



The Garden of Betrayal

Lee Vance

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Manhattan, 2002: Mark Wallace has it all—he's married to Claire, the love of his life; they have two bright, beautiful children, and his is a high-powered Wall Street job. Until one night while on a neighborhood errand by himself, his twelve-year-old son, Kyle, vanishes, brutally snatched off the streets of New York.

Seven years later, Kyle has never been found. The loss, guilt, and mystery surrounding their son's disappearance have almost destroyed the Wallaces' marriage, leaving their daughter alienated and distant. Mark has thrown himself into his work—he is now an energy markets consultant for a private hedge fund run by the father of a friend—and, though successful, is living on emotional autopilot.

Now, on the same day that a natural gas pipeline in remote western Russia is blown up by suspected terrorists, a new lead opens in Kyle's case. When the very next day a colleague slips Mark classified information on Saudi oil production and then suddenly turns up dead, apparently a suicide, it remains for Mark, with the help of his technophile daughter and still-grieving wife, to find the sinister connections among everything that's going on. Their personal struggle is equally compelling—three people who must once again learn how to be a family.

Politically savvy, emotionally complex, and frighteningly believable, *The Garden of Betrayal* is a tense and timely imagining of the casualties of recession-era Wall Street gaming and the backroom global oil wars, a riveting, compulsive read that will grip you from first page to last. It also places Lee Vance on the level of today's best and best-selling thriller writers—Richard North Patterson, Christopher Reich—who not only thrill us but make us think.

The Garden of Betrayal Details

Date : Published August 3rd 2010 by Knopf (first published January 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9780307269775

Author : Lee Vance

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From Reader Review The Garden of Betrayal for online ebook

Sue Ansell says

Enjoyed the book as it had a lot of twists and turns. Sometimes got lost with who was killing who but only because I couldn't sit down and read the whole book in one sitting. Wish he had more to read.

Jacquelynn Fritz says

This is a good read which starts in 2003 when a boy, Kyle Wallace disappears. The book then jumps to 2010 where the new Russian natural gas pipeline is blown up at the opening ceremony. What this has to do with Kyle's disappearance, the Wallace family, the cop still trying to solve the case, and friends and co-workers of the Wallaces is a complex story of international political suspense.

Stefan says

The Garden of Betrayal is a well written thriller about political intrigue, personal drama and the dark side of Wall Street. The fact that the author is a former senior executive at Goldman Sachs makes the business and financial side of the story all the more interesting. Lee Vince makes a number of insightful points about American economic affairs, foreign policy and the geopolitical reality of the 21st century.

Edlira says

I loved both books of Vance. Both are financial thrillers with the second having more of geopolitical conflicts in it. Although the financial terms were complex, I liked the challenge and I presume it will be better the second time around as a read.

Vera VB says

It gives me the creeps to know what happens behind the scenes to earn money. Traders, financial institutions, lawyers and CEOs, they all play together to get the most out of it. Cheating, Lying, murdering, it's war for Oil.

Lynda says

A kidnapping is just a kidnapping or is it? That is what the reader and the main character Mark Wallace have to deal with in this book. It was very suspenseful, violent and complicated but a very compelling read. Mark and Claire's son Kyle disappeared seven years ago on a trip to the video store one evening. The case was

never closed. Mark receives some unanticipated information about Saudi Arabian oil reserves in relation to his job. While investigating the validity of the information, Mark discovers coincidences that seem to tie into Kyle's disappearance. There are a lot of characters to keep track of as well as political themes that will resonate with the reader.

Sarah says

A slightly more brainy thriller than some. Kept me interested, although in the end I was still a little confused about what happened! Bogged down sometimes in discussions of financial theory, but I would read another of his books.

Jacki (Julia Flyte) says

The adage is that you should never judge a book by its cover. The cover of this book suggests some kind of major action taking place in the field, together with a quote promising "rip-snorting action" that comes from a New York Times review (that oddly cannot be found on the New York Times website). My own experience was quite the opposite. This is a sluggish, overly complicated thriller which takes a very long time to get going and then becomes immensely silly once it does.

The hero is Mark Wallace, an energy analyst working on Wall Street. His teenage son Kyle disappeared seven years ago after being abducted off the street. Mark spent many years trying to find his son and still has a close relationship with the lead detective on the case, but his marriage is creaking under the stresses. Suddenly out of nowhere, the detective receives some promising new information on the case. At the same time, Wallace is approached by a woman who offers him some highly confidential information about Saudi oil reserves and there is a terrorist attack on an oil pipeline in Finland. Can there be some connection between all of these events?

Lee Vance is a former general partner in Goldman Sachs and his financial industry background is apparent: the details about Wallace's job and contacts ring true. However he is less accomplished at crafting a thriller with momentum. The first half the book is intriguing but very slow. The best thriller writers know how to hone their writing so that it carries you forward relentlessly. Instead the book took me several days to read and I never felt the urge to pick it up again. In the second half things do speed up, but then the plot becomes overly reliant on happy coincidences, new characters and unlikely revelations. There was the potential here for a much better book but it's been over-complicated and therefore gets bogged down in the need for back stories and explanations. I never felt even a shred of suspense or cared particularly about any of the characters.

Joseph says

This book has a depressing, though action-packed plot. It is appetizingly current in context. It reads as if written just yesterday and the review that drew me to read it suggested some of the content is based on true events from the author who is deeply entrenched in financial and consulting background related to the energy industry. Sadly the book is stained by expletives that snowball in the second half of the book. I finally had enough around page 250 but skipped to the end and happened upon the answer to the main question in the

book. Read at your own risk. Not worth the filthy language.

I did learn about Shuffle Chess from the book and the best advice-type quote was the following...

"You should buy a nice piece of land somewhere remote and stock it with goats. Goats are easy to keep and very useful. The meat can be eaten, the hair can be woven into clothing, and the dung can be burned as fuel."

Sara Townsend says

Energy analyst Mark Wallace is a Wall Street legend. Seven years ago, his son was kidnapped, and with no motive and no body, the case was never solved. The same day a new Russian pipeline poised to revolutionise the oil industry explodes, Mark receives a lead on solving the mystery of what happened to his son. Is his son's disappearance linked to the pipeline attack?

Author Lee Vance is a graduate of Harvard and a retired general partner of Goldman Sachs. He clearly knows his stuff regarding the world of finance and energy trading. However, to the uninitiated, the world of this novel can be difficult to penetrate.

The "human story" I rather enjoyed. Mark Wallace is a likeable and sympathetic character, and the pain he and his family have been living with since the disappearance of his son is well portrayed. But this novel is not just a human story – it's also a story about the cut-throat world of energy trading and global financial markets. And that story is much harder to follow, at least for someone who's not part of that world.

I finished the book, but I'm still not entirely clear on "whodunit", or why. The insider references are so deeply embedded, it's difficult for an outsider to pick them up. Anyone who works in the energy industry is likely to find it far easier to follow this book than I did. And they may well find they enjoy it.

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Bettie? says

walkies and workies mp3

Audio Length: 9 hours and 43 min.

Release Date: 6/30/2010

Narrator: Mark Deakins

Format: Unabridged

blurb - *After a stunning debut with Restitution, Vance makes a triumphant return: a whip-smart, fast-paced, and eerily timely thriller that ties the 2008 global economic meltdown and international energy wars to the heartbreak story of one family's loss and slow reformation.*

Manhattan, 2002: Mark Wallace appears to have it all - married to the love of his life with two bright, beautiful children and a job that keeps them all living in style - until one winter night when his 12-year-old son, Kyle, is snatched off the street.

Seven years later: Kyle was never found, and the loss has almost destroyed the Wallaces' marriage, as well as Mark's career. Personal connections have enabled him to recast himself as an energy consultant to the hedge-fund community. Now, on the same day that a natural gas pipeline in remote western Russia is blown up by suspected terrorists, a new lead opens up in the case of Kyle's disappearance. When a colleague slips him classified information on Saudi oil production and then suddenly commits suicide, it remains for Mark, with the help of his tech-savvy daughter and still-grieving wife, to find the sinister connections between everything that's happening.

Don Sparrow says

Lee Vance's 2nd novel is a financial thriller. An energy analyst for a hedge fund balances a family drama with an international conspiracy. The two plots are interwoven throughout providing intense suspense. There is very good character development of all the players. This is an intelligent gripping thriller; a real page turner. I highly recommend this book to all fans of this genre. I look forward to reading his debut novel "Restitution".

Ted Magnuson says

Kyle, Mark and Claire Wallace's boy disappears one night...No ransom notes, no body...Mark Wallace is an energy industry analyst...the man with a large scar running down the side of his face...Hmmm: who dunnit and why? This international thriller with a family cast of characters is a good read. As I write this, I think I see how all motives, deceptions, twists and turns of plot fit together, but you'll have to read it yourself to put it all together. Lee Vance was a Goldman Sachs trader, so his take on how negotiation, deals and betrayals work is New York smooth.

Shanlee says

Reader's Choice option at our local library (I'm a preview reader to help them decide what's on the list) and I enjoyed this. Listened to it as I drove, and read parts too. Enjoyed the tenor of the book and story line. Overall it's a way to educate people about energy/oil crunch coming up. Although I predicted plot lines, which is Not unusual for me, I liked the pace and writing style.

David says

The Garden of Betrayal is a financial thriller, with author Lee Vance using his background as a Goldman Sachs trader on Wall Street as an excellent resource for a well-researched and topical plotline.

The story hinges around the kidnapping of a successful and happily married Manhattan trader Mark

Wallace's son in 2002. Now seven years later and with the case never solved or closed, a new lead to the disappearance opens up. Seemingly unrelated, but on the same day, a natural gas pipeline in western Russia explodes.

From here the plot twists, turns and thickens as other financial analysts fall by the wayside in a recession-fuelled Wall Street as the sinister links that tie everything together are gradually exposed.

I haven't read a financial thriller in quite a while, and despite sometimes losing my way with the financial-speak, I found this book to be an interesting, enjoyable and intriguing thriller. I also enjoyed the human side of the story, with the devastation that a kidnapping brings to a family. It seems the financial thriller is making a comeback and Lee Vance certainly knows what he is writing about. If you enjoy a touch of Wall Street with your suspense then I recommend you will enjoy *The Garden of Betrayal*.
