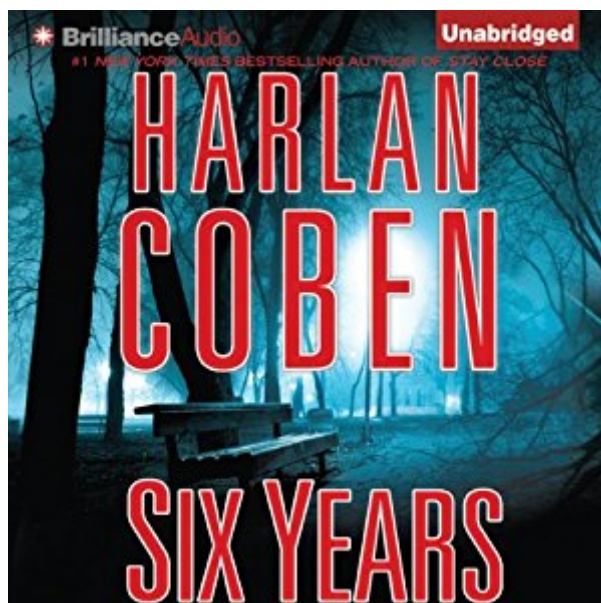


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Six Years



Synopsis

Six years have passed since Jake Fisher watched Natalie, the love of his life, marry another man. Six years of hiding a broken heart by throwing himself into his career as a college professor. Six years of keeping his promise to leave Natalie alone, and six years of tortured dreams of her life with her new husband, Todd. But six years haven't come close to extinguishing his feelings, and when Jake comes across Todd's obituary, he can't keep himself away from the funeral. There he gets the glimpse of Todd's wife he's hoping for...but she is not Natalie. Whoever the mourning widow is, she's been married to Todd for almost two decades, and with that fact, everything Jake thought he knew about the best time of his life - a time he has never gotten over - is turned completely inside out. As Jake searches for the truth, his picture-perfect memories of Natalie begin to unravel. Mutual friends of the couple either can't be found or don't remember Jake. No one has seen Natalie in years. Jake's search for the woman who broke his heart, who lied to him, soon puts his very life at risk as it dawns on him that the man he has become may be based on a carefully constructed fiction. Harlan Coben once again delivers a shocking novel that deftly explores the power of past love and the secrets and lies that such love can hide.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours 37 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: March 19, 2013

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00BJ5VQQC

Best Sellers Rank: #18 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Suspense

#101 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature #130 in Books > Mystery,

Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Crime

Customer Reviews

The plot is so complex, I can't even hint at it. There are grizzly murders, suspicious disappearances, and lots of people keeping dark secrets. There are gangsters of the most evil kind and some incredibly altruistic characters. The protagonist is a young political science professor who can't forget

the woman he loves, even though Natalie left him to marry someone else six years ago. He's a big guy and very capable in a fight, a capability he'll need to get through this book in one piece. When Jake discovers that Natalie has totally vanished, right off the grid, he starts digging even more. This attracts the attention of the bad guys, the good guys, the cops, and the FBI. The attention leads to no good. Jake spends every minute of this book either running from bad people or looking for good ones. I never quite got with the pivotal premise of the plot. But as with all Harlan Coban thrillers, the hero is a likable guy you can't help rooting for, the excitement never lets up, and the storytelling is masterful.

Six Years by Harlan Coben
How do you choose the next novel you read? My modus operandi varies. Sometimes it's word of mouth that leads me to a book. Other times, it is the recommendation of an author or reader that drives my decision. And, of course, there is always the old-fashioned "browsing" method that I use inside book stores. I discovered this author, and therefore this book, through completely unique means. I met him, liked him, and decided to give his books a try.

Six_Years Paperback
This is the third Coben book I've read, and I must say ... wow. Let me repeat that with a little more zest: Wow! Holy Bejeebus, thunder and lightning, what a fantastic novel!

THE CHARACTER
Engaging, endearing, and believable. The dialogue is crisp and frequently punctuated with Coben's brand of wit. His depiction of Jake Fisher, university professor who never stopped thinking about his "it girl," rings authentic and credible.

THE PROSE
Nice metaphors used throughout. Descriptive writing--flowing prose. He periodically injects his writing with insightful observations of people and situations. Again, as with the dialogue, the prose is peppered with humor in all the right places.

THE PLOT
Unique and intriguing, and in my opinion, it's plausible that this could happen. Every moment and event in the book is perfectly spaced, a time-release pill of suspense, leaving the reader in perpetual need to continue reading. The beginning intrigues, the middle keeps you turning pages, and the ending does not disappoint. The book brings together a diverse cast of characters, a complex storyline, and some suspense-filled events, and weaves them together tightly, like a fine Turkish rug. Coben has revealed, decisively, in *Six Years*, that he is a master at the suspense and thriller game. It's one of the best books I've read in the last several years in this genre, and I'm a Robert Parker fan of old, if that says anything. And, circling back to my first question ... how do you choose the next novel you read? For me, this time, it isn't so much the next book as the author. I'll be reading another Coben thriller. Keep on readin'~Bart

Reading this book is like watching a B movie. It is entertaining, but shallow. The plot itself is

fantastically implausible. A crime family that has detecting skills, staff, and technology that puts the combined capabilities of the FBI, NSA and CIA to shame is tracking down the hero's lost love. Fortunately, the hero -- Jake Fisher -- easily outsmarts these bad guys, although he experiences some bruises and abrasions along the way. Meanwhile, a secret society seeking true justice lurks in the background. I won't reveal more so as not to spoil the story. The character development is built on stereotypes: a man whose passion for his lost love hasn't diminished an iota after six years (hence the book's title); university professors engaged in nasty university politics; selfless truth-seekers who are willing to sacrifice their lives in order to see justice served; and sociopathic crime family members with infinite resources and lieutenants who are willing to sacrifice their lives to serve the Big Boss. Do I regret reading this book? No, for the same reason I sometimes enjoy watching Ronald Reagan and John Wayne saving America from the Japanese during World War II. I suspect, however, that my cultural IQ dropped a notch while reading the book.

Now I remember why I stopped reading Coben. This story line is beyond unbelievable and grows more absurd as the story continues. The happily ever after ending, in witness protection of all things (which doesn't make sense, but I don't want to spoil the plot twist by explaining why), was the real clincher in the one star rating. It sounds like a great thriller when you read the reviews but its more like a thriller masquerading as a bad love story. Skip this book. There are plenty of other good or even mediocre reads out there besides this one.

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