



Target

Simon Kernick

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Did someone try to kill me or am I going mad?

When writer Rob Fallon gets drunk one night and ends up joining his best-friend's girlfriend, Jenny, in her apartment in London's West End, he's feeling guilty before anything's even happened. But guilt quickly turns to shock when two men break into the apartment, abduct Jenny, and try to kill Rob.

But when Rob reports the abduction to the police no one believes him. Jenny's father claims she's on holiday abroad, her apartment appears untouched, and the doorman didn't see or hear anything.

Rob can't let things lie - not with Jenny's life in danger. But when he starts asking questions, he finds himself the target of killers . But what is it they're so desperate to hide? And what does it have to do with an ordinary girl like Jenny? Either Rob finds out, or he's dead. It's that simple ...

Target Details

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Author : Simon Kernick

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From Reader Review Target for online ebook

Dan says

4.5 stars

I really enjoyed this book, thanks, once again, to a very good narration by Paul Thornley. The start of this book reminded me of Flightplan where you start to wonder if the events actually happened, and although Simon could have strung this out a little longer, I liked the fact that the reader was aware of the whole conspiracy from the outset.

Some reviewers have stated that there is not enough characterisation, but I feel that if you have read previous works by Kernick, that you already know the main characters well enough. I liked the way that Simon threw a few curve balls by 'eliminating' some characters that I didn't expect to die. The story flowed well and kept enough tension throughout to warrant its 'thriller' genre.

I like Simon's ability to switch between 1st and 3rd person and still keep the story rolling. Although only a sub-plot (revealed in the last few chapters), the fact that Paul Wise was once again present hints towards a grand finale in the coming books where Tina finally faces her nemesis.

Highly recommended, although I would advise trying to read Simon's books in order to avoid coming across spoilers, and to follow the chain of events in the right order.

Alan says

An enjoyable read but not in my opinion one of his best. The plot was a little contrived in my opinion .

Lis Pagh says

Engelsk tekst

Maggie Kiely says

Excellent gripping cant wait to keep reading and move onto the next instalment as soon as I can Highly recommended

Sarah Houchen says

Was a good read, easy and straight forward.

Jenna Mills says

An easy read, though thoroughly depressing. I wondered whether any of the characters would survive!

Chirag Malik says

I'm really fond of thriller and this was a good one by Simon Kernick. It started off well and character building was also really good. It picked up the pace in the middle and kind of slowed at the back end of the book. My favourite characters were Rob Fallon and Mike Bolt. It was a good book.

Nikki says

2.5 stars. A little predictable towards the end, though I like that it's a bit of a bloodbath throughout. The plot is over complex and overdone though. When I first read one of Kernick's books I was blown away and couldn't put it down. I genuinely can't tell if his writing has changed or my taste has! But this left me a little sad not to have enjoyed it more. A decent enough thriller, but nothing special.

Tim says

I found this one of Kernick's poorer efforts. I have always enjoyed his books before

The beginning scene reminded me a lot of *The Witness*, especially the kidnapper going off to the bathroom.

The series of fortunate escapes from Rob Fallow stretched believability especially as he was eyeball to eyeball with a professional gunman a few times and escaped.

The book was also too long and could have been tighter. The planned gas attack element was ludicrous.

Also whether Jenny was dead or not was confusing.

Unconvinced by Tina Boyd being in mortal peril as we know she is in later books.

Tina remembering someone's mobile number while under extreme pain and stress was a little too unconvincing.

Body count was very high.

However, the book is an okay read.

Silvia Molinari says

Simon Kernick is a safe bet. Any Kernick's book you decide to read, you end up having your nose stuck in the book until the very last page (and it's never enough!). "Target" is totally up to the expectations. The plot is compelling, the description of the operations performed by the various divisions of the British Police are not only realistic but also detailed. The narrative style - that I particularly love - is always intriguing. Mike Bolt and Tina Boyd are, again, a skittish twosome, and their reciprocal attraction manages to find a new level of awareness.

Five well-deserved stars.

kingshearte says

This was a good enough thriller that I might just read more of Mr. Kernick's work. It's interesting that the blurb calls it Hitchcockian, because I think it was Hitchcock who said, regarding telling good, thrilling stories: you can't just keep the action going full-tilt; you have to have moments for pausing and breathing, and then pick things up again. And I was thinking about that because that's exactly what Kernick did in this book. You feel like things are moving non-stop, but if you actually pay attention, you realize that there are very deliberate pauses in the action, usually right after something crazy just happened.

The plot was not completely predictable, although certainly some of the twists and connections were. Many people ended up dead, at least a few of whom I really didn't expect. There were some references to some events that presumably took place in an earlier book, but not so many that you were lost, or felt like you were missing a big chunk of understanding about the plot or the characters.

The characters themselves are ones you care about, complete with strengths and flaws that make them seem very real. He goes slightly overboard with names at times - if you're going to kill off a random cop within a page of introducing him, frankly, he doesn't really need a name. I realize that in the real world, they all do have names, and it's important to remember them, and every person who dies is a real person, and if this were real life, I'd have no objection to naming them. But it isn't, and quite frankly, such incidental characters are not really important to the story, and there's no clarity issues if they're not named, so there's no point. It's just one more name you wonder if you need to remember. Unnecessary clutter in the story. That said, it didn't really slow anything down, so it's all good.

Ultimately, this book is basically fluff, akin to chick lit, and it was great for that. Easy to chew through in a day, thoroughly enjoyable at the time, and, frankly, more or less forgettable once it's over. I would definitely recommend this for beach reading, or even curling up by the fireplace on a winter getaway vacation. It's perfect for that sort of thing.

Gemma says

Target is the fourth book I have read by Simon Kernick. I enjoyed Relentless, which became known for being on that Richard and Judy book list, and I thought it was alright, so I tried another two of his books. Unfortunately for me Kernick lacks what other good thriller writers have, and that is being able to write a plausible thriller novel. The events in some of his books are sometimes just so unbelievable it really ruins the book for me, and unfortunately this was no different with Target.

What sounds like a great story and plot quickly turns into something very fast paced, completely unbelievable, yet somehow, quite addictive. Target wasn't so bad for me as other books I have read by Kernick, it did somehow keep me hooked, despite me knowing this wasn't the greatest thriller novel I've ever read. I think this is down to Kernick's use of short chapters which often end with a cliff hanger matching the end of an episode of 24. This is a good quality in a thriller novel, but I think Kernick needs to take more time on the nitty gritty stuff, and really make it more believable.

The police characters in this book have often starred in other books by Kernick, but I never feel a great deal of connection with the characters. The character type of the main character in the book, Rob Fallon, felt very similar to the type of characters in his other books. They all seem to take on the same style, and it does start to feel all too familiar. One thing which struck me near the beginning of the book is when a lone police officer, who wants to believe Rob's kidnapping story, then encourages him to go into danger where a killer might be, and encourages him to trespass whilst she's off doing something else. I found this really silly, and the fact that a police officer can just go off and do her own thing despite the wishes of her boss did just seem far too fictional. I know this is a book of fiction, but this doesn't mean it needs to enter the realm of total make believe. A good thriller fiction to me will seem slightly believable at least.

Later on in the book we meet Bolt, who again, doesn't seem to have too much of this own character, and I couldn't really feel a connection with the characters because of this.

I'll give it to Kernick, he's really trying to give the book some nice twists, but one of the big twists at the end turned out to be rather silly, and I honestly couldn't believe he'd even thought the twist was a great idea. It just simply would not happen in real life, and it actually made the whole dramatic ending rather disappointing. The book did have some good twists in it, but the one at the end was probably unnecessary, and I beg any other reader to think differently about it.

I can see why Kernick's books will appeal to the masses. They are fast paced, easy to pick up where you left off, and certainly are action packed with twists and turns. But for the hardened thriller readers out there, this feels like a basic 'thriller for beginner's' read, and makes for an extremely easy read. You would think after 4 books I would have learnt by now what to expect, yet I do get intrigued what sounds like a good plot on the back of each book... only to end up feeling disappointed with the end result when I get round to reading it.

Beth says

DNF

Tania says

***** Another fast pasted book by Simon Kernick, he is becoming one of my favorite authors *****

NO ONE TO TRUST

When writer Rob Fallon goes out one night and ends up with his best-friend's girlfriend, Jenny, he's feeling guilty before anything's even happened.

NOWHERE TO RUN

But guilt quickly turns to shock when two men break into Jenny's apartment, abduct her, and try to kill Rob. When Rob reports this to the police, no one believes him. And when he speaks to Jenny's father, he says she's on holiday abroad.

NO PLACE TO HIDE

Rob knows Jenny's life's in danger and starts asking questions. Soon he's the target of brutal killers who are as terrifying as they are elusive. But what do they want? And what does it have to do with an ordinary girl like Jenny?

Either Rob finds out or he's dead. It's that simple ...

Emma says

I bought this book as I liked the cover, and also the blurb on the back. I didn't expect to read it, and finish it within 6 hours. It was a fast paced thrilling story that had me on the edge of my seat too many times to count.

Rob Fallon, ex-banker wannabe writer (he just hasn't found a spark yet) is thrown into an unimaginable situation, a situation that he thought existed but never realised he would live it firsthand. He attempts to spend a night with his best friend's ex-girlfriend only for it to be cut short when two unnamed men break in and abduct her, and in the process attacking him. He escapes (which granted he would have to be VERY lucky but to make a story sometimes the unlikely has to happen. And I love that!) and the story progresses from there. He has a desire to save Jenny (his best friend's ex) but no one will believe him. And his persistence is causing attention from the wrong people. The people that have no qualms to end his life in an instant. When DS Tina Boyd comes onto the scene however, she thinks something isn't quite right and plans to find out, but with no help from her colleagues she enlists the help of Rob, putting his life into the thick of it, not to mention her own.

I really felt that this book was amazing, I love Harlan Coben as a writer and I felt similarities in both their styles, not to mention that my attention was grabbed completely with the characters. I felt they were developed well and I was really able to sympathise especially with Rob Fallon.

I wish I had read the first book with DS Tina Boyd, as it continually referred back to moments in her life, especially with her love interest, but I will have to live with reading that one and all of his others after. I hope they will be as enjoyable, I am sure they will be... I will tell you all later!
