



Mission Canyon

Meg Gardiner

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Evan Delaney has come to terms with the hit-and-run crash that left her boyfriend, Jesse Blackburn, in a wheelchair and killed his best friend. But when she hears that the driver, Franklin Brand, is back in Santa Barbara, she is determined to help Jesse bring him to book for his crime.

Brand was a golden boy at Mako Technologies, a heavyweight cyber-security firm. That's where Evan starts looking, and as she digs deeper, she finds evidence of theft and extortion. Then witnesses to the hit-and-run start dying. It seems that powerful interests are determined to stop Jesse and Evan - once and for all.

Mission Canyon Details

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Author : Meg Gardiner

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From Reader Review Mission Canyon for online ebook

Mary Beth *Traveling Sister* says

SUSPENSE SUSPENSE AND More SUSPENSE!!!

Mission Canyon is the second book in the Evan Delaney Series. I think there are actually five in the series. Stephen King strongly recommends this series! He says "Read Meg Gardiner The Next Suspense Super Star!

This book is a nonstop action thriller. I feel that it is very well written with nail biting suspense. This author rocks!! I don't feel that it was intense as China Lake but it is still very intense! This definitely is another winner! The book is very well done with the characterization of the characters.

This series is a Must Read.

Evan and Jesse are on the hunt for the man that killed Isaac and crippled Jesse in the hit and run accident. Jesse and Evan also have wedding plans and Jesse is being blackmailed before their wedding. Also witnesses are being killed.

The villain is back in this one and he is trying to kill off Jesse.

I could go on and on about this one but I don't want to give anymore away.

I could not put this book down! I have already read the third book in this series, which should show how much I love this series. You should start out with the first book China Lake to get to know the characters! They are great!! I strongly recommend this series! This book is for those who love a suspenseful thriller!

Elaine Knox says

Good read indeed

Meg Gardiner writes good suspense...try. her you will like her. Does not matter whether it is Evan Delaney or her other endeavors she does not disappoint.

Conni Harness says

One of the best reads yet! It's like the thrill ride that just won't quit! And yet finally the conclusion arrives and this story defitiently resolves nicely. Wow this author is good!!!

stephanie says

oh, this one is even better! evan! evan and jesse! and the whole story of jesse (who does show up in the jo beckett books, so i need to find out how he makes the move from santa barbara to san francisco) and it's just good.

i did not want to put this down.

in fact i actually stayed up waaay past my bedtime to finish it and was exhausted at work the next day. i love it.

plus there's all this technological stuff that reminds me of Jeffery Deaver's recent stories and i can't wait to read Broken Wire either.

basically, you should be reading meg gardiner. she lives in london now, and i wish i could go to a book reading or something. she's fabulous and makes me really happy. and i'm so glad i have Jericho Point to start next!

Phoebe says

This was a great sequel to *China Lake*; in fact, I thought it was a lot better than *China Lake*. I was very much engaged in the storyline, which has a lot to do with Jesse, the boyfriend I mentioned in my review of the first book. Evan is a great main character, and it felt like the characters in this book had more dimensions than some of the characters in the first. On Gardiner's writing style, I thought she did a great job of unveiling the details of the stories at just the right times, and I was really drawn in by how she ended her chapters, particularly those where point of view changed right at the end to give you glimpse into what's ahead. I'm definitely a fan!

Format: Kindle AZW, San Francisco Library

Michael says

Meg Gardiner's second novel in the Evan Delaney mystery series shows the same assuredness of storytelling that won me over in "China Lake" but ends up being a far more satisfying and complete reading experience.

Several years ago, Evan's boyfriend, Jesse, was paralyzed in a hit and run incident. Jesse's good friend was killed and all the evidence pointed toward it being a deliberate hit and run incident, with the car's driver, Franklin Brand, going on the run. Now, Brand is back in town, but for what purpose?

As Evan follows Brand to make sure he doesn't leave town, she's slowly drawn into a web involving the incident and who the real target of the incident was. As Evan uncovers the truth of what happened and why, her own life becomes threatened and the discoveries she makes could fundamentally alter her life and her relationship with Jesse.

I came to the Evan Delaney series after reading Gardiner's "The Dirty Secrets Club" and being impressed by it. Hungry for more, I picked up "China Lake" and while there were snippets of what I liked from "Secrets" in there, it still felt like a first novel. With "Mission Canyon," the trappings of a first novel are gone and Gardiner settles in with a satisfying, page-turning mystery thriller that sets everything up well and then delivers a nicely done payoff in the end. I want to say this story is a bit more personal for Evan, but that would be doing a disservice to "China Lake" since it was a story about her protecting her nephew in peril from an evil religious cult. The big difference is that it feels like Gardiner doesn't have as big an axe to grind here with the antagonists and they come off as far more effective and threatening that way. They're not quite the evil, moustache twirling kind of villains that we got in "China Lake" and the book is a lot stronger for

that.

Also, having had a novel to get to know Evan, the book is more successful as we see and hear Evan's relentless belief in those she cares about and her dogged determination to defend them. It makes one of the novel's turning points and twists a bit more shocking when you come to it. It also helps to make Evan grow as a character and not just be a stock, plucky female private investigator.

All in all, "Mission Canyon" is a far more complete and satisfying novel than its predecessor. I wonder if I'd read it first if I'd regard it as highly as I do "Dirty Secrets Club." After all, part of the fun of a novel author is the joy of discovering their tricks and storytelling technique in the first novel you're exposed to.

Lisa Anne says

As in Gardiner's first novel China Lake, the main character (Evan) finds herself in the middle of a drama concerning someone she loves. This drama concerns her fiancée. The novel was good, kept me reasonably interested, with a decent amount of suspense. I did however, find that Gardiner jumped around quite a bit in this novel and it seemed a tad unbelievable that all of these events were happening to one couple. I found the story a tad far fetched, but engaging nonetheless. I'll give Gardiner's other works a chance.

Neil Collins says

Mission Canyon is a place of nightmares and regrets for Evan Delaney and her fiancé, Jessie. It's been just over three years since Jessie and his best friend, Isaac, were run down while riding their bikes up in Mission Canyon. For Jessie, it's meant piecing his life back together; physical therapy and a wheel chair, with Evan by his side. Isaac wasn't quite as lucky.

Meg Gardiner's second offering in her Evan Delaney series is a tightly wound, thrilling story with all the twists, turns, and blind curves that the road through it's namesake possesses. While not quite as intense (to me) as China Lake, her first in the series, I found it very well told and deeply engrossing.

In a very different setting than before, Mission Canyon takes place in a world that seems to invade Evan's familiar Santa Barbara based life. She's just a few short weeks from her wedding to Jessie when the reappearance of the man who crippled him and killed Isaac takes them both spinning out of control. Everything she thought she knew comes into question; who are these people she thought were friends, and what really happened up in the hills above the city?

When a writer can make me feel loss at the death of a character, that's the sign of truly deep authorship. Gardiner has done that, yet again, and while I didn't feel quite the anger I had towards the antagonists in China Lake, the bad guys are well enough constructed that they do evoke plenty of emotion. Likewise for the characters who are revealed to be not what they were thought to be... Not at all predictable.

Mission Canyon is a thoroughly enjoyable book that I would highly recommend. While you don't have to read the first book to understand the second, it does make the characters far more understandable. I look forward to the next books in this series.

D. says

Another strong entry in the EVAN DELANEY series by Meg Gardiner. (This is book #2, the first was CHINA LAKE.) This one is stronger on the characterization, as has more of a techno-thriller vibe than the previous one.

Evan Delaney is a lawyer whose boyfriend was injured in a hit and run accident several years ago. New facts come to light in the case as conspiracies are uncovered and the witnesses start to meet suspicious ends.

Gardiner is a strong writer, and she has a nice way of capturing Evan's inner voice, which makes her action sequences both engaging and believable. There are several "edge-of-your-seat" moments in this book, and the goofy humor that I disliked in CHINA LAKE has been toned way back. More than anything though, it's the characters that make this one worthwhile -- they seem "real," and when they are threatened, we actually care about what will happen to them.

I'll definitely be reading the third in the series, JERICHO POINT, soon.

quinnster says

Once again Evan finds herself in the middle of a battle concerning someone she loves. This time it's Jesse, her fiancée.

The book was good, with lots of suspense, but things jumped around a lot and there was so much going on I found it hard to believe that all of this could be happening to just these two people. Evan makes some ridiculous decisions just like she did in China Lake and acts more like a cop than a lawyer turned writer.

Marcy Evick says

Meg Gardiner is quickly becoming my favorite suspense writer.

Rebekkila says

This book is non-stop action. Evan Delaney's fiancée is wheelchair bound after he was hit by a car while biking in the mountains with his friend. It turns out that it wasn't an accident, it is to cover-up some shady business dealings at a large tech firm. I am a fan of action, so I loved the pace of the book, and I even took an extra twenty minutes off the clock at work today to finish it. This book introduced Jax and Tim a hit man and woman team, and I liked them better than any of the other new characters. Perhaps there will be a spin-off series. And when Meg Gardiner writes a character who is a bitch she goes all out. I liked the book a lot.

Jodi says

4.5 stars. I read the first Meg Gardiner, China Lake, when I saw a recommendation from Stephen King in which he said she is a great thriller writer and can't understand why she isn't big in the U.S. Good question! Although I think that has been changing. Mission Canyon was a real page-turner. I was so engrossed in the last 50 pages of the book I almost didn't notice the obnoxious guy next to me on the flight who was very rude to me about which seat he thought he should sit in. I'll spare you the details, but to take me out of that bad frame of mind and discomfort in my seat speaks volumes. If you haven't read Meg Gardiner, go buy China Lake. After all, you have to start at the beginning. You are in for a great ride with this series of books.

Nina says

This was really an exciting read. A book you do not want to put down as one event is happening after the other. I really enjoyed it and will continue with this series. It is not my most loved thriller/crime series but definitely one of the better ones. I guess that this feeling is due to the characters, which I like but am not in love with.

Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

Franklin Brand is back. The Franklin Brand that took Jesse's ability to walk and killed his buddy. He confesses to Evan that he's still stuck there in Mission Canyon. He can't move to comfort his swimming mate as he lay dying. More memories are coming back and he's being blackmailed all within 9 weeks of his and Evan's wedding.

A couple claiming to be ex-CIA want to hire Evan to ghostwrite their memoirs. She senses something off putting about the couple. She's right. They are part of what happened to Jesse up in Mission Canyon. Her friend is legal counsel for Mako, the company that Brand worked for, is acting weird. The CEO made right toward Jesse, but something is rotten within Mako headquarters, and as Evan and Jesse seek justice for Brand more bodies turn up. What is Mako up to? And why did they (and still do) want Blackburn and another buddy dead?

Again, Meg Gardiner writes a fast paced suspenseful novel. There are a few scenes that really stretch suspension of disbelief, but her full characterization of Evan and Jesse in China Lake and this sophomore installment will allow that suspension of disbelief. Another recommended read.
