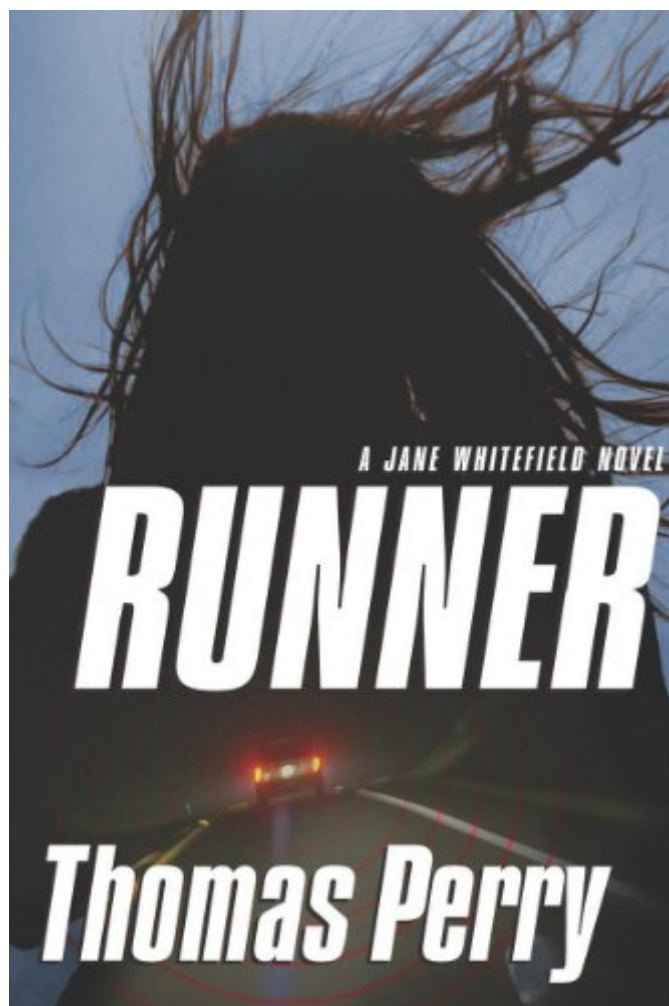


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Runner (Jane Whitefield Book 6)



Synopsis

Jane Whitefield – the fierce and resourceful heroine of Thomas Perry's most popular thrillers – returns from retirement to guide a fugitive out of danger. For more than a decade, Jane Whitefield pursued her unusual profession: "I'm a guide . . . I show people how to go from places where somebody is trying to kill them to other places where nobody is." Then she promised her husband she would never work again, and settled in to live a happy, quiet life as Jane McKinnon, the wife of a surgeon in Amherst, New York. But when a bomb goes off in the middle of a hospital fundraiser, Jane finds herself face to face with the cause of the explosion: a young pregnant girl who has been tracked across the country by a team of guns-for-hire. That night, regardless of what she wants or the vow she's made to her husband, Jane must come back to transform one more victim into a runner. Her quest for safety sets in motion a mission that may be as much of a rescue operation as it is a chance for revenge.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've read all of the Jane Whitefield novels from the 1st one to Runner--the 6th--in the past 2 months. How did I miss these brilliant books for so long? They're far beyond other suspense/thrillers in quality of writing, plotting, sensibility of the author, everything. Absolutely outstanding. The first 5 books were written between 1995 and 1999. Then he waited 10 years to write Runner. I'm sorry to say that he lost some momentum. Runner is still very good, but not quite up to the others. I thought that the premise was over-simplified, not very interesting, and not especially believable. And I never got a clear sense of the personality of the main character, Christine, the runner. If this is your first experience with Jane Whitefield and Thomas Perry, don't despair. Go back to the previous 5 books. I would rate all of them solid 5 stars. There are two more after Runner, and I hope that Perry got his groove back.

This book really kept me on my toes. It was extremely interesting, intriguing and exciting. I kept reading and reading way into the night because it held me totally. The character Jane is most unique and unlike any other book characters I have encountered. If you want a really exciting mystery this would be one to select. I know that I am glad I did.

Runner is a worthy followup to Jane Whitfield's earlier adventures, though it follows a familiar pattern, the "one last heist" type of story made popular by Al Pacino in the last Godfather movie: "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in!" Here, Jane has been happily and quietly married to Corey in the upstate Buffalo Triangle area in which her ancestors lived, fished, hunted, and prayed. Well, perhaps she's not so happy since, as it turns out, she has been patiently waiting for a baby of her own, but for one reason or another, the Seneca gods have shunned her pleas. Perhaps the time was ripe for her to get involved in something she thought she'd long ago paid her farewells to--the business of shielding victims from murderers. Especially with Christine Monohan, a young pregnant girl, barely out of her teens, whom a team of professional assassins has detonated a bomb in a Buffalo hospital merely to flush out. The book starts with a bang, literally, and I was prepared for it to be just as great as the first three Jane novels, but once we come to understand the lineaments of why people want Christine (and her unborn baby) so bad, it becomes a little ludicrous. Why didn't Perry just go whole hog and decide that Christine was carrying the baby of Satan? Ira Levin did it so well back in the day. Only the capture of the antichrist would justify the things the bad guys do in this novel, and no, Christine's baby is just another baby like any other, so Perry is forced to make all the bad guys into monsters nobody could actually believe in, thereby lessening the suspense a bit. The book is also too long for what it is, and driving back and forth (several times)

across the US from Towananga to Rancho Santa Fe (on the Pacific) has never seemed more tedious. But, all in all, Runner proves once again that, when he puts his mind to it, Thomas Perry can write up a storm, and in addition, what we Perry fans know, Jane Whitfield is an original character with a strange, hypnotic appeal we just want more of all the time.

Jane Whitefield does not mess around, at least not usually. So why on earth does infertility seem to paralyze both her and her physician husband? That premise is weak, no way would the Jane I know and loved let some pesky little hormones outsmart her. So right away the temptation hinted at in this story does not ring true for me. Jane's task is to save a young woman and her baby from a hateful father and his very creepy parents - and she could just save the baby, right? Obviously she has to make a choice. The extreme violence, and her personal vulnerability, are shocking. As I read, I kept thinking this might be the rescue that unmask Jane to the world....and I could not put the book down. Perry is always entertaining, and I hope that someday he revisits some of his other memorable characters (Death Benefits, Night Life, Pursuit). I would love to know how Roy Prescott is aging.....

And believable. I found Jane's desire to have a baby very understandable considering the author informs us it has been five years since Jane had worked with her last runner. Easy enough to imagine that the interval has enabled Jane the time to feel firmly settled into her marriage with Carey and that relationship naturally evolving toward parenthood. Great plot, action, character development, as usual in this series.

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