

KIRKUS REVIEWS

TITLE INFORMATION

NO GOOD DEED

Jack Wallace
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BOOK REVIEW

In Wallace's Nashville-based thriller, a recently divorced man helps a sex-trafficking escapee and works to shut down the illegal operation.

Christopher Jones, who's almost 40, supplements his income from his computer-repair business with a morning newspaper route. He likes the routine of delivering papers and how it gets him out of the house early each day. One morning, he discovers Soon Yee Kim, a 20-year-old Korean immigrant, hiding in a doorway, and it ends up being a life-changing meeting for them both. When she was 16, her father sold her off, and ever since, she's been the victim of ruthless sex traffickers who prey on young women. Now she's managed to escape from her captors, and Christopher lets her stay at his house until the police arrive to hear her story. However, a dirty cop tips off the traffickers and gives them Christopher's address. Soon, his home is ransacked, and things soon turn deadly. Aiding Christopher are Gloria Jean McNulty, a widow known in Nashville as a person who helps young women in trouble, and Bert, an Iraq War veteran and military bomb expert. Plenty of action scenes are interspersed among moments of personal drama in Wallace's brisk thriller. The unusual alliance of Christopher and Bert—his former best friend, who's now married to his ex-wife, Barbara, and helping to raise his daughter, Amy—is notable, as is Christopher's surprise and pleasure at “becoming” his late father, a blue-collar worker known for helping those in need. As a Nashville resident, Wallace knows well the stomping grounds he describes. Along the way, vivid descriptions of settings, such as Christopher's kitchen (“Only a few crumbs from last night's deli sandwich were on the worn Formica countertop”), and quaint expressions (“I feel lower than a flattened squirrel”) add to the atmosphere.

A fast-paced, highly recommended crime novel.

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