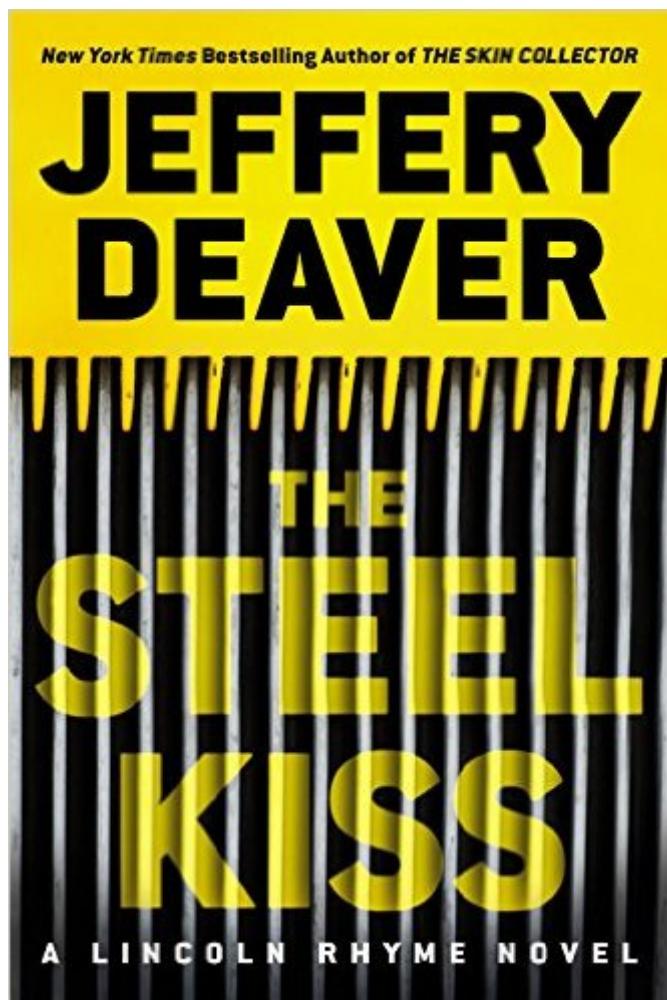


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# The Steel Kiss (A Lincoln Rhyme Novel)



## **Synopsis**

New York Times bestselling author Jeffery Deaver returns with his next blockbuster thriller featuring forensic detective Lincoln Rhyme. Amelia Sachs is hot on the trail of a killer. She's chasing him through a department store in Brooklyn when an escalator malfunctions. The stairs give way, with one man horribly mangled by the gears. Sachs is forced to let her quarry escape as she jumps in to try to help save the victim. She and famed forensic detective Lincoln Rhyme soon learn, however, that the incident may not have been an accident at all, but the first in a series of intentional attacks. They find themselves up against one of their most formidable opponents ever: a brilliant killer who turns common products into murder weapons. As the body count threatens to grow, Sachs and Rhyme must race against the clock to unmask his identity--and discover his mission--before more people die.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

What a creepy and suspenseful book I have just finished. I was a little perturbed when I read that Lincoln had retired from the criminal side and would not be involved in this one. However, you never really know what can happen in a Jeffery Deaver novel. Also, a new intern is added to the mix and I like it! There are actually about four stories going on in this book and of course, for the most part keep you on the edge of your seat. I will never look at a remote the same way again. It's amazing to me how a whole book can be written about one that can and will just scare the bejesus out of you. I am definitely glad I finished this way before bedtime. Now I can start on another book and get the

specifics of this one out of my head! Thanks to Grand Central Publishing for approving my request and to Net Galley for providing me with a free e-galley in exchange for an honest review! DANGER - Due to the availability of the weapon used in this book, DO NOT READ NEAR BEDTIME!!! You've been warned!!

If you are familiar with Jeffrey Deaver's Lincoln Rhyme novels then you know what to expect and he delivers. With his books I know to question everything and I'm constantly trying to decide what I'm missing from the perspective given, if the character is really good or bad or if the person is about to die or not. I love the challenge of these novels. I know there are going to be twists and it's always fun to try to out guess him or fail in the attempt. If you have read The Deliverman, the recent short story, this novel will answer what was not answered in that novel. If you are not a fan of short stories you do not have to read it to enjoy this book. At the end Amelia will reference a case with a name not in the book which occurred in The Deliveryman. The Steel Kiss had the usual cast of characters but added Archer who was a great addition and gave Ron, who I always enjoy, an in depth side plot. There was also a character from Amelia's past which was a great addition. The story alternated points of view between the characters and moved well, especially as the action heated up and different threads came together. If you are a fan of this series you will be pleased with this one. If you are considering this series for the first time do yourself a favor and start at the beginning.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was interesting, exciting, complex and fun. I had not read any Lincoln Rhyme before and that was no issue. The characters were interesting and the plot took a couple of interesting turns. The premise of the plot was very current (you'll understand what I mean about halfway though).

Really not a good entry in the series. Lincoln is not just cranky and close to perfect, but fairly unlikable. Other than his intellect, there is zero reason for anyone to want to be around him. The Archer storyline is ridiculous and she is a pointless character. Plus the walking incident..really??? How about an unknown twin who pops up at the last minute? The Pulaski storyline was pointless and the Nick one sooo ridiculous. Amelia is psychic now apparently, plus several incidents in the book come across not as clever but as gimmicky. All in all a meandering, confusing, mess... it's like Deaver changed his mind about multiple storylines in the middle of the book and didn't care if it was plausible.

This novel starts with a statement: "Sometimes you catch a break." Amelia Sachs had been driving her Ford Torino when she spotted the suspect. "What're the odds?" The suspect disappears after Amelia shoots a round into the workings of an escalator to stop the mechanism in an unsuccessful attempt to stop the mechanism in an unsuccessful attempt to save a screaming man caught under the top of the escalator. The bloody, screaming man dies in her arms. Amelia then initiates a search for the suspect, but to no avail. Amelia does not give up however, and tries, unsuccessfully, to obtain the aid of Lincoln Rhyme, who no longer works for the police, and spends his time teaching criminology at a local university, and writing novels. He is also consulting with a lawyer who is preparing a civil suit for the benefit of the wife and children of the man who died on the previously mentioned escalator, and writing evidence charts on a blackboard with chalk. So, Amelia must continue to pursue the suspect (now named "unsub 40") without Rhyme's assistance. Certain problems occurred during this period that need to be mentioned here. During the analysis of clues to determine unsub40's whereabouts, language is too stilted, ie "Friction ridges. A hundred". "Footprints? Yes." and on and on. Evidence charts are too long, say nothing new, are boring, and require skimming. There are also too many extended descriptions of mundane events and activities that also require skimming before content is found. Were it not for these detrimental factors, this would have been an exciting novel to read. Even with them, though, it is well worth reading.

In *The Steel Kiss* Lincoln and his crew have changed slightly. He is no longer working directly for the NYPD, a decision that does not sit well with Amelia. Moreover, he has taken on a new internâ "Juliette Archerâ "who travels in a wheelchair and is about to have an operation that may well turn her into a quad. While the reader wonders whether or not Juliette will be romantic competition for Amelia no one else in the crew seems to be worried about that. Amelia is investigating a case that involves hacking into industrial and home products that are accessible and adjustable via the internet. Instead of opening the right door, what if a murderer closed it instead? You may think that you have set the water temperature for your home at a comfortable level; what if someone who wished to do you harm raised the level to â "scaldingâ "™? Amelia is also conjuring with the appearance of a former boyfriend who has recently been released from prison. He claims he took the fall to save his brother; is he a good man or an evil man? The investigation takes Lincoln and Amelia through the usual processes of evaluating (and locating the origin of) trace evidence and introduces them to a very devious and ruthless killer. Just when the reader feels as if things are about to be resolved JD introduces his patented twists and turns. I counted about five, but it depends on how you classify a certifiable twist or turn. Bottom line: a solid episode in the

Rhyme/Sachs saga. It is a bit formulaic, but since a JD novel includes a succession of surprises, a formulaic™ can be a very good thing.

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