



Even Steven

John Gilstrap

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When Bobby and Susan Martin come across a dirty, shivering child at their campsite, the last thing the childless couple expects is to be drawn into an unthinkable crime. But when one of the boy's kidnappers comes out of the brush waving a gun, Bobby is forced to react. In one chaotic, explosive moment, the predator is brutally murdered. But was he a criminal -- or a cop? With a vicious crime ring closing in on them, and unsure of whom to trust, Bobby and Susan desperately plunge into the heart of danger to save the boy -- and themselves. John Gilstrap's Even Steven enhances his reputation as an ingenious and innovative contemporary thriller writer.

Even Steven Details

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Author : John Gilstrap

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From Reader Review Even Steven for online ebook

Matthew Russell says

This is kind of a lazy, self-indulgent, cliched work by an author who usually does better.

Shelly says

I had a harder time getting into this novel than with Gilstrap 's other works. The Martin characters were hard for me to relate to, especially Susan. The other characters were well-drawn, especially Samuel.

Nicole says

This is the first book I've read by Gilstrap. I plan on adding him to the list of authors I'd like to read more of.

Gilstrap does a superb job of writing from different points of view and bringing them all together to weave a thrilling mystery.

Weldon Burge says

Good action novel, with steadily growing suspense. I was impressed most with the juxtaposition between the mother and the would-be mother of the kidnapped child, which John balanced incredibly well. The ending was wholly satisfying.

Roger Scherping says

Interesting premise, engaging, and well written. My only complaint is that he failed to tie up all of the loose ends at the end of the book.

Lee says

This book from Gilstrap follows the kidnapping of a young boy and the various players in his abduction and the people who attempt to rescue him.

Dawn Dorsey says

This is a haunting tale centering around a panicked little boy who runs screaming into a remote campsite on a

cold spring night, the couple who find him, and an assorted cast of characters who all have an interest in him, mostly nefarious. Despite enduring unspeakable cruelty and living in confused squalor, the child is a charmer, a point on which several characters agree, be they villains or heroes.

Speaking of villains and heroes, those characteristics easily blur, with no one but the baby being fully good or fully bad. One of the most interesting side characters is a retarded man named Samuel, controlled by and obedient to his caretaker, whose only redeeming feature is that he does look after his brother. Samuel has learned to do as he is told without question, but eventually he starts, timidly at first, to think and make decisions for himself, and tries to protect the child he was ordered to kidnap.

The novel presents people in all their complexity, and the tangled relationships among largely good and predominantly bad people, with a few who seem constantly to teeter-totter on the fence, leaving the reader to admire the drug kingpin or dislike the model citizen in the moment. It also shows the efforts to which law enforcement agents at all levels go, and the risks they take to protect us all, the deserving, the innocent, the criminals, and the unknown, in the course of their everyday duties.

Kat says

a husband and wife want a baby but cant seem to bring one to term. they went camping. a 3 yr old boy appeared, very dirty. a man showed up claiming to be the dad but they didn't believe him. a fight between the husband and man resulted in the mans gun going off and he was killed. when the husband checked the wallet he found a cops id. they got scared, packed up, took the boy and went home. but on the way the husband called the police to tell them there was a body in the woods. the cops found a pit where the man was going to put the baby along with jars of baby food

turned out the man was not a cop, him and his 'slow' brother were doing a job for a drug dealer. a womans husband owed money, they took her son until he could come up with what they owed him. she sold her car but it was not enough money. she went to another drug dealer who threatened them and told them to give the baby back. she went to rob a store to get the \$ but backed out. she was chased, caught and arrested.

meanwhile the wife named the boy after her dead baby. she doesnt want to give him back. the husband went to a lawyer to get advice to get him out of this mess and the wife is not helping.
she took the kid shopping, came home. they had a fight, then they all went to sleep

meanwhile the fake cops brother found their address from the camping receipt they lost in the woods. he went to their house and took the boy after fighting with them. they figured he was going back to the woods and went there. he had a gunfight with the bad drug dealers, the husb and wife got the boy. the husband ended up in the freezing cold river with the boy. the rangers and fbi came at the last second and rescued them, but one ranger and the fake cops brother died. the mom of the boy got him back and charges against her for trying to rob the store were dropped. the fbi agent liked her. the couple was trying to get preg again

george agle says

Mysterious Ways Indeed

A young couple lives in drug induced poverty, lurching from one bad decision to the next, barely dragging their small son, Justin with them.

A comfortably wealthy couple struggles to stay together through the valleys and mountains of infertility solutions. Their last failure costing them more than they had to give.

A police detective waffles, just a little, as he begins to identify signs of career burn out in his own thoughts. Just what could make this impossible job worth his whole life?

A big brother tries to care for his "challenged" younger brother. He goes too far, but really, is there such a thing when your brother needs you?

Somehow Mr. Gilstrap weaves together these special people. He takes us into their lives, through some of their despair and into their surprising future. I never saw it coming!

Shelly Rossetti says

I can say that this book is well written. Despite the plot of the story is somewhat similar to what you would watch in my local television series. The scene gets complicated with a lot of things happening at the same time and I loved that. It keeps me imagining what else could go wrong next. But what I really liked about this book is the way Gilstrap wrote the scenes that made me admire him more. It's amazing how he described a particular murder while playing with words and successfully delivered it the way it's supposed to be.

Jenn S. says

A gripping thriller and an easy read, it's very easy to get sucked into the character's worlds and join them on the emotional roller coaster that unfolds throughout the chapters. Gilstrap pulls no punches on graphic details and I'm glad for it; when you hit a particularly intense scene, you feel the full weight of it. The ending fell a bit short for me, and I was disappointed with it when I closed the book, so it lost a star, but by no means did it spoil the journey that the story took me on.

Tom Tischler says

Bobby and Susan Martin are on a little camping trip to W.Va even though it's cold out. They have been trying for years to have a child and all they've had are miscarriages. In the middle of the night a young boy dashes into their campsite. He is filthy and freezing and a man is right behind him. The man says that the boy is his but the Martin's don't believe him. In a struggle that follows the man pulls a gun and Bobby Martin accidentally kills him. He has a policeman's badge on him and the Martin's are scared to death. They grab the boy and head for home to think this through. Even if they find a way they don't think that they can surrender this

boy who has filled a painful chasm in their lives. This is a gripping page turner from John Gilstrap. It has kidnapping murder, mystery and the love for a small boy that builds to a heart stopping climax.

Victoria Allman says

This is the 12th Gilstrap book I've read, each one as well-written and suspense-filled as the last. The man knows how to grip your heartstrings well as build tension with expert pacing and intriguing characters. I've loved every book he's written and look forward to his next release. Even Steven is Gilstrap at his best.

Victoria Allman
author of: SEAsoned: A Chef's Journey with Her Captain

Zophas says

Enjoyed it up to a point. All the children stuff in it made me wanna puke. And the the ending? You still wanna have a kid with crazy cow? Hope you other books are better than this, Gilstrap.

Joyce says

Pretty good thriller.. No spoiling !!!!
