



The Final Silence

Stuart Neville

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In Belfast, Northern Ireland, memories of the city's troubled history haunt every street corner, but for one tortured soul, the incredible violence in his past is also his most cherished legacy.

Rea Carlisle, daughter of influential Northern Irish politician Graham Carlisle, has inherited a house from an uncle she never knew. It doesn't take her long to clear out the dead man's possessions, but when Rea forces open a locked room, she finds a leather-bound book. Tucked in its pages are fingernails and locks of hair: a catalog of victims.

Horrified, Rea wants to go straight to the police, but her father intervenes—he's worked too hard to have his brother's twisted legacy ruin his promising political career. Thwarted by her father, Rea turns to the only person she can think of: disgraced police inspector Jack Lennon.

Meanwhile, Lennon finds himself the lead suspect in a murder investigation led by one of the force's toughest cops, DCI Serena Flanagan. His implication in the murder, coupled with the story Rea has brought to him, leaves Lennon more than slightly suspicious that the two are part of a grisly conspiracy.

The Final Silence Details

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From Reader Review The Final Silence for online ebook

Susan Johnson says

Rea inherits a house from an uncle she barely knew. There she makes a discovery so explosive it would have a horrible impact on her father's political career. She calls her former lover, Jack Lennon, for help. Lennon is dealing with problems of his own. He is off the force, disgraced, and living with a girlfriend and his daughter. That relationship is quite rocky so he doesn't really have the patience to listen to Rea's fears. His mistake. Rea is found dead and Lennon won't stop until he finds his murderer.

The costs of the investigation are high. His girlfriend throws him out and he has nowhere to go. He is the prime suspect in her murder and has no friends. This is an intense thriller that keeps you on the edge of your seat. Lennon's disintegration is quite troubling and overshadows everything else. The book's ending was troubling for me in that I am quite concerned about Lennon's future.

I highly recommend this for those interested in a more complex mystery. It can be quite graphic but doesn't cross any lines. It'll keep your interest to the end

Chrissa Vasileiou says

3,5/5 αστεράκια.

Η πούψη μου για το βιβλίο στο "Book City". Πεπλό σιωπής

James Thane says

This is the fourth book in Stuart Neville's excellent series which is set in Belfast in the long and complicated shadows of "The Troubles." It opens with the death, by natural causes, of a haunted man named Raymond Drew. Raymond knew he was dying and indeed was anxious to go, but he did not have either the strength or the will to first clean out the secrets that are hiding behind a locked door in the house he left behind.

The house is inherited by his sister, Ida Carlisle, the wife of an ambitious Northern Irish politician named Graham Carlisle. Graham has been clawing his way toward the top of the political ladder for a good number of years, sacrificing anything that stood in his way, including his wife and their only child, Rea, who is now in her early thirties.

Rea never really knew her Uncle Raymond and only has very dim memories of him from a funeral that took place when she was little more than a child. She helps her mother pack up and dispose of the meager belongings that Raymond left behind and is thrilled when her mother tells her that her mother and father are giving the house to her. It needs a lot of work, but for a young woman who never dreamed of owning her own home, it's a tremendous gift.

There remains the problem of getting through the locked door upstairs leading to the only room that Rea and her mother were unable to get into. Ida assumes that the room is empty and that her brother closed it off

because he wasn't using it. But after her mother leaves, Rea forces the door open and stumbles onto a secret that will seriously disrupt her life and the lives of many others as well.

In the meantime, the life of former police inspector Jack Lennon is falling to pieces. He has left the police force in disgrace; he has alienated the one woman who believed in and loved him in spite of his faults and, worst of all, he is in danger of losing his daughter who is the only person he truly loves.

Years ago, Lennon and Rea Carlisle had a brief relationship and now circumstances conspire to bring them together again. It's going to be a fateful ride for everyone involved.

It wouldn't be fair to say more, but be advised: once you pick up this book, it's virtually impossible to put it down. The characters are well-drawn and engaging; the story is gripping, and Neville demonstrates here once again the truth of the old axiom that the past is never dead; it isn't even past. *The Final Silence* is a terrific read.

Γι?τα Παπαδημακοπο?λου says

Η φετιν? ?νοιξη με βρ?σκει βουτηγμ?νη στον κ?σμο της αστυνομικ?ς λογοτεχν?ας, καλ?πτοντας ορισμ?να κεν? μου, αλλ? και ανακαλ?πτοντας συγγραφε?ς που αν και τους ε?χα ακουστ?, δεν ε?χε τ?χει ποτ? ως τ?ρα να διαβ?σω κ?τι δικ? τους. Χαρακτηριστικ? παραδε?γματα, συγγραφε?ς των εκδ?σεων Μετα?χμιο, που με την αναν?ωση των εξ?φυλλ?ν τους, σαν να μας προκαλο?ν να τους διαβ?σουμε. Και μπορε? ορισμ?νοι να σκεφτε?τε πως ?λο αυτ? v' αποτελε? μ?ρος μια εμπορικ?ς παγ?δας, και ?σως να ισχ?ει και κατ? περιπτ?σεις, ?μως, προσωπικ?, θεωρ? πως κ?θε τι χρ?ζει αναν?ωσης, μα και προσαρμογ?ς, ?χι στη μ?δα, αλλ? στην αισθητικ? και το ?φος της εποχ?ς του. Και ?χι, ?πως βι?στηκαν να δηλ?σουν κ?ποιοι κακοπροα?ρετοι, οι εκδ?σεις δεν ?χασαν την ταυτ?τητ? τους, απλ? της πρ?σθεσαν μια πινελι? καλαισθησ?ας. Αρκετ?, ?μως, φλυ?ρησα π?νω στο θ?μα αυτ?, εν? το πραγματικ? μας θ?μα ε?ναι το "Π?πλο σιωπ?ς".

?πως ανακ?λυψα μετ? το π?ρας της αν?γνωσης του βιβλ?ου, το "Π?πλο σιωπ?ς" ε?ναι το τ?ταρτο -και τελευτα?ο-, κατ? σειρ?, βιβλ?ο της σειρ?ς με γενικ? τ?τλο "Jack Lennon Investigations", παρμ?νο απ? το ?νομα του κεντρικο? πρωταγωνιστ?, του επιθεωρητ? Τζακ Λ?νον, που σ?μφωνα με τον αγγλικ? τ?τλο του βιβλ?ου, καλε?ται v' αντιμετωπ?σει μ?α "τελικ? σιωπ?", με τον συγγραφ?α, προφαν?ς, να χρησιμοποιε? τον τ?τλο στα πλα?σια του λογοπα?γνιου, σημ?νοντας ?τσι ?να φιν?λε που καν?ναν δεν ε?χε ενημερ?σει σχετικ? μ' αυτ?. Πα?ρνοντας ?λα αυτ? ως δεδομ?να, δεν ε?μαι απολ?τως σ?γουρη για το κατ? π?σο ε?μαι σε θ?ση να κρ?νω απ?λυτα αντικειμενικ? και ουσιαστικ? το π?σιμο της αυλα?ας μιας ?τυπης τετραλογ?ας, αλλ? θα προσπαθ?σω να το κ?νω ?σο καλ?τερα μπορ?, δεδομ?νου μ?λιστα ?τι μου ?ρεσε, παρ? τις ?ποιες μικρ?ς μου εντ?σεις.

Η ιστορ?α μας περιστρ?φεται γ?ρω απ? τη P?α και μια φρικτ? ανακ?λυψη που κ?νει στο σπ?τι του θε?ου της, το οπ?ο και κληρονομε?, με αποτ?λεσμα να ?ρθουν στο φως ανατριχιαστικ? ευρ?ματα που μαρτυρο?ν δολοφον?ες, αλλ? και το ?τι η οικογ?νει? της ε?χε καλ? κρυμμ?να μυστικ?. Ανατριχιαστικ? μυστικ?! Η P?α, μην γνωρ?ζοντας τι ?λλο να κ?νει, καταφε?γει στη βο?θεια του Τζακ, που υπ?ρξε εραστ?ς της στο παρελθ?v, χωρ?ς ?μως να γνωρ?ζει πως τον πετυχα?νει σε μ?α απ? τις δυσκολ?τερες φ?σεις τη ζω? του. Και η δολοφον?α της, με ?λα τα στοιχε?α να ενοχοποιο?v εκε?νον, θα την κ?νουν ακ?μα δυσκολ?τερη. ?μως, αντιμ?τωπος με το τ?λμα αυτ? της ζω?ς του, ο Τζακ αποφασ?ζει πως δεν ?χει να χ?σει τ?ποτα, και με την αστυνομ?α να βρ?σκεται στο κατ?πι του, ψ?χνει να βρει την αλ?θεια μ?σω του ημερολογ?ου του νεκρο? θε?ου της P?ας, θ?λοντας v'

αποκαταστ?σει την αλ?θεια μα και το ?νομ? του.

Η αλ?θεια ε?ναι πως μου δημιουργ?θηκε η α?σθηση πως ε?ναι π?ρα πολλ? αυτ? τα οπο?α δεν γνωρ?ζω για τον Τζακ Λ?νον, και πως ο ?διος ?χει αντιμετωπ?σει καθ' ?λη την δι?ρκεια της πορε?ας του ως εδ?, π?ρα πολλ? θ?ματα, τα οπο?α κορυφ?νονται σε αυτ? το δραματικ? φιν?λε, με τον ?διο να περν?ει μ?σα απ? κ?ματα αυτοκριτικ?ς μα κι επαναπροσδιορισμο? της ταυτ?τητας και των θ?λω του. Παρ' ?λα τα?τα, ε?ναι μ?α απ? σπ?νιες εκε?νες φορ?ς που τα παραπ?νω δεν μ' εν?χλησαν, ο?τε με χ?λασαν τ?σο πολ?, αφο? ακ?μα και υπ? συνθ?κες ελλιπ?ν γν?σεων, σε σχ?ση π?ντα με το ψυχογραφικ? προφ?λ του κεντρικο? μας ?ρωα, η α?σθηση που αποκ?μισα σχετικ? με το ?τομ? του ?ταν η καλ?τερη, δεδομ?νων δε και των συνθηκ?v. Ο Τζακ ε?ναι ?νας εξαιρετικ? ενδιαφ?ρων χαρακτ?ρας, με κλασσικ? στοιχε?α κατεστραμμ?νης προσωπικ?τητας, ?χι ?μως τοποθετημ?να μ?σα σε μια πνιγηρ? τετριμμ?νη αφ?γηση που δεν αφ?νει περιθ?ρια στον αναγν?στη να καλλιεργ?σει συναισθ?ματα, συμπ?θειας ? αντιπ?θειας -δεν ε?ναι αυτ? το ζητο?μενο, ως προς το πρ?σωπο του ?ρωα.

Σε ?τι ?χει να κ?νει με την ιστορ?α, τ?ρα, ε?ναι αρκετ? ξεκ?θαρο πως ο Neville ?χει δημιουργ?σει μια μυθοπλαστικ? β?ση απ? το πρ?το κι?λας βιβλ?ο της σειρ?ς, την οπο?α χτ?ζει σταθερ? μ?χρι το τ?λος, διατηρ?ντας ?να συγκεκριμ?νο αφηγηματικ? ?φος που τον χαρακτηρ?ζει, ωστ?σο, εμπλουτ?ζοντας το κ?θε φορ? με κ?τι περισσ?τερο. Η ιστορ?α του "Π?πλου σιωπ?ς" ε?ναι μυστηρι?δης, τρομακτικ? στα σημε?α, ?κρως αγωνι?δης και κυρ?ως, μη προβλ?ψιμη, οδηγ?ντας μας β?μα β?μα στο μονοπ?τι εξελ?ξεων που δεν περιμ?ναμε, αλλ? και σ' ?ναν ανατρεπτικ? φιν?λε που μας αφ?νει με το στ?μα ανοιχτ? και διερωτ?μενους γιατ? δεν το ε?δαμε να ?ρχεται. ?μως, αν το καλοσκεφτο?με, αυτ? ε?ναι ?να μεγ?λο μ?ρος της μαγε?ας της αστυνομικ?ς λογοτεχν?ας, ?σχετα αν στις μ?ρες μας τε?νουμε να το ξεχν?με ορισμ?νες φορ?ς. Αλλ?, ευτυχ?ς, τ?τε ε?ναι που με μαγικ? τρ?πο βρ?σκονται στο δρ?μο σου συγγραφ?ς σαν τον Neville, με προσωπικ? ?φος και χαρακτ?ρα, θ?μιζοντ?ς σου, ?λλοτε περισσ?τερο κι ?λλοτε λιγ?τερο, ?λα αυτ? που αγαπ?ς.

Vichy says

Εκ των υστ?ρων δι?βασα ?τι ε?ναι το τ?ταρτο και τελευτα?ο βιβλ?ο της σειρ?ς. Ο Λ?ννον ε?ναι ?νας βασανισμ?νος και εξαρτημ?νος σε διαθεσιμ?τητα αστυνομικ?ς απ? τα προηγο?μενα επαγγελματικ? και προσωπικ? γεγον?τα της ζω?ς του που περιγρ?φονται προφαν?ς στα πρ?τερα βιβλ?α, ο οπο?ος βρ?σκεται μπλεγμ?νος σε μια ν?α υπ?θεση ως ο κ?ριος ?ποπτος δολοφον?ας μιας πρ?ην φ?λης του. Η αρχιεπιθεωρ?τρια Φλ?ναγκαν, που κι αυτ? ταλαν?ζεται απ? δικ? της προβλ?ματα υγε?ας φα?νεται να δ?χεται ως ε?σχημη λ?ση το Λ?ννον ως βασικ? ?ποπτο (πρ?γμα για το οπο?ο β?βαια δεν το κρ?βω με εκνε?ρισε). Ο Λ?ννον θα αναγκαστε? να β?λει τα χ?πια στην ?κρη και να δ?σει λ?ση στα προβλ?ματ? του... Αυτ? που ξεχ?ρισα ιδια?τερα στο βιβλ?ο δεν ?ταν τ?σο η ιστορ?α αλλ? το κλ?μα. ?ταν απ? αυτ?ς τις περιπτ?σεις που και το σεν?ριο να μην ?ταν δυνατ?, η αφ?γηση ?ταν νου?ρ, οι ?ρωες με μπαγκ?ζια, η κλιμ?κωση ψυχολογικ?.

Linda says

I cannot express how much I love this authors writing. I was blown away by his first book The Twelve, and each of his books since have lived up to the promise shown in his debut. I really think you must read all the books in order to get a sense of the main character Jack Lennon, although in The Twelve he was not the main

character, but the books have followed his progress since. All set in Ireland and all "Fast furious and good" to quote Ian Rankin.

Gloria Feit says

Stuart Neville's fourth and newest book to take place in Belfast, Northern Ireland, seldom lets the reader forget the history of that place, after the time of "the Troubles" and its history of paramilitary groups that proliferated at that time. Its opening pages describe the last hours, hinted at by the title, of Raymond Drew as he leaves the three-bedroom semi where he'd lived for the past 30 years, the first two of which were shared with "a wife he'd barely known, let alone loved. Dead and buried now, and he hadn't missed her for a moment." He walks along the edge of the river, where a woman and a dog walk past him, the latter "smelling the death on him. His and that of the others."

Upon Raymond's death, that house now becomes the property of his niece, 34-year-old Rea Carlisle, daughter of influential Stormont politician Graham Carlisle. As she and her mother start to clear the house of the dead man's remaining possessions, she finds an upstairs room inexplicably locked; she finds a crowbar and forces the door open, whereupon she discovers a leather-bound book lying on a table, the room's only furniture, and finds, to her horror (akin to that felt by the reader), pages filled with writings describing kidnappings, murders, and similar atrocities. Was her uncle the author of these pages? And for whom were these scenes catalogued, who the intended reader (for surely that is not Rea)?

The opening chapters alternate p.o.v. from Rea and that of disgraced police inspector Jack Lennon, her former lover now under suspension from the force, in denial of the PTSD from which he suffers since the events of a year ago. Lennon had been shot three times, killing his attacker (a policeman himself) and helping a murder suspect flee the country in the process, now seeking a medical pension (he lost his spleen and still is in severe and constant pain), so far to no avail. Lennon becomes a lead suspect in a murder investigation led by DCI Serena Flannagan, with 20 years on the force and going through her own personal travails, and things only become more complicated.

Each of these characters: Lennon, Rea and her mother, Ida, and Flannagan, is dealing with his or her own large personal issues, and the reader feels great empathy for each of them. The plot is ingenious, the pages fly, the ending unexpected. The writing is wonderful, and the book is highly recommended.

Maria Bikaki says

review to come

Cphe says

This is a solid thriller although I didn't feel it was quite as strong as some of the previous books featuring D I Jack Lennon. In this story Jack Lennon continues to fight his inner demons all the while attempting to solve the murder of a past girlfriend Rea Carlisle.

It's been a while since I read the previous Jack Lennon story but there was enough backstory relating to the previous book to jog my memory. This author is one of my favourites, and I always enjoy his Irish thrillers. There is a strong sense of time and place and the characters are always well drawn. I can't help but feel that the mystery/thriller component element wasn't as well presented as previous books. I hope in future that Jack Lennon's fortune starts to look a bit brighter.

Vasilis Kalandaridis says

Γρ?γορος ρυθμ?ς, ο Λεμον ταλαιπωρε?ται πολ?, μια ν?α επιθεωρ?τρια μπα?νει στο χορ? κι αρχ?ζει το ?ργο.

Agapi says

DNF. Το παρ?τησα περ?που στη μ?ση αφο? το π?λεψα για δ?ο εβδομ?δες (που μου φ?νηκαν σαν ?νας μ?νας). Μ?λλον φτα?ει το γεγον?ς ?τι στην περιγραφ? του βιβλ?ου σου λ?ει την εξ?λιξη της υπ?θεσης μ?χρι τη μ?ση. Με κο?ρασε μ?χρι να φτ?σει εκε? και αφο? τελικ? ?φτασα δε βρ?κα καν?να ενδιαφ?ρον και καν?να απολ?τως κ?νητρο στο να το συνεχ?σω.

Αδι?φορο. Και κλα?ω τα λεφτ? μου.

Bob says

I think my Goodreads friend Robert said it perfectly in just three words, compassionate and dark. For me, this is Neville's best book since his brilliant "Ghosts of Belfast." Lennon is the ultimate anti-hero, maybe the best since The Ginger Man, and way above...or below...the usual beaten down cop. The secondary characters are beautifully drawn, whether good or bad...and the first third of the book that sets the plot is quite absorbing and original. After a series of good reads, this was the one I couldn't put down. I really loved this book.

Andy says

Onto the final (?) chapter whilst its all still in the noodle..... (I think!)

DI Jack Lennon is his name, he of the series titled although not appearing until the second book as a by product of the first case involving Gerry Fagan who was the real star of the series for me. Much to like in the early going as its fast paced & the style pulls you forward into the story/plot, then before you know it yer turning the final few chapters. Its crime fiction so no spoilers or clues in this review but I did feel it ended a little too quickly & although a good read I would have liked a little more.... maybe that's a good sign..... although can't help feeling that the prior book was really the ending in a ways as it wrapped up a neat trilogy. This does introduce a new character & so maybe some mileage going forward plus there's one small(ish) theme to be wrapped up still. Either ways I'll be back for more from this writer.

Greg says

I gave this one three stars. It's a strong three stars though.

I didn't realize that this was the fourth book in a series. I have a feeling that there were too many spoilers contained in this book for earlier novels for me to go back and really enjoy them. This is kind of a shame. So maybe as a warning to others, this isn't the best book of Stuart Neville to start with. I should have done more research instead of just taking this book from a stack of free books in my apartment and deciding to read it.

To be fair to my own stupidity, I didn't realize that I was reading a book that was part of a series when I started it. I also didn't realize that I was reading a mystery novel. I thought that I just glanced at the synopsis (serial killer?) and part of the last name (Neville), and thought I was picking up a horror novel by Adam Nevill (didn't realize that was his first name, just remembered the Nev part of the last), and thought that as the first book I could pick to read just for fun in the past couple of months I'd try a novel that would be in the spirit of Halloween.

Opps.

Karen quickly set me right, and questioned my choice of reading the newest novel in a series that I hadn't read any of the earlier ones. She's smarter than I am when it comes to these things.

The book takes place in Belfast. A youngish woman inherits her estranged uncle's house and discovers a book in the house documenting murders. She gets freaked out, understandably, and contacts her parents. Her father is a rising politician who is eyeing a seat in Parliament in an upcoming election, he fears that any taint of scandal having to do with his family will kill his political career so he tells his daughter to do nothing about the book.

In a way this is like Anthony Trollope's *Phineas Finn: The Irish Member*, but set after the troubles, and involving brutal murders instead of minor social faux paus that could ruin someone back in the Victorian Age. It also has nothing to do with Land Reform, which was really the reason most people would want to read an almost 800 page novel, The Second Land Reform! Excitement at the highest level! There is nothing about that historic moment in British/Irish relations, but there is the aftermath of The Troubles, which maybe is a result of the Second Land Reform Bill, but my Irish history isn't all that great, and the one Irish History book I ever tried to read for school was boring shite.

The writing is crisp and good in the book. It practically begs you to keep turning the pages (isn't that the kind of thing you want from a book? Don't you hate when you get a book and you can't turn the pages?). For real though, the writing is good. The story itself is pretty good, maybe it just didn't turn out to be what I wanted (a serial killer novel where lots of people get chopped up?), so I can't hold my own stupid expectations against a novel, especially when I couldn't even take the time to check to see if I was trying to read something by the correct novelist.

My major problems with the book, which give it three stars, but a strong three.

The book felt a little uneven to me. The first part of the book was weighty in comparison to the rest of the book. There was quite a bit of setup going on, and it was great, but when the actual meat of the novel

comes it takes a slightly different turn than I was expecting and quite a bit of the set up felt like it was for nothing.

I feel like in a noir/hard-boiled/gritty type of mystery crime novel the words are at a premium, you don't want a lot of excess baggage. It's writing at fighting weight, all the excess poundage sweated away and leaving just what is necessary to get the job done well.

My second problem was it didn't feel like there was much of a mystery going on in the book. For most of the second part it felt more like the reader knows that someone didn't do the crime, the reader knows who did the crime but the lead investigator doesn't know these things and thinks that an innocent person did it. How will the innocent man prove his innocence? When will the investigator see who the real criminal is? (view spoiler)

I was enjoying the writing and the story, but it didn't feel like a mystery so much as an innocent man wronged and on the run type book. And having the feeling that I knew what had happened (because it's pretty much said, not because I'm some deductive genius) it felt like the story was pulling me along rather than driving me through the action. I don't know if that comparison works, but it was like being told and then this happened and this, and then this..... instead of feeling the story unfolding.

There were some unexpected parts to the book, and I did enjoy it quite a bit, maybe more than the three stars would suggest, but there were some structural flaws that made it not quite as good as some other noir/hardboiled/mystery/police procedural that I've read. In some ways it reminded me of the one Jo Nesbo book I read, but a quicker version of Nesbo for someone who wants to get through a book quickly and not get totally engrossed in the world of murder and mayhem.

David says

The fourth and most recent book in Stuart Neville's "Belfast Noir" series about Detective Inspector Jack Lennon. This volume definitely includes a fair amount of personal drama and spoilers from events in the previous books, so you'll want to start with the first (and arguably, the best) book in the series, *The Ghosts of Belfast*, and read on from there, rather than starting here.

The Final Silence delivers what I'm now coming to expect from this series - a gritty, satisfying if somewhat predictable mystery, an interesting cast of characters, and loads of police corruption and dirty Irish politics, where the Troubles have been over for years but everyone is still acting like they were yesterday.

Jack Lennon is now addicted to painkillers, and his relationship with his girlfriend is going into the dumpster. He's trying to keep custody of his young daughter, with her deceased mother's hostile family suddenly very belligerently trying to assert control over her.

The thriller plot is the daughter of a rising Irish politician discovering a secret in her recently deceased uncle's house. Turns out her politician father's brother was a serial killer, who kept a detailed journal. Naturally, her father doesn't want this getting out. So she talks to a cop she dated briefly, years ago - one Jack Lennon.

That gets Jack involved, even while he's fighting his own case as the force tries to suspend him and his ex's family tries to take his daughter from him. There are several twists, but one of the main focuses of this book

seems to be the introduction of Lennon's new boss, DCI Serena Flanagan, who apparently is the star of Neville's next detective series.

Flanagan so far is a rather stock character, the female cop who has to be a hard-assed bitch in order to hold her own in a testosterone-soaked police department. Her own personal dramas seem rather artificial, added to humanize her, but she does have some interesting moments and she's smart and hard-headed enough to carry a story on her own, so I'll probably check out her series and see if Jack Lennon becomes a secondary character there, as he's pretty much burned his bridges by the end of this book.
