



Final Venture

Michael Ridpath

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Michael Ridpath knows how to follow the money, something he did quite successfully in his previous financial thriller, *The Market Maker*. In *Final Venture*, his protagonist is Simon Ayot, a likable young British associate at Revere, a venture capital company whose senior managing partner, Frank Cook, is also Simon's father-in-law. Simon has just pulled off a major coup for the firm, so when Frank abruptly denies a life-or-death round of further investment in NetCo, Simon's most promising high-tech client, he's completely surprised. Could it be that Frank believes the rumors floating around that Simon's been having more than business meetings with a woman in the firm? Vowing to dispel the rumors and change Frank's mind about dumping NetCo, Simon goes to the Marshes, Frank's country house, only to find him murdered. The police don't believe Simon's alibi, and soon even Lisa, his wife, is suspicious.

Meanwhile, the firm is still reeling from Frank's death. Its biggest investment in BioOne, a biomedical research firm, is in trouble, and Simon's attempts to get to the bottom of it reveal a corrupt link between Revere, BioOne, and the pharmaceutical company where Lisa is employed, which suddenly becomes a takeover target. Ridpath does a good job of explaining the arcane details of venture capital financing, but makes little of his setting (Boston) and even less of character motivation. In the absence of enough evidence to arrest Simon, it's difficult to believe that Lisa would suddenly turn on her brand-new husband, and her lack of insight concerning her own father's private life seems strange in light of their supposed closeness. The writing is sometimes clumsy, but readers interested in the intricacies of high finance in the venture capital market will find this a good primer on the subject. --Jane Adams

Final Venture Details

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From Reader Review Final Venture for online ebook

Dave Weiss says

This book was different than the cover art suggested (I got it straight to the Kindle and so I didn't see the cover notes and just dug in). I expected Sci-Fi and got more of suspense, thriller, who-dun-it. I must say I was not disappointed. It's a book that holds your attention and it is well written. It was a fairly quick read for a book its size, which says something about its content as well. Overall, I enjoyed this one.

David Highton says

I had not read a Ridpath novel for nearly 20 years - this one continued his theme of writing financial thrillers. This time an Englishman based in Boston Venture Capital is the centre of the story, as his world starts to fall apart. The narrative maintains a strong momentum all the way through and I found I read it very quickly, always a sign that the pace of the book has got me caught up in the story.

Wendell H Howell says

Good Read

I learned more about be venture capitalism then I ever thought I would. I had to wonder about some seemingly lapsed in thinking, i.e., why the gun found in their home did not immediately strike them as a key clue.

Angela Kitchen says

DNF... no plot really

Ron says

A very enjoyable and intelligent mystery read. I'm glad I found this author. I will read more of his work.

?? Carmen the Bootyshaker Temptress ?? says

I really enjoyed the mix of the financial and bio-tec worlds. This book had a few twist to it and it was a well written story and characters.

Stuart says

Not my usual reading genre but ok.

Karen says

A pretty enjoyable book that was free in the kindle store. It was listed as a thriller, and although there were a few touch and go moments, some blood and a murder or two that needed solving, it was missing those blood-curdling, nail biting, hold-your-breathe moments that most thrillers have. I rather liked that. Simon Aoyt, a venture capital associate, becomes the primary suspect in the murder of his father-in-law which causes marriage and work problems.

3 1/2 stars...still rounding up. :)

Ira Joel Herson says**Well written who done it.**

I enjoyed the mix of financial world with the biotechnology world. There were lots of twists and the characters are well developed. A good read.

Gin Hunt says**REALLY, REALLY GOOD READ!**

At the very beginning I wasn't absolutely sure about this book but by the third chapter I was hooked and ended up finding it very hard to put down. The characters and the story line are done so well it not only puts you in the story experiencing it the characters themselves become like family. I'm still thinking about them and would love to read more stories featuring these people and the businesses they are in. This is a definite winner and the kind of book that makes you want to read everything by this author which is exactly what I'm going to go look into. Get this book-you'll be highly entertained as you transport to their world of investments, pharmaceutical morals, life choices and a great thrilling mystery. :)

HIGHLY RECOMMEND!!! :D

kathy says

Excellence is always expected of Michael Ridpath! And he delivered!

Beth Gibson says

I really enjoyed this book. There were a couple things that felt a little odd. The British spellings and terms in a book set in the U.S. was a bit strange. When its in dialog, fine, it's a British character, but otherwise I would have preferred it to stick to American English. I also felt the writer didn't explain well enough Simon's background of how he came to be in the position he was or why he was in America. This could have been set up better, especially if Simon turns into a recurring character.

Otherwise, I enjoyed this interesting story about the world of finance and how desperate one can get to "make it." The reason for the deaths was pretty easy to guess early on but the perpetrator wasn't. All the loose ends were neatly tied up. It was interesting considering this was written when the internet was not nearly as sophisticated as it is today, so it was interesting to see detective work being done in the streets and not behind a computer. I agree with other reviewers who did not like the wife, her reactions were way out of proportion. The other characters, especially Simon, were really good. Likely I would enjoy other books from this writer.

Asha Stark says

Took a few chapters for Ridpath to find his stride here, but once he did it was fine. The very end felt a bit cobbled together, but overall it was enjoyable.

Nicki says

Well written

I sure didn't see that ending until the end. The story was well done. The wife was not overly likeable but Simon was a fantastic character. I enjoyed the book.

Dave says

This was an entertaining murder mystery told from the point of view of the prime suspect, who is striving to prove he didn't do it. The plot involves a venture capital firm and several of the start-ups they have financed. The author does a good job of presenting multiple alternative killers, and our hero doggedly tries to figure out which of them did it, all the while figuring prominently in the police detective's sights. The writing was good, and I was not able to guess 'whodunit' before the protagonist did. This was a very good read and I'd like to read more by Ridpath.
