



Book of the Week

***The Steel Kiss* by Jeffrey Deaver**

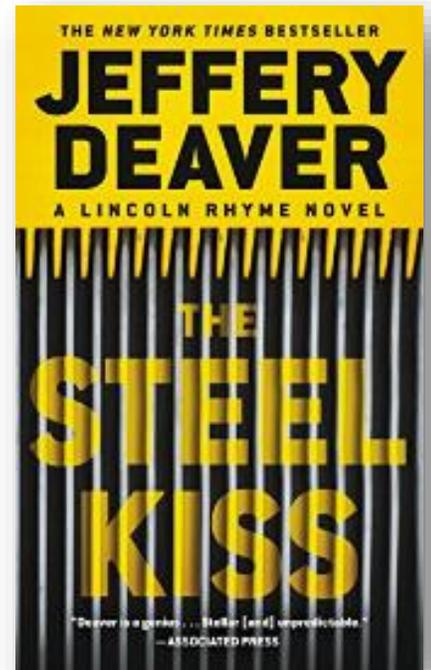
Book Review by Linda Buehler

The Steel Kiss by Jeffrey Deaver is the twelfth book in the Lincoln Rhyme series featuring Lincoln Rhyme, a brilliant criminologist, who as a result of an accident while on duty with the NYPD, is a quadriplegic. As this thriller begins, Rhyme has retired as a consultant from the NYPD and is teaching at the John Marshall School for Criminal Justice. A new character is introduced into the series, Juliette Archer, who is a fellow quadriplegic and is to be an intern working under Rhyme's direction.

As this thriller begins, Amelia Sachs, a NYPD detective, who has worked closely with Rhyme throughout the Rhyme series, is in pursuit of a criminal suspect in a mall, when the repair panel of a mall escalator accidentally opens and a victim falls down into the machinery. Amelia makes a valiant effort to help the victim but cannot save him. Rhyme agrees to serve as a consultant to discover how this seemingly accidental event happened. Amelia meanwhile has to take up again her chase for her suspect. Ultimately the two criminologists discover that they are both pursuing the same culprit. As usual, Deaver fills his plot line with twists, misdirections, and characters who are frequently less than truthful. All the evidence is presented to readers, but the ending often still comes as a shock.

This novel, in addition to Deaver's highly developed plot and characters, also contains a not-so-subtle warning about our overreliance on modern electronics by displaying how vulnerable we consumers would be should a hacker subvert the purposes of ordinary electronic products such as microwave ovens, cars, or table saws and convert them into weapons of death and destruction.

Though *The Steel Kiss* can be read as a standalone thriller, I recommend that one begin with the first book of the series, *The Bone Collector*, which was produced as a film, to more fully appreciate the skills and insights of the brilliant forensic scientist Lincoln Rhyme as created by Deaver.



For more information about supporting the Friends of the Starkville Library, click [here](#).