



Twelve Red Herrings

By Jeffrey Archer

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Jeffrey Archer, the internationally bestselling author of *Honor Among Thieves*, *As The Crow Flies*, and *Kane & Abel*, now serves up this inventive new collection of a dozen short stories -- with a twist. Cleverly styled, with richly drawn characters and ingeniously plotted story lines, each of the twelve pieces ends with a delightfully unexpected turn of events.

An imprisoned man is certain that his supposed murder victim is very much alive....A female driver is pursued relentlessly by a menacing figure in another vehicle....A young artist gets the biggest break of her career....A restless beauty manages the perfect birthday celebration....An escaped Iraqi on Saddam Hussein's death list pays an involuntary visit to his homeland. In each tale, human beings are given an opportunity to seize, a crucial problem to solve, or a danger to avoid. How will they react? How would you? Capping off the collection are two additional rewards. In the final story, Archer offers a choice of four endings. And buried in each story is another diversion -- a red herring which Archer challenges his readers to uncover.

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Twelve Red Herrings By Jeffrey Archer Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Archer does a passable O. Henry in his third story collection (after *A Twist in the Tale*), though without that master's depth of feeling or irony. Many of the 12 stories here, all of which feature false clues and twist endings, are based on "known" incidents; the fact that the weakest ones are not suggests that Archer's love of plot may exceed his unaided grasp. The leadoff yarn, "Trial and Error," for instance, an original but attenuated tale of a wronged man's thirst for revenge, kicks in only with its predictably wry twist. Also original but flaccid is the last story, which features four rather obvious alternative endings that the reader can tack onto an opening gambit about a man picking up a woman at the theater. The adaptive tales are generally stronger. "Chunnel Vision" offers a classic red herring by which Archer uses a jilted woman's revenge on her lover to divert our attention from the real threat to the lover's happiness. Similarly, the chilling "Never Stop on the Motorway" plays on our expectations about an endangered woman's plight. Written in strong, clean prose and ranging in tone from charming to achingly suspenseful, these tales, mostly entertaining but often slight, offer, like much of Archer's work, more craft than art. \$365,000 ad/promo; audio rights to HarperAudio.

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From Library Journal

There's probably not a red herring among these stories from master spy writer Archer.

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From Kirkus Reviews

With this tiresome collection of stories planted with misleading clues, Archer (*Honor Among Thieves*, 1993, etc.) fails in his bid to be an O. Henry for the '90s. There is one big giveaway in almost all these stories (some of which were inspired by actual events): If there is a female character, chances are good that she has done something bad, or at least stupid. The narrator of "Trial and Error"--the most suspenseful selection--is an imprisoned man whose wife was having an affair with a business associate and, he claims, framed him for the man's murder. In "Cheap at Half the Price" a woman who is counting on alimony from her past, present, and future husbands, manipulates her husband into paying for only half of an expensive necklace yet still manages to take the piece of jewelry home. The narrator of "Chunnel Vision"--a writer--tells of his dinner with a fellow writer named Duncan in New York, where the latter's soon-to-be-ex-girlfriend joins them and orders lavishly from the expensive menu while Duncan outlines his next novel verbally. "You'll Never Live to Regret It" details an attempted insurance scheme using a neuter-name trick straight out of a "Saturday Night Live" sketch. "An Eye For an Eye" follows a lawyer asked to defend a woman who is accused of having murdered her husband but claims that it would have been impossible for her to commit the crime because she is blind. "One Man's Meat" reads like a writing-class assignment: A man on his way to work spots a beautiful woman entering a theater; he parks his car in the street in order to dash after her and manages to grab the seat next to her. Then Archer offers four different outcomes for their relationship: "Rare," "Burnt," "Overdone," and "Point." The formidable storytelling skills apparent in Archer's novels are more cleverly concealed than the clues here. (\$365,000 ad/promo; author tour) -- *Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Ayala:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with education books but if you want truly feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The Twelve Red Herrings is kind of guide which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Lily Spivey:

Reading a reserve can be one of a lot of activity that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a guide will give you a lot of new facts. When you read a reserve you will get new information mainly because book is one of a number of ways to share the information or even their idea. Second, looking at a book will make you more imaginative. When you reading a book especially fiction book the author will bring someone to imagine the story how the character types do it anything. Third, you can share your knowledge to other individuals. When you read this Twelve Red Herrings, you are able to tells your family, friends along with soon about yours e-book. Your knowledge can inspire different ones, make them reading a reserve.

William Sanders:

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Sue Randall:

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