



Close to the Bone

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Terrorism, murder, and an ice-pick-wielding assassin are the pieces of a deadly puzzle FBI agent John Becker must assemble before the killer strikes again in this harrowing prequel to Prayer for the Dead.

Close to the Bone Details

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Author : David Wiltse

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Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Mystery, Crime, Suspense

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From Reader Review Close to the Bone for online ebook

Tiffany says

Another excellent book. I like this more than the first one. Once again it concentrates more on the characters with moments of thrilling action and not so much plot twists. I'm kind of tired of plot twists, so I'm enjoying this series quite a bit.

Spoiler:

Once again there's a woman who's so crippled by loneliness that she turns into a tool. Hoping the pattern won't keep. It would get dull.

Matt Owen says

Always interesting to see a pre 9/11 portrayal of an anti terrorism unit. Pretty creepy to see the hero with demons at least as large as the villain's.

Karissa Thompson says

Read it so long ago. Remember it being an amazing book. I mean the way he kills them..... Plan on re-reading it soon.

Pat says

I didn't realise this was a prequel to the first John Becker book. Never mind, it was pretty damn good. A Canadian man who has just renewed his passport is found dead sooner than planned. It is the manner of his death that is interesting - an ice pick through the ear. A similar method was recently used to despatch a known broker of terror. This gets the attention of the FBI who call in Becker to help track this guy down and foil whatever plot he has hatched.

The killer is planning an important hit and intends for the blame to fall on a Zionist group thereby sparking international tensions. Can Becker stop him before he unleashes his on the world?

Written in 1992, this book is only slightly dated yet still chock full of drama and suspense. I'm enjoying the series so far.

Jon says

This is the second in the John Becker series, first published in 1992. The first one pitted Becker against a serial killer. The opening sentence of this one: "His grandmother could no longer negotiate the stairs, so

Leon Brade took his victims to the basement." Everybody says to grab your reader on the first page; it's rare that it happens in the first sentence. That admirably tight sentence implied that this book would only be a retread of the first, and I was somewhat disappointed. But Wiltse was just teasing readers like me. Becker dispatches Brade in the first chapter and then the real book begins. It is essentially *The Day of the Jackal*, only set in NYC, with Yassir Arafat instead of Charles DeGaulle as the intended victim. Strange to read a story of terrorism in pre-9/11 New York. It is cat and mouse between the almost superhuman assassin and the almost superhuman Agent Becker. An excellent page-turner that successfully kept my heart racing from beginning to end, in spite of knowing all along how it would have to come out.

Vicky says

2nd in series. Another good read.

Rebekkila says

The book began and ended with a bang. I will be looking for more by this author.

Farhan says

Another superior thriller by David Wiltse in the John Becker series. Here, the FBI profiler with an uncanny knack for getting into the heads of psychopaths, races against time to catch a ruthless international terrorist before he strikes at a UN convention in New York.

Fast-paced and tightly-plotted, this is a much better novel than your run-of-the-mill thriller.

The Face of Your Father says

"His grandmother could no longer negotiate the stairs, so Leon Brade took his victims to the basement."

There are thriller authors, and then there is David Wiltse. There are authors such as John Sandford who keep pumping out glorious and solid crime thrillers year after year, David Wiltse focuses on the quality rather than the quantity. Where has this man gone? His thrillers surrounding the unusual FBI agent John Becker remain some of the strongest additions to ever appear in the genre. Wiltse's thrills, much like his writing itself, is crafted with the beauty of poetry.

'Close to the Bone' is the second novel of the John Becker series and is a hyper-violent cat-and-mouse game between two dangerous men; a political assassin and an unhinged FBI agent who finds himself having too much in common with the men he hunts. John Becker remains the most interesting character I have ever read within the thriller/crime genre, he is unnerving and intriguing, flawed and dangerous, hero and killer. 'Close to the Bone' is a good starting point for readers, even though it is the second addition in a series of six. The novel serves as a prequel to the first 'Prayer for the Dead'. Wiltse deserves his placement on the top shelf, next to names like Sandford, Lehane, Child, and Harris, because he just might be superior to them all.

Bev Taylor says

2 men - both killers, both enjoy killing as akin to taking drugs or sex. one difference - they r on opposite sides of the law

agent becker has been transferred to terrorism, against his will, as a suspected terrorist is loose in america with an unknown agenda

a brilliant - if not the best assassin - he will work for anyone for the right price and his usual mo is merciless

becker has the uncanny ability to think like a killer, but more importantly to feel like a killer. he stalks this unknown relentlessly to get one move ahead

will he succeed or will he be pushed over the edge?

brilliantly plotted and turn each page waiting for the moment when they come face to face

great characterisation and good prose

i imagine there r other books featuring becker

bev

Mick says

Can Agent Becker stop this assassin who loves to kill people by jamming an ice pick in their ear. This is a thriller and the terrorist doesn't hesitate or discriminate on his victims. this one will keep you up at night.

MaryAnn says

It held my interest but I've read better espionage stories

Ronald Wilcox says

Well done suspenseful thriller featuring FBI agent Becker. In this novel he is in pursuit of a cold blooded assassin who has a penchant of using an ice pick in the ear as his modus operandi. Starts a little slow but builds up nicely to an exciting climax as the assassin gets ready to kill a world leader

Barbara says

A little dated but a quick, thrilling read.

Belinda Elizondo says

Terrific writer! Quickly sets a thrilling ride! Not for the fainthearted.
Main character John Becker is a mixture of Lucas Davenport and Harry Bosch.
