps and flora and fauna he has never encountered. Amelia heads up a search team and as she and the deputies go in pursuit, things get more complicated than either Rhyme or Sachs could ever have imagined. This is the third novel in the Lincoln Rhyme series. Rhyme is one of the most fascinating detectives currently being written about and the reader is easily drawn back into the world of forensic science and its role in solving impossible cases. There are plenty of the twists and turns Deaver fans have come to expect and a surprising ending. This book is recommended for mystery readers.

Love the Lincoln Rhyme series but this is not the best one. To make a crime story "work" the characters and their acts need to be believable. Usually, Deaver pulls this off effortlessly, but not quite this time. In particular, I found it very hard to believe that the normally straight-shooting Amelia Sachs would take an accused criminal boy under her wing and flee with him, away (!) from the police and away from her lover Lincoln Rhyme who works with "the good guys" in finding the boy. I mean, come on, Jeffery, you can do better than that. Also, twists & turns come with the territory (and in this genre are essential), but at the end, there are simply too many of them. As some other reviewer noted, a bit too much like a screenplay for an action movie. On the plus side, the story is original and there are a lot of perfectly acceptable characters flanking the Rhyme/Sachs team.

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