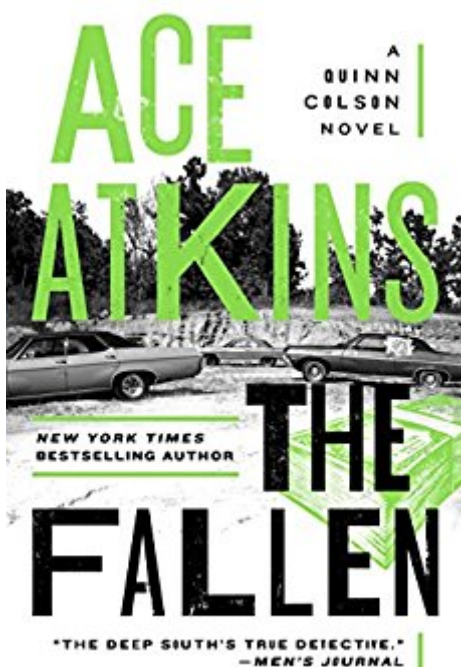


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The Fallen (A Quinn Colson Novel)



Synopsis

From New York Times-bestselling Southern crime master Ace Atkins comes a rollicking, suspenseful tale of bank robbers, good ole boy politicians, truck stop women, and one decent man crazy enough to fight them all. Tibbehah County Sheriff Quinn Colson had to admit he admired the bank robbers who'd been wreaking havoc in the MidSouth. A new bank was getting hit every week, and the robbers rushed in and out with such skill and precision it reminded him of raids he'd led as an Army Ranger. In fact, it reminded him so much of the techniques in the Ranger Handbook that he couldn't help wondering if the outlaws were former Rangers themselves. Quinn and his right-hand woman, straight-talking deputy Lillie Virgil, turned the county upside down after the crew hit Jericho First National, but they had disappeared like smoke. Almost as if they had help. God knows, Tibbehah has always been a haven for outlaws, from long-ago bootleggers to the truck stop den of iniquity now run by flame-haired madam Fannie Hathcock. So when the pious new head of the county supervisors, a flinty man named Skinner, says he plans to make the county like it used to be by getting rid of Fannie, Quinn has to wonder what he really wants. Standing between Quinn and the truth, he'll cross paths with the last vestiges of the Dixie Mafia, a rising state senator fueled up with ambition and greed, and the recent disappearance of two teens that may be the secret to taking down the whole house of cards. *The Fallen* demonstrates once again why *The New York Times* said, "Atkins sets a new standard for Southern crime fiction."

Book Information

File Size: 2799 KB

Print Length: 365 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons (July 18, 2017)

Publication Date: July 18, 2017

Language: English

ASIN: B01MPWT7AQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #8,637 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #31

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Crime Fiction > Heist #44

in Kindle Store > Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Crime > Heist #104

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Customer Reviews

As always I enjoyed my annual summer trip to Quinn Colson's life and imaginary Mississippi town of Jericho. These books usually are about four things: the crime du jour in Tibbehah County, where Quinn's county sheriff; deeper local corruption; the ups and downs of his family; and his love life. Corruption: It's changed flavors, with Colson's longtime nemesis, strip-joint operator and county commissioner Johnny Stagg now in federal prison. Stagg's truck stop has been taken over by an out of town madam. Colson is inclined to let things ride (as it were) but gets caught in the middle when a moralistic county commissioner wants to shut her down. And Fannie Hathcock - great madam name, no? - has her own resources: roots deep in the oldtime Dixie Mafia. She's involved in more disturbing activities, and meanwhile her preachy nemesis is not what he seems, either. Family: Colson's quintessentially Southern mom Jean and lost-but-now-found-again little sister Caddie are fine, as is Caddie's son Jason whom Quinn is like a dad to. Caddie runs a mission but her seamy past haunts her. She searches for two teenage girls who passed through her mission but have now disappeared. She fears they've been forced into prostitution, and knows what that means for a teenage girl, owing to her own past. Love life: With childhood sweetheart Anna Stevens and funeral home operator Ophelia Bundren both in Quinn's rearview mirror, he's ripe for the plucking when Maggie Powers, a girl he'd known in childhood, shows up back in town - her marriage on the rocks, a child in tow. They take it slow but there's a real attraction there. Then he discovers some major baggage. The criminals du jour are a change of pace. a robbery ring wearing Trump masks that can get in and out of banks in 90 seconds flat. They're slick, and Colson, watching video of Jericho's own bank getting hit, recognizes their precision as that of veterans skilled at planning missions and clearing rooms. They're motivated not by PTSD or financial need, but by wanting to regain combat's adrenaline rush, which nothing else in civilian life matches. Atkins is onto something here. We coast a bit here as Atkins shifts gears in Colson's life, and that's fine. We've seen much personal turmoil for our protagonist

and his inner circle - Caddie lost to drugs and prostitution, their dad showing up and vanishing again, a tornado, Quinn's own political struggles finding him in office, out of it and now back in again. We like to see them on an even keel while working to protect their small town. But it's an endless struggle. Hathcock has a bad-girl charm but in her own way is just as evil as Stagg was. The fate of the two teenage girls, and what they represent, hangs over the whole story. The faint but tangible links between local gentry and organized crime still exist. And Colson's top deputy, Lillie Vergil, is thinking of moving on. You can coast for a while, but time waits for no one. No spoilers, but as the book ends, new pockets of conflict are created that point to trouble in the future.

Quinn Colson in Ace Atkins book "The Fallen" is a super hero and a guy who gets the job done by catching the bad guys and gals. He also has women after him, several sexually and several others who impact life. The women in Atkins's book are strong, opinionated, and sexy. In fact, Quinn's deputy sheriff Lillie is a woman who thrives in the law enforcement world and who would love a relationship beyond the office with Quinn. But it's the law breaking women who give him the professional challenges that give the book direction. All characters and plots are well developed and interesting. The book is a fine addition to the series. I would have liked the book even more except that the ending sets up another book by not finishing a couple loose ends. But, I know another book is in the works for which I am thankful.

The story is very good. The characters well drawn out, complex and dynamic. Atkins creates a setting so well. When I read a novel I ask myself - do I care about the main characters and do I want to know more about them. With Atkins, I always want to know more. The only minor criticism I would have is the use of the description "big assed." If a character refers to a truck as "big assed" or a gun as "big assed" or a guy as "big assed" that's one thing. But I don't think the writer should use it in the narrative sense. When he uses the term "big assed" from the narrator's point of view, it suggests that he has either run out of adjectives or has a very limited vocabulary. I don't think either is the case with Atkins so I wish he would limit the colloquial "big assed" to characters who are speaking in his novels. Also please don't take Lillie Vergil out of the story. Love her.

Good story, interesting characters and over the top rough, and I do mean rough, language. If you like rednecks, hookers, vulgar language, really bad bad guys and a straight talking honest sheriff trying to keep everybody under control, this book is for you. It will definitely hold your attention, but

hang on for a wild ride.GG

Not much substance to this one. Why too much unnecessary foul language in my opinion. I understand this is set in the South but even the Southern police etc would not put up with much of this scene. Not sure I will read any more in the series.

I love this series of books. The characters are well developed even the new ones. This reminds a lot of Justified with Timothy Oliphant only done from the perspective of the sheriff. I can't wait for the next one.

Writing was better than C+, however the story seemed dated and familiar. I usually like Ace Atkins works but this book appeared to be mailed in. I still recommend it however

It is curious that Atkins makes fun of the very thing that pulls in his readers ... country, Trump, etc. Going out of his way to describe stereotypes in camo in a dealership or putting Trump masks on his bad guys with obvious play on words. Great story just stay away from the politics and the "smarter than thee" attitude.

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