



Secret Vengeance

F. Paul Wilson

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Everyone loves senior Carson Toliver, the captain and quarterback of the football team, heartthrob of South Burlington County Regional High—especially the girls. Even Jack's best friend Weezy has a crush on him. And unlike most of the popular kids at school, he's not stuck up. Jack even sees him defending a piney kid who is being bullied in the hall. Which is why Jack is so surprised when Weezy tells him that Carson took her on a date and attacked her.

Jack tries to convince her to report Carson, but Weezy would rather just forget it ever happened. She begs him not to tell anyone, and Jack reluctantly agrees. But then Carson starts telling his own version of what happened that night and suddenly everyone is calling her "Easy Weezy." Jack's concern turns to rage. Carson needs to be taught a lesson. With the help of the pineys—reclusive inhabitants of the mysterious Jersey Pine Barrens who have secrets of their own—Jack finds a way to exact secret vengeance...

In F. Paul Wilson's third young adult novel, the teenage Jack demonstrates the skills that will serve him later in life as the urban mercenary known as Repairman Jack.

Secret Vengeance Details

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From Reader Review Secret Vengeance for online ebook

Jeff Tate says

I was skeptical that Wilson could make a YA series out of Repairman Jack, but I really enjoyed this third book. It is probably my favorite because it harkens back to the first few books in the adult Repairman Jack series, before everything got overtly supernatural. The majority of the novel is just seeing the first glimpses of how Jack became "Repairman Jack" in his pursuit of justice for his friend, Weezy. There is a bit of interesting supernatural here and there with some fun cameos from future friends and villains, but the main focus is on Jack being Jack. He is a great character and Wilson is at his best when he lets the character be the focal point.

Next to Pendergast, Repairman Jack is probably my favorite character in a series. If you like Pendergast, you'll like the Repairman Jack series. Start with The Tomb (Adversary Cycle, #2) as it is a stand alone novel. Wilson never intended to create a series, so the novel is completely self contained. You can read it and move on without losing a thing. However, if you like it, and I know you will, you have 14 more books to enjoy. Almost all are great--one or two slight duds--but probably the most consist series I have read.

John says

SECRET VENGEANCE is rather more straight-forward than the other two books in the trilogy, and it contains less of the bizarre, X-FILES-ish component that I enjoy so much. Mostly, this novel tells the story of how Jack exacts clever revenge on a schoolmate for besmirching his friend's public reputation. But, while the events of the book feel relatively mundane as far as Repairman Jack adventures go, Wilson did such a great job of using the previous books to lay the groundwork for this story that SECRET VENGEANCE still feels like a satisfying payoff.

David says

3.5* rounded up. Another good read although not my favourite of the trilogy. This one was much more about young Jack and his development rather than the more out there, history of the world aspect. And now there are even MORE threads in this complex history which need to be gathered.

Randy says

The third entry in the Young Repairman Jack chronicles. These books showcase how Jack learns the skills and meets the people who mentor and aid him in his quest to aid people with no other recourse. And to learn he's not just an ordinary kid, though that's lesson it will take many more years to sink in.

Fourteen year old Jack's best friend Weezy reveals a terrible secret to him. She'd went on a secret date with senior Carson Toliver, quarterback and cock of the walk. He'd attacked the fifteen year old and she'd barely fought him off, running away and he'd left her alone in the Pine Barrens, that mysterious stretch of forest

where weird things happen. She didn't want it reported, just to go away.

But, as all too often happens, Toliver begins a campaign to smear Weezy, intimating that she jumped him in a haze of lust and soon students began calling her "Easy Weezy."

Jack knew the truth and decided Toliver was going to pay. He starts planning and executing a series of breaking into Toliver's locker at school (his lock-picking skills were quite good) and leaving surprises behind. It became quite the joke as Toliver goes through lock after lock.

But something else was going on. For every surprise Jack left, someone else left another: a dirty sock, a sneaker, a ring, and finally a pink hairbow. Each time Toliver snatched up the offending article, getting more nervous each time.

Sarah Mika says

The last book in the young adult trilogy about Jack's teenage years in Johnson, NJ. F. Paul Wilson clearly put a lot of thought into how Jack became into Repairman Jack. I like all the details, from how he learned to pick locks to his knack for earning money from unique jobs. The book has lots of inside jokes for people who have read the adult Repairman Jack series. Jack does several small fixes leading up to one big one, so the fun of the reveal happens again and again. Also, a favorite character from the adult RJ series makes a surprise appearance!

Brittany says

A great ending to the YRJ Trilogy. The reader really gets a sense of the prime principle that guides Jack's decisions in the rest of his adventures. Without this background, you could be tempted to think he's just a very idealistic (and lucky) guy, but this final book establishes the relationships and experiences he's had to shape the way he thinks about and views the world, and acts in it. I enjoyed this book the most because it has a very concrete and very disturbing plot (a "fix") intertwined with the more supernatural events that Jack encounters. Wilson's narrative - blending action with Jack's inner thoughts and decision making process - forces the reader's feelings back and forth, just like Jack's as he struggles with triumph and guilt over Carson's comeuppance. When I first finished the book I felt disappointed in not knowing what specifically happened to Marcie... but now that I've thought about it for a minute, having that mystery - that secret - stay hidden lets me imagine my own possibilities ... my own secret history.

Eric Bauman says

This is the third of Dr. Wilson's "Repairman Jack as a teenager" books (following "Jack: Secret Histories" and "Jack: Secret Circles.") These three books show how Repairman Jack was as a teenager, and fills in some background as to how he became who he is in Dr. Wilson's Adversary Cycle and the Repairman Jack series.

If you haven't read the Repairman Jack books, get with it, man! Sorry, for those who don't know who Repairman Jack is, he can't fix your washer. He is the man you call if you have a problem that cannot be solved by any other means. He sounds like the "A-Team," but he is one man and he is a lot more subtle.

In this book, his friend Weezie has finally won a date with the BMOC, the star high school quarterback, Carson Toliver. He takes her to a spot in the Pine Barrens, a mysterious million-acre stretch of trees in southern New Jersey on which their town borders, and there begins to attack her. She escapes from the car and flees the scene.

In school that next Monday, Carson begins to tell a different story: that she attacked him and he repelled her. Naturally, since he's the quarterback and she's just a sophomore sort of goth chick, his story is believed and soon people are calling her "Easy Weezie." This upsets her so much that she runs home and vows never to return to school.

This does not please Jack, and he begins a week-long scheme to thoroughly humiliate Toliver to make him feel like Weezie is feeling.

If you have read the other two books, some of the lingering mysteries from those books are answered, such as: why does Weird Walt always wear gloves, and; who is setting those leg-traps on old man Foster's property in the Barrens, and; why does Jack's mom call him her "miracle boy"? New mysteries are exposed and not answered, although they do tie in to other books (mainly in the Adversary Cycle).

Wilson's books are always pleasant reads, and the Repairman Jack books in particular are enjoyable. The three young-adult novels in this series are readable by older people and are fun and quick, but you do need to read them in order. So go pick 'em up.

Lloyd says

As I have mentioned elsewhere, Repairman Jack is probably my favorite fictional character. And these books about his teen life are just as fun to read as the later "adult" books. I'm only sad that this is the last of the planned trilogy of young Jack stories. I can only hope that Mr. Wilson will some day decide to go back and tell a few more.

I can still remember several years ago when I first decided to jump into reading F. Paul Wilson and told my wife about "Repairman Jack". She laughed at such a silly name and made goofy jokes. But...she tried one of the books and next thing you knew, we were fighting over who got to read the new F. Paul Wilson book first.

Since the large Secret History of the World saga is almost (once again) over and Jack's story almost finished, I'm looking forward to starting all over again from the first book and reliving this hugely entertaining saga.

Brent Ecenbarger says

The final book of the young adult Repairman Jack trilogy featured a few of the same problems as the first two books, but in a much more explainable fashion that didn't contradict what we know of Jack in the adult series. The result was the best book of the trilogy by quite a bit and one of my favorite books overall in the series.

Secret Vengeance picks up after the first two books in the trilogy, but aside from a reference to a guy giving Jack a reward for rescuing him this is a book that can be understood and enjoyed on its own. Instead of ancient artifacts and hidden underground cities, here the conflict revolves around a football player attempting a sex crime on Jack's best friend and the fallout of the incident. There are some side plots as well, one involving Jack finding out more about his dad's (and his own) history, and Weird Walt's possibly healing touch, but they take up less than 10% of the story.

The early Repairman Jack books were more fun than the later ones, as Jack is still actively involved in his "fix-it" business, getting revenge or consequences for those that deserve it. When his friend Weezy is slut shamed by the entire school based on her attacker's version of events, Jack makes it his mission to change the focus from Weezy to her attacker and also to make the football player miserable in the process. What starts out as a pretty minor prank (putting a fake spider in the player's locker) escalates as each day Jack figures out a new way to enter the locker and rig it with a new trap. The Piney kids (mysterious outsiders who live in the Pine Forest region) also take an interest in Jack's target, believing that he is responsible for harming a Piney girl as well.

While there's certainly supernatural stuff happening in this book, it is the kind of stuff that would be much easier for Jack to observe and still remain a skeptic when the adult book series begins. Weird Walt is sought out by a woman who says he healed her deformity previously and now she wants him to heal her baby. Jack watches everything go down, but nothing he sees (in this book) would prove Walt had any special abilities. Similarly, the other stuff that appears in the football player's locker each book is weird, but he has a host of Piney kids after him that could be messing with him as well.

Wilson also does some fan service and origin story filler here, by explaining how Jack meets his best friend in the later books. (More importantly, it explains why there's a character in the young adult books who speaks and acts exactly like that character.) There's also a run in with a character that will be familiar to readers of the Adversary Cycle or later Repairman Jack books, and some seeds laid for characters like Levi Coffin or the rescued man that pay off later on. Much more than the other prequel books, *Secret Vengeance* tells a satisfying story on its own that adds to the Repairman Jack canon, while not directly contradicting anything that occurs later on.

Carole says

This is 3rd in a series of young adult books which are part of the "Repairman Jack" saga--before Jack knew that he was special. I liked this one best of the young adult genre because it shows the beginnings of the development of Jack's talents and how he became the adult Repairman Jack. There are also appearances of characters which will become part of the main fabric of the later "Jack" novels. There are some supernatural overtones as with the later books--but all in all this is just a very entertaining read!

Brooklyn Teen-central says

In the book there is a boy named Jack who gets a letter in his locker saying there will be a murder with one of his friends and he has 48 hours to find which friend before the 48 hours is over. So he stays up late looking for which friend it is so he looks in the gym and he finds a hint about it saying that it is his next door neighbor. When he checks if he is there it turns out he is gone.

Next day he finds the neighbor in his garage it turns out it was a trick well thought out to capture Jack. The neighbor has wanted to do the very thing for a long time but Jack manages to escape before he is caught. This is a very captivating book. I recommend it to anyone who likes a little mystery.

Seth Tucker says

This is a great end to a fantastic young adult series. With this entry, you see Jack's thoughts focusing on the future and where his choices will ultimately lead him to be the man we discovered in Wilson's *The Tomb*. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and have come to love the characters. Even if you have not read Wilson's Repairman Jack novels this book is still a great read and I would recommend this series for anyone looking to purchase books for a young adult, where intelligence and cleverness are employed over violence.

Kevin Lucia says

Excellent end to the YA series, tons of Easter Eggs for loyal fans, but enough open spaces to invite new readers. Upon finishing the first book, all my students were insistent on tracking down every other Jack book written, and were intrigued with the idea of an adult Jack. Consider the YA series the "gateway" drug to the Repairman Jack universe.

Also, this series is one ANY teacher or adult would feel comfortable recommending for just about anyone. Jack is a real, believable kid - not a goody two shoes by any means - but he's honorable, just, and wants to do the right thing. Plus, these books are pretty clean, without being "lame". As an educator and a parent, a huge plus for me.

Critter Reyome says

Purportedly the final tale in the "young Repairman Jack" books aimed mainly at teens/pre-teens, this book is still very enjoyable for adults, especially with subject matter that is at times rather mature. Tough to choose between this and "Secret Circles" for the best of the Jack series, but you don't have to choose, read them all! And if you're reading the Repairman Jack saga (which you should), then you must read the Jack books to get the full story. For instance, you see exactly how and where Jack and his future armorer Abe Grossman meet. It's a very well done bit and hopefully will be expanded soon...more on this anon...

As previously noted, the Jack books really should be considered essential reading for RJ fans. Better still, as I presently read the intro to the "last" Repairman Jack novel, "The Dark At The End", I see F. Paul has another trilogy of stories planned to slake desperate readers, books that apparently will fit in between "Secret Vengeance" and "The Tomb". Well, good! There's certainly more story to tell, I imagine, and if it's as good as this, it can't help but be good news.

Michael T Bradley says

Oh, Good, F. Paul Wilson remembered how to write again with book three of this trilogy. Perhaps bordering

on the outskirts of YA territory, this book starts off with Weezy barely escaping date rape from Carson Tolliver. This spurs young Jack into action, seeking revenge on Carson, but in a way that doesn't point back to himself or Weezy. It's pretty awesome seeing Jack's mind start to work in the ways it will later (although the "final," agonizing test he has to go through to beat Carson was something I figured out as soon as it was brought up ... kind of a dud, but still fun to watch Jack try a lot of different, more arduous methods before realizing the "answer").

More fun with the Lodge (we get to see Drexler's view on the world, which I enjoyed), more secrets revealed in the Pine Barrens, more interaction with the pineys, and a hint that there's more going on beneath the thin veneer of normalcy than Jack expects.

It's so jarring going from one of these books to a later Jack book. I'm currently trying the ... adult "young adult" Jack prequel trilogy, and even there, so much has changed, yet Jack's basic character is still the same, and that's what we've all paid admission for, right?

A solid end to the trilogy.
