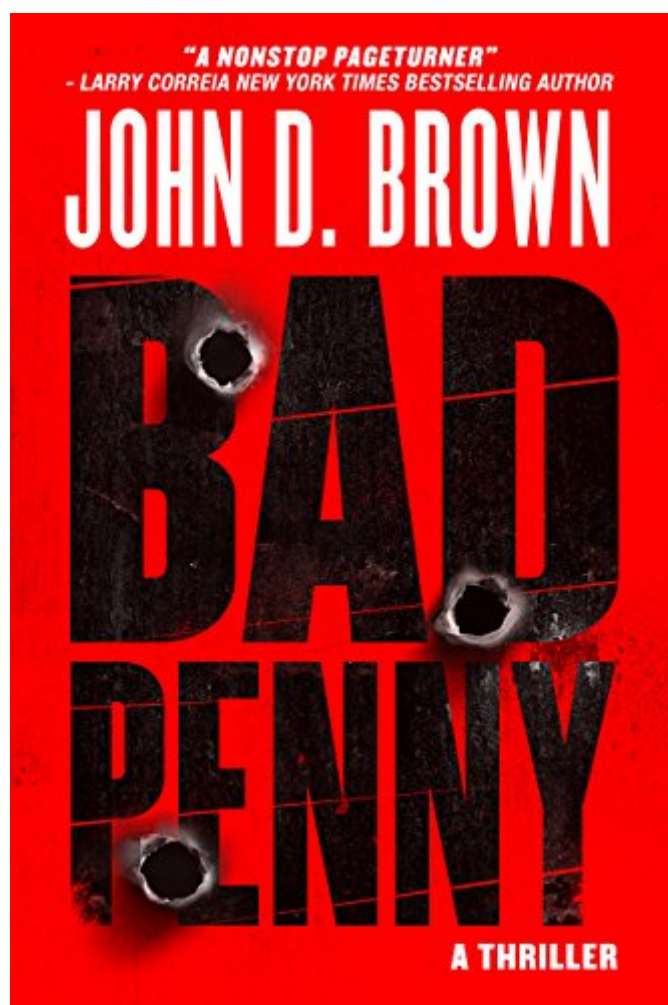


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Bad Penny (Frank Shaw Book 1)



Synopsis

Frank, an Army Special Forces vet, screwed up, went to prison, and is now out, living in small-town Wyoming and trying to go straight. But then some old "friends" from the big house come to collect on a favor, and everything goes totally nuts, forcing Frank to go outside the law to save the one thing he cherishes most. Frank debuts in this fast-moving, action-packed, roller-coaster of suspense from John D. Brown. Fans of Lee Child, Robert Crais, and Burn Notice will be delighted by the action, characters, and high-stakes twists.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I picked up this book for a little light reading over Christmas break and couldn't put it down. John Brown does a great job with pacing and paints a descriptive, realistic story along the way. I like that he describes enough of the scenery and situation to invite you into the story, but not so much that you get too anxious to move along with the plot. I also really appreciate his efforts to keep it appropriate. The book addressed some mature themes and I realize there could be worse language in a real life situation, but his descriptions are suitable for teens and appreciated by adults who don't

like skimming through crude language and sordid details. It also shows his skills as an author and wordsmith. The other thing I really enjoyed were the great quirky characters and witty banter that diffuse some pretty tense situations and provide needed comic relief for the reader. John's imagination and knowledge about real life situations combine perfectly for page-turning storytelling at its best!

I have read a few Dean Koonz and Clive Cussler novels, but I am not a regular action-adventure reader. I picked up this book because I loved John Brown's fantasy novel "Servant." This novel exceeded my expectations in every way. The protagonist, Frank Shaw is someone you can really get to love as a genuine good guy turned ex-con who is now trying to go straight. Character development for all the supporting cast and villains is well done too. John describes the people and settings in a way that puts you right in the middle of it -- without sacrificing any of the edge-of-your-seat action. I also appreciate that he can address mature themes without the flagrant swearing and ugly detail that usually put me off of this kind of novel. While I understand there will be a sequel published in June if all goes well in the publishing world, this novel easily stands alone. Yes, I wanted to read more, but I had no sense that there was unfinished business to be completed in another book. I bought the kindle edition, but like this book so much I will also buy the paper edition so it can have a spot on my favorite books shelf.

This book is the only 5 star I've EVER given. I don't rate books lightly. But THIS one provides some Skull Cinema very close to the King of Visual Writing, the venerable Mr Stephen King himself. I'll go so far as to say Bad Penny is better than the oh-so-few King thrillers I wasn't thrilled by. Never thought I'd say THAT. Too few authors can write dialogue---pathetically few, including the seasoned ones. Bad Penny excels at both the conversations and the thoughts....a critical aspect for understanding what drives a protagonist to do what he does. When thoughts are given the nonsensical makes sense. My only complaint is I have to wait for more. I will watch with bated breath as I do for just 4 others. THAT my friends is saying A LOT since at 52 with my entire life addicted to reading (and zero plans to get help for my affliction) I have far too few on my short list of 'More More More'. If you pick up this book, and I sure hope you do, then be sure it's at a time when you can put down all else, including sleep. Just one more page at Midnight turns into Just one more page at 4 am! Call in sick my friends cuz it'll be true if you have to put this book down before the end.

Frank Shaw served his time for manslaughter, and now he's free, trying to find a job and get his life back in order. Enter the bad guys. Guys who help run an outfit that helps enslave innocent children into prostitution. He certainly has his work cut out for him as he gets sucked into the mess of his life without even trying. His nephew is kidnapped, after rescuing a lady whom the bad guys have captured, and the adventure begins. Some unlikely characters are drawn into the battle that ensues. As the author describes chase and fight scenes, which are written with very vivid wording, I can actually visualize them in my mind. It is refreshing to read a book with so much action and descriptive wording without using foul language all the way through. I thoroughly enjoyed Bad Penny and am looking forward to reading more from John D. Brown.

The story line was good. But all the fluff between was soooooo looonnnnggg and boring. The lonnnngggggg endlessss car chase. Cars and planes and lonnnngggg descriptions of superfluous nothing. Just filler to extend the book. Found i just flipped dozens of pages with nothing to get to the pieces that had meaning

I couldn't get through this book. It felt like one big chase scene with no character development at all. There were also some sections where the dialogue took some odd turns and I felt like it was added in for no apparent reason.

I read this book about 5 books ago and really can't remember much about it. Even after looking back at other reviews I still can't remember how it ended. What I do remember is about an ex military/prison good guy trying to chase some ex cons he knew in order to get his nephew back whom they were holding as hostage. The chase to get his nephew back took more twists and turns that it became unreal to me and I suppose I began blocking it out at that point. Everytime he would get close it would take another turn. I did finish it but I almost always finish every book I pick up. But I will say this is really unusual that I can't remember how it ended when I read this only about a month ago. I guess this means it's forgettable.

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