



## Trust Your Eyes

*Linwood Barclay*

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Thomas Kilbride is a map-obsessed schizophrenic so affected that he rarely leaves the self-imposed bastion of his bedroom. But with a computer program called Whirl360.com, he travels the world while never stepping out the door. That is until he sees something in a street view of downtown New York City. Thomas's keen eyes have detected an image in a window...an image that looks like a woman being murdered.

Thomas's brother, Ray, takes care of him, cooking for him, dealing with the outside world on his behalf, and listening to his intricate and increasingly paranoid theories. When Thomas tells Ray what he has seen, Ray humors him with a half-hearted investigation. But Ray soon realizes he and his brother have stumbled onto a deadly conspiracy.

And now they are in the crosshairs...

## Trust Your Eyes Details

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Author : Linwood Barclay

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Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Fiction, Crime, Suspense, Mystery Thriller

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## From Reader Review Trust Your Eyes for online ebook

### CuteBadger says

Ray Kilbride finds his life turned upside down when the accidental death of his father means having to move back home to look after his adult brother Thomas, who has schizophrenia. Thomas believes he is doing important work relating the safety of the USA, but while studying a mapping website he thinks he sees a murder in New York. Ray is despatched to investigate – is there anything to be found, or is it all in his brother's head?

This is a really difficult book to review it would be really easy to give something away and spoil the experience for other readers, hence the sketchiness of some of what follows.

I've read a couple of Linwood Barclay's books before – his breakthrough *No Time For Goodbye* and the later *Fear The Worst* – so I thought I knew what to expect when I started *Trust Your Eyes*. Many of my expectations were met, among them a twisty plot containing unexpected surprises, realistic characters and enough crumbs dropped along the way for the reader to work out the denouement before it actually happens – though in such a clever way you don't immediately realise you've seen the key to the whole thing. But I would have to say that this book surpassed my expectations as I enjoyed it more and found it more satisfying than either of his previous books that I've read.

To call something a page-turner is a huge cliché, but I can't think of a better way to describe *Trust Your Eyes*. Once I'd started the book I just wanted to keep going in order to find out the truth about many things, not just the main plotline, but other aspects of Ray and Thomas's lives. I got a real sense of Barclay enjoying his writing and taking time to shape the book very precisely so that everything unwinds at the right speed and at the right time. I found it a satisfying read which didn't leave untied up ends or leave me wondering about what had happened – everything knitted together wonderfully into a pleasing whole.

I also got that wonderful sense of realisation when I picked up on the author's clues and cottoned on to how one particular plot strand was going to work out – a real light bulb moment, which in itself is very satisfying.

I found both Ray and Thomas likeable characters and thought the portrayal of Thomas was quite well done. Barclay shows him as a real person, who happens to have a mental illness, but who has more to him than that. Ray is what the world would call "normal", but we gradually learn that he too has his own issues and isn't perfect – in short, he's a real person. Most of the other characters also come across as real people you might have met, but there are a couple which are more cardboard-cut-out-like, however I didn't feel this was too big an issue and it certainly didn't spoil my enjoyment of the novel.

If you're looking for a well-plotted, clever and absorbing thriller then this is the book for you. I'd recommend it to anyone who has read any of Linwood Barclay's work before and to anyone who has not. *Trust Your Eyes* will grip you throughout, and when you close the book you'll feel you've had a great experience.

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### Beth says

I'm so glad to tell you that I finished reading TRUST YOUR EYES by Linwood Barclay. That is not a compliment. Here's why.

1. Have you ever read a book in which nothing happened until well after the 200th page? That's the first and biggest problem with this book. I could excuse other faults if Barclay had interested me right away.
2. Too many sentence fragments are throughout the book. Barclay likes the predicate. So he often eliminates the subject. This appears to be a deliberate technique, but I don't know why.
3. Although many authors successfully go back and forth in time, Barclay does it suddenly. So you don't know until you are a few sentences/paragraphs in that you are a few weeks back from where you just were.
4. Barclay uses too many tired phrases, you know, phrases like "He took two stairs at a time."
5. There are too many coincidences. Someone looking up at the right window at the right time is enough. But the god in the machine appears too often after that.
6. Two stories are going on, which is not a problem.

One story is about Ray and his schizophrenic brother Thomas. Their father just died. They're both grown men, but Thomas doesn't know how to care for himself or his home. While Ray figures out what to do, Thomas "works" on his mapping on the computer. When he sees on the Internet what appears to be a murder, it looks like something will happen, and it does, but it's slow. And Ray never adequately explains to the authorities that Thomas is schizophrenic, which is maddening.

The other story going on is about a woman named Allison. She gets in all sorts of trouble when she tries to blackmail a politician's wife.

The problem is that it takes too long for these two stories to come together.

7. Barclay seems to try too hard to have snappy dialog. It comes across as unrealistic. Too often the characters say things the way normal people wouldn't say them.

There are more problems in addition to these seven I cited above. In short, though, I am unhappy with this book. Even more, I am disappointed that I can no longer rely on reviews written by the person who gave this book a good review.

I won TRUST YOUR EYES through LibraryThing Early Reviewers on [librarything.com](http://librarything.com).

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### **Anne says**

Linwood Barclay is a hugely successful author. His back catalogue include his memoir *Last Resort*, a series of comic thrillers featuring the character Zach Walker and seven very popular stand-alone novels. The first of these stand-alones is *No Time For Goodbye* which was the single bestselling novel in the UK in 2008, and has been optioned for a movie.

Linwood Barclay's latest release *Trust Your Eyes* will be published in the UK by Orion on 27 September

2012.

Trust Your Eyes hooked me in from the first sentence, with a prologue that is intriguing and taunts the reader with snippets of what is yet to come.

Ray and Thomas Kilbride are two brothers and very different characters. Thomas spends his days in his room, memorising city maps from all over the world. He is addicted to the website Whirl360 - a site that allows the user to visit anywhere in the world from the comfort of their own home. Thomas does nothing but this, except eat, take his medication and make very infrequent trips to his psychiatrist. Thomas is working secretly for the CIA, and speaks regularly to ex President Bill Clinton .... or does he?

Ray is an illustrator, he moved away some time ago, but is now home trying to sort out the family home and what to do about Thomas after the accidental death of their father .... or what it an accident?

When Whirl360 throws up something suspicious looking in a random window, on a random street in New York, Thomas is convinced that there has been a murder. The Kilbride brothers find themselves smack bang in the middle of a deadly conspiracy game, being played out by some powerful, and very dangerous people

Trust Your Eyes is a multi-layered, complicated thriller, told in an accessible and totally uncomplicated way. The suspense is taut right from the beginning, the pace is furious, the tension is often unrelenting. There are enough red herrings thrown at the reader to start a stall on a fish market, and just when you think you've worked something out Linwood Barclay throws another spanner into the works. I certainly had every one of my theories blown way way out of the window as I was reading, which only keeps up the level of suspense right up until the very last sentence.

The different threads of the story are effortlessly tied together, the characters are scarily life like. The issues of mental illness is dealt with sensitively, yet conveys the frustration that can be caused to family members, and also the devastation at times

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### **Glenn Sumi says**

It's been a really hectic week, so I wanted to lose myself in an escapist (but well-written) thriller. This book – the first I've read by author Linwood Barclay, former *Toronto Star* columnist – more than did the trick. I literally couldn't put *Trust Your Eyes* down. It's the kind of book where if I found myself with an extra 10 minutes during the day, I'd crack it open.

Thomas Kilbride, who's been diagnosed with schizophrenia, has always been obsessed with maps. Now an adult, he spends nearly all his waking time in front of his computer studying the streets of the world's biggest cities via a Google Street View-like program called Whirl360. When he sees what looks like the image of a person being strangled in a window in a building in New York City, he and his brother, Ray, an illustrator, are intrigued.

Soon the two unwittingly get enmeshed in a series of crimes that involves a politician, his (view spoiler) and – probably the scariest character of them all – a former Olympic gymnast who's now a hired assassin with a thing for ice picks.

Ray is a witty, sympathetic first-person narrator, and his strained relationship with Thomas gives the book emotional ballast and genuine humour. Barclay's depiction of mental illness is sensitive and respectful. And

he easily slips into the skin of other characters – including a few unsavoury types – for a few chapters, making some hard-to-believe plot points palatable.

The film rights to the book have been sold. This will make a terrific movie. Actors will be hounding their agents to play Thomas.

Don't be surprised if, like me, you find yourself saying "One more chapter" until it's 3 or 4 in the morning.

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### **?Susan? says**

An interesting story of a man who is borderline schizophrenic/autistic who spends his days studying maps of the world similar to google earth where you get a birds eye view. One day he thinks he has witnessed a murder. When his brother try's to prove that it was not true the two of them are plunged into a high society conspiracy that may just get them killed. Lots of twists and turns and a good fast pace. I do recommend this to those that like light mysteries.

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### **Robin says**

While Linwood Barclay is popular in our library, he still deserves to be as best-selling as Harlan Coben (which is why I said Barclay is the Rodney Dangerfield of thriller writers). He sides more on the domestic side of weird goings on such as disappearances, conspiracies, and murders, and his characters are always likeable every day kind of guys. This will make you look at Google Earth in a different and chilling way.

This is due in September.

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### **Darcia Helle says**

The premise for this book fascinated me, and the opening pages sucked me right in. Barclay is, no doubt, a talented author and knows how to weave a good story. Unfortunately, this book didn't quite measure up to its promise.

The problems I had:

The pace is slow. The entire middle of the book drags, with information repeated and dwelled on so often that I had almost all of the plot figured out long before we got there.

Thomas, while an interesting character, struck me more as someone with high-functioning autism than schizophrenia. In fact, he reminded me of Gary on the show Alphas. The schizophrenia diagnosis felt like a convenient label to explain the need for this character occasionally hearing voices and didn't quite fit his personality.

The biggest problems I had were the timeline of the story and the POV choices. The journey took us through many transitions back and forth in time. They were unclear and left me trying to figure out where we were in the story. Also, during the first half of the book, certain characters' POV sections were written in third person

present tense, while others were written in third person past. Then there was Ray's POV, which was always first person past. The transition didn't flow well and didn't seem to have anything at all to do with the time frame for events. Then, suddenly, all the third person present tense went to past tense. I couldn't understand the need for the present tense POV and found it jolting each time.

The big twist at the end didn't have the impact it could have. All the hints and rehashing of facts throughout the book had already led me to the same conclusion.

In the end, this book had enough substance to keep me reading, but didn't live up to its potential.

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### **Tony says**

TRUST YOUR EYES. (2012). Linwood Barclay. \*\*\*\*.

I don't remember for sure, but I think I read a review of this thriller in Marilyn Stasio's column in the New York Times Book Review. This is the first encounter I've had with this author, and I almost put it back into my library book bag when I realized it was 498-pages long. Another turn-off was the one-word blurb on the front cover from Stephen King: "Riveting." This could have referred to the length or the weight of the book based on King's typical output. Anyway...I started to read the first few pages. Then I kept on reading. Two days later, I had finally finished. It's not a great book, but it is a top class example of what a thriller should be. It delivers all of the suspense and turnarounds that you expect (or don't) that keep the plot moving forward and the reader guessing as to what might happen next. The story is about two brothers. The older brother, Ray, is a freelance graphic artist who lives in Vermont, the younger brother, Thomas, is mentally challenged in a special way, and lives with his father in a small town in upstate New York. The two come together when their father is killed when his lawn tractor rolls over on him while he is mowing a hill. We learn that Thomas rarely leaves the house and had depended heavily on his dad for normal every day things, like fixing meals, cleaning up, etc. He spent his time in front of his computer working with a program called "Whirl360," a program that allows the user to travel the streets of most cities of the world – street by street – in a methodical way, much like some of the Google programs that are out there now. Thomas is systematically working his way through the cities of the world and memorizing their layout because he believes that he will be the only resource left when some apocalyptic event occurs that will knock out all paper and computerized maps. He will be the go-to guy who will be able to work with the U.S. forces to give them directions when they need them for the upcoming conflicts. He has undertaken this task as a supposed employee of the CIA. His intermediary with that organization is ex-President Bill Clinton, whom he talks with by phone or, sometimes, through some telepathic medium. While following the street outlines for New York City one day, Thomas sees what looks like a head in a window in one of the buildings. It looks like the head is encased in a plastic bag, and is being suffocated. Is he seeing an actual murder that occurred when the Whirl360 truck was passing by? He finally convinces his brother Ray to go to New York to see if he can find out what happened at that apartment when the photo truck went by. That's when all Hell breaks loose, and the bodies begin to fall like the proverbial dominoes. From that point on, you forget that there are 498 pages ahead of you, and just keep turning them. I'll have to look for more of Mr. Linwood's books, but I'll probably check the number of pages first. Recommended.

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### **Delee says**

3.5

Anyone who has seen my book recommendation request list would know I am a big fan of novels that have the main character witnessing a crime/murder through a window. One of my favorite books from my early teens was "The Undertaker's Gone Bananas" by Paul Zindel, and as I got older, Cornell Woolrich's short story "It had to be Murder" (Rear Window) was added to my favorites list- Rear Window is also in my top ten movies list-Hitchcock one of my favorite directors...So when I saw reviews of TRUST YOUR EYES and spotted comparisons to Rear Window, and Hitchcock's name thrown out there, I knew this was a book I had to read.

Ray Kilbride- comes home for his father's funeral, and gets more than he bargained for. He knew it wasn't going to be a quick visit, because Ray's brother, Thomas needs someone to look after him now that their dad is gone.

Thomas Kilbride- has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, and he is a bit of an Agoraphobe. When he is not sleeping or eating breakfast lunch and dinner, he is in front of his computer memorizing everything he sees. The computer program Whirl360 lets him travel from city to city never having to leave the house. It is on this program that Thomas spots something rather strange-it looks like a person with a plastic bag over their head. When he finally shows his brother the image, Ray doesn't know what to think, but he travels to New York City anyways to check out the address, and opens a can of Whoop-Ass into both their lives.

[image error]

I enjoyed TRUST YOUR EYES for the most part. I especially loved the relationship between Thomas and Ray (I was reminded of Rain Man quite a few times with their bickering back and forth). There were a couple of teeny weeny little problems I had- One being a few too many side plots going on, and the other was in the very last paragraph. The ending took this from being a solid four star rating-to a 3.5 for me, but I am sure it won't be an issue for most readers.

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### **Christa says**

Trust Your Eyes was a compelling book with some twists and turns. The characters were very interesting, the storyline was fast paced and kept me thinking, and I really liked the way all of the different angles of the storyline came together. I thought this was a very clever book.

Ray Kilbride returns home to Promise Falls, New York after the death of his father to put affairs in order. He has some decisions to make about his younger brother Thomas, as he is schizophrenic, spends all day in his room on his computer, and has never been expected to take care of himself or anything in the household. Shortly after Ray's arrival, Thomas sees something terribly disturbing online and sends Ray to investigate it. This causes them to become caught up in a scandal involving politics, blackmail, and a number of brutal murders. As they innocently become embroiled in this, secrets of their own family begin to come to light.

I really liked Ray Kilbride, and thought Julie McGill made a good counterpart for him. Thomas was a very interesting character. I liked the action and thought there was plenty of suspense as well. I found parts to be

surprising, and I thoroughly enjoyed the book.

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### **Kirsten says**

Wow! Quite a page-turner!

This is basically an updated Rear Window, but without Grace Kelly. The book also reminded me of Daniel Palmer's thriller Delirious, except it was much better.

Like Delirious, you have two brothers, one mentally ill, and the other trying to deal with that.

The plot of witnessing a murder via a website similar to Google Earth was interesting. I've looked and seen pictures on Google Earth where you can see people and dogs in yards, so I can see how this would work.

The mentally ill brother seems to have some high functioning syndrome/conditions that allows him to do amazing things with his brain, but he has a hard time managing his place in society.

The ending was especially satisfying. So many authors are excellent on the build-up but just can't stick the landing. (LOL! Considering one of the characters that was quite an appropriate analogy.)

I highly recommend this book. I read it in 2 sittings. It would be a great book for a rainy afternoon.

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### **Michelle, the Bookshelf Stalker Queen of the Undead says**

Read my mini review here...

<http://badassbookreviews.com/michelle...>

Or below...

Trust Your Eyes by Linwood Barclay was such an unexpected pleasure. Unexpected because I have a tendency of figuring out the mystery in mystery novels. It is rare when I can be fooled by the ending in a good mystery novel. I usually see the twists early on. That's why books like Trust Your Eyes are such a rare treat. This book had me fooled over and over again. It was so unique in its storyline and the plot twists had me actually rereading parts of the book in amazement. Barclay absolutely won me over. In fact, I ended up downloading two of his other novels right after finishing this one.

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### **Freda Malone says**

Another Promise Falls novel so riveting, you just can't put it down. The blurb says it all. Tons of twists and turns, red herrings, strong characters as well as villains with an explosive end that leaves you so stunned you can't think straight. I LOVE this author, I can't say it loud enough. Another favorite this year.

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## **Kevin says**

Thomas Kilbride is a map-obsessed schizophrenic so affected that he rarely leaves the self-imposed bastion of his bedroom. But with a computer program called Whirl360.com, he travels the world while never stepping out the door. That is until he sees something in a street view of downtown New York City. Thomas's keen eyes have detected an image in a window...an image that looks like a woman being murdered. Thomas's brother, Ray, takes care of him, cooking for him, dealing with the outside world on his behalf, and listening to his intricate and increasingly paranoid theories. When Thomas tells Ray what he has seen, Ray humors him with a half-hearted investigation. But Ray soon realizes he and his brother have stumbled onto a deadly conspiracy.

And now they are in the crosshairs...

Linwood Barclay has fast become one of my favorite authors. An interesting and fun thriller.

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## **Arah-Lynda says**

Stephen King says it best. *My idea of a sweet ride is three days of rain, a fridge filled with snacks, and a new Linwood Barclay.*

Right on. I picked this one up at the beginning of my last weekend. I just happened to be in my sweet spot.....ready to select my next read.

King also said that it's a tale Hitchcock would have loved and once again, he is spot on.

I have come to think of Barclay's books as domestic thrillers. These things could happen to you or me. Today or tomorrow. This one is top notch!

It is the story of two brothers; one, Thomas, is a map- obsessed schizophrenic with a computer and a program that leads him through the streets of this world. His brother, Ray, has just returned home to deal with their father's recent, accidental death and hopefully to bond and work with Thomas so as to forge a plan for Thomas's future care.

But while Thomas is sitting at his computer, clicking and trolling streets in New York City, he sees an image in a window. An image that looks like a woman being murdered. And so it begins.....

Riveting, Thrilling, Suspenseful, Gripping, Accessible..... Yes, Yes, Yes and yes. Still for me the first word that comes to mind is ENTERTAINING!

HUGELY SO

I'm getting me another Linwood Barclay.

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### **Diane S ? says**

There are parts of this story that I liked better than others. Loved the two brothers and the modern day take on Rear Window, this was a very clever device on the part of Barclay. Using a schizophrenic really added to this story and I enjoyed the map meanderings by this brother. I think in part the author added to many elements to this story, too many different plots, which made some of them not very believable to me. Do love this author and his writing style and look forward to his next book.

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### **Gram says**

A decent thriller, but I struggled with it, especially the back-story about brothers Thomas and Ray and the death of their father. The usual twists and turns to be expected in a Linwood Barclay story were all there and there's an almighty sting in the tail. Not my favourite Linwood Barclay book and it should have been trimmed from the 500 plus page read, but after a sluggish start, the action really rattles along.

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### **Louise says**

#### **TRUST YOUR EYES (LINWOOD BARCLAY)**

Story Description:

Doubleday Canada|September 4, 2012|Trade Paperback|ISBN: 978-0-385-66957-3

Thomas Kilbride is a map-obsessed schizophrenic so affected that he rarely leaves the self-imposed bastion of his bedroom. But with a computer program called Whirl360.com, he travels the world while never so much as stepping out the door. He pores over and memorizes the streets of the world. He examines every address, as well as the people who are frozen in time on his computer screen. Then he sees something that anyone else might have stumbled upon – but has not – in a street view of downtown New York City: an image in a window. An image that looks like a woman being murdered.

Thomas's brother, Ray, takes care of him, cooking for him, dealing with the outside world on his behalf, and listening to his intricate and increasingly paranoid theories. When Thomas tells Ray what he has seen, Ray humours him with a half-hearted investigation. But Ray soon realizes he and his brother have stumbled onto a deadly conspiracy. And now they are in the crosshairs.

My Review:

Thomas Kilbride, a man with schizophrenia witnesses an attempted murder on a website called Whirl360.com. Thomas memorizes street names from cities around the world which is how he stumbled upon this scene. He is so upset that he convinces his brother, Ray, who looks after him to investigate. Thinking he is placating and humouring, Thomas, they both soon learn that getting involved was huge mistake and now their lives are at stake.

Trust Your Eyes is a thrilling rollercoaster ride that you won't want to get off. The thrills, suspense, and intrigue just keep coming and coming. As usual, Linwood Barclay, has penned a stupendous novel! This is a

keeper that I'd like to read again just to experience the thrills a second time around.

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### **E. says**

I'll admit, it took me a while to sort out all the characters and their story lines, but once it happened this book really took off. The way the different situations began to intersect and relate to each other was hugely entertaining.

There were several times I was gasping and laughing simultaneously.

Great characters, interesting twists (and lots of them) and an ending that was surprising.

This one hit all my criteria for five stars. I'm off to another Linwood Barclay right away!

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### **Bill says**

The best Linwood Barclay novel I've read so far.

I had read three of his before, No Time for Goodbye (4 stars), Never Look Away (3 stars) and Too Close to Home (3 stars).

No Time for Goodbye was very good and I was excited to have a strong start with an author who was new to me. But the next two were a bit short off the mark: Too Close to Home got a little too long in the tooth and convoluted towards the end, and Never Look Away? I had some major issues with the last 50 pages that bugged me so much I was hesitant to read him again. That was four years ago.

One thing about all of those novels though: Noone can lay out a plotline like this guy. The best parts of his books are for the first half or so, wondering where the heck things are going to go and what is going to be revealed.

Lately I noticed his Promise Falls trilogy was getting a lot of love and he's back in the spotlight again with his latest novel.

I had been planning on reading Trust Your Eyes for a while and I was at the point where I was having a difficult time choosing from my to-read pile. So I picked it.

And devoured every. last. word.

Like his other novels, again the plotline is trawled out brilliantly and again, you're wondering where the heck he's going to take you.

There is a lot of dialogue in this story, which really moves things along at a brisk pace, and some of his character development is fantastic, particularly Thomas.

Any misgivings that I had had with the previous two novels were completely dashed by this one. It's a terrific plot that stayed strong right up until the last page, with some characters behaving badly but believably. I hated putting this one down for any length of time and couldn't wait to pick it up again. It's a perfect vacation read (I wish I had started it earlier than the last day of mine!) so highly recommended.

This was stellar entertainment. What more do you want?  
Five stars, easy.

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