



When Darkness Falls

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In the latest novel from the bestselling author whom critics have called "the thriller writer to watch," lawyer Jack Swytek tackles a case in which the life of his best friend hangs in the balance—and in which nothing is as it seems.

Miami criminal defense attorney Jack Swytek isn't looking for a new client, at least not one who is homeless and in jail for threatening to jump off a bridge. But from the moment Jack is called to defend the man, who goes by the name Falcon, something is amiss. For one thing, Falcon comes up with the \$10,000 bail—in cash. Then the body of a brutally murdered woman is found in the trunk of the abandoned car in which he is living.

Panicked and on the run, Falcon takes Jack's best friend, Theo, hostage. They end up barricaded in a motel room, and Theo isn't the only one at Falcon's mercy. Jack must work with the cops and their crackerjack negotiator to free Theo and the other captives before Falcon decides he has nothing to lose by killing them all.

What Jack doesn't know is that Falcon has a much bigger agenda, and that there are people behind the scenes who will stop at nothing to keep their dangerous secrets. Thus unfolds a riveting, lightning-paced story, as only James Grippando can tell it.

When Darkness Falls Details

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From Reader Review When Darkness Falls for online ebook

Maddy says

RATING: 4.25

Most defense attorneys will tell you that many of the people that they represent are not innocent. In spite of that fact, they are sworn to provide them with the best possible legal defense. Miami defense attorney Jack Swytek finds himself in a real dilemma when he is assigned a homeless man known as "Falcon". He is certain that he won't receive his fees; much to his surprise, Falcon has no problem at all coming up with the required \$10,000. In fact, he sends Jack to Bermuda to retrieve it, at which time Jack finds Falcon has stashed \$200,000 in a safe deposit box.

Falcon had been arrested after threatening to jump from a bridge unless the mayor's daughter is brought to the scene. Once released from jail, he is implicated in the brutal murder of a woman found in the trunk of the abandoned car which he had been calling home. Panicked, Falcon takes Jack's best friend, Theo, hostage, along with two women and a man found in a seedy motel room.

Grippando takes us deep into the twisted mind of Falcon. Along with the police, the reader is never certain what he will do next. Will he kill one of the hostages? Will he be satisfied if the mayor's daughter, Alicia Mendoza, comes to talk to him? The motel is surrounded by SWAT teams and eagle-eyed snipers. Alicia's former boyfriend,

Vince Paulo, is assigned as the negotiator. There's a lot on the line for Vince, as he lost his sight during a similar stand-off. Alicia, Jack and Vince form a team who desperately try to figure out how to put the Falcon out of commission without harming the hostages.

WHEN DARKNESS FALLS is a suspenseful thriller that goes beyond action and provides a good look at the motivations of the various characters in the book, as well as portraying some of the political influences that are impacting the situation. I really liked Jack Swytek, who was a defense attorney with a conscience. In spite of the fact that he had an extremely unlikable client, he provided him with the best defense that he could and would not allow himself to use information about Falcon to barter with the mayor and others for personal gain. Grippando also did a great job in his depiction of Vince Paulo, who was only recently blinded and struggling with other people's reactions to him as well as finding a way to live a meaningful life.

In addition to the present-day situation, Grippando weaves in a sub-plot about Argentina in the late 1970s and early 80s having to do with the "Disappeared" during the "dirty war". The connections to the present day were a little too convenient, but do add another dimension to the narrative.

WHEN DARKNESS FALLS is the sixth book in the Swytek series. This is my first exposure to the author and the character. Based on how much I enjoyed this book, it won't be my last.

Sarm?te says

Sižets spraigs, un, j?saka, ar? t?ma ?oti laba.

Ellen says

Audio book read by Jonathan Davis who always does a great job. I didn't care for this book very much. I want to see Jack do more criminal defense work, not be involved in police cases where he is pretty much a bystander, in my opinion. Sure he starts out defending the character "Falcon", but then becomes involved in Falcon's craziness due to his past and hostage situation. These last two novels have not met my expectations of what a true legal thriller is.

Ashley Reading Stewardess says

The concepts I found most interesting in the book, was how Grippando based the circumstances of the plot and it's characters in part on the story of the "Disappeared's" from Argentina's Civil War as well as the idea to have a blind negotiator who's blindness was influenced by his own father's blindness due to macular degeneration. The race to discover the truth behind homeless man Falcon's past and his reasons for holing up in a hotel with four hostages while \$200,000 is being kept in a Bahamian Bank in his name was both intriguing and kept me reading without breaks in order to discover the frightening past of Falcon and the truth behind the Mayor's daughter's heritage. Having completed the book, I find myself interested in wanting to read more about the "Disappeared's" of Argentina, as well as take a mini vacation down to Miami for the beach and some good Cuban food. Well worth a read for those who like mysteries; and interesting enough that I may read more by the author.

bert-bobbi says

another great Jack Swyteck book ... for me, just the right mix of comraderie, mystery, action, etc.

Urs says

This was the first Grippando book that I have read, so Swyteck was a new character for me. This was a free read in three parts from the kindle store, but I waited for all three parts to be available before I started reading. I did not want to risk being left hanging.

From the book description, I thought that this book would have a more legal or sleuthing edge to it, but it was more of a thriller suspense read. However, there were not enough nuggets given to uncover the mystery during the first two thirds of the book. Because of this, the events from the first part of the book, although they involved the same players, just seemed like random events. The last third of the book, then, had an overload of information finally linking all of the earlier events together. When the last "thrilling" event finally ends, the book should have ended there. Instead there are about four more chapters extending the story out more than it needed to be.

The book was well written otherwise, and there were interesting parts in the book. Perhaps I would have enjoyed this more if I had read other books in the series. I cannot tell. After having read this one, though, I

have no plans to read any of the others.

Helen says

It started off a it slow, but was quite riveting by the end. Even though it's number 6 in the series, it's readable as a stand-alone. I did feel that as the main character, Jack was side-lined and became just one of the many.

Lee says

One of Jack's current clients, The Falcon, take his former client Theo hostage in a motel room and Jack and a blind hostage negotiator must try to save his life along with the other hostages while getting to the bottom of this disturbed man's inane ramblings.

Huda Sarkowi says

Goodreads needs to improve its rating system, because I want to give this book a 3.5 out of 5 stars, but I couldn't do so. The book is not that perfect to be given a round up of 4 stars, yet not that bad to be given just 3.

I like how the majority of the plot was actually revolved around a hold up situation, which means, it didn't dragged on from day to days. It also didn't felt like a rush, although I hate to say that the way it ended was anti-climatic and waste of adrenaline, actually. Here we had Theo, his life hanging by the thread, teased with death just hovering over him, and I expected a little bit of a fight from him to save himself, but no, it didn't happen that way. He just got lucky.

This book is mostly about a day in a life of Jack Swytek and Theo, so if you are expecting a mystery that is a little harder to resolve, this is probably not the one for you. But hey, Jack Swytek is always a breeze.

Carla says

Some murder mysteries are predictable. This one is not. The homeless character had surprising depth and a well-honed history which adds intrigue to this Jack Swytek novel. I am not reading them in any order, actually, and have not found that to be a hindrance.

Sue says

On the suggestion of a fellow reader (we both enjoy Harlan Coben) I entered the world of James Grippando. it was a fast and twisting read and I did enjoy it but not as much as Myran Bolitar. Will, however give him another shot in the future.

Val says

4.5 stars! Talk about a twisty-turny read!! I was definitely surprised by the end. It was different, having a book where Jack wasn't in the courtroom and, although I missed that part, the rest was so good that it was actually okay with me. This was one of my favorite Jack Swytek novels!!

Steven Bartley says

I enjoyed the story and thought it was a real page turner. Jack Swytek is one of my favorite characters.

Jerry King says

2007

Charlene says

Good book made greater by Narrator Jonathan Davis. Easy to follow and not too many characters. Hostage situation may have been to drawn out but finally wrapped. I'll read another Grappando book as long as it's narrated by Jonathan Davis.
