



## Paying the Piper

*Simon Wood*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Paying the Piper

*Simon Wood*

## **Paying the Piper** Simon Wood

For years, the serial kidnapper known as the Piper got rich by abducting children from San Francisco's wealthiest families.

When crime reporter Scott Fleetwood gets a call from a man identifying himself as the Piper and offers an exclusive interview, Fleetwood jumps at the chance. But the caller turns out to be a fake, and the rash decision costs the life of the real Piper's latest victim.

For eight long years, Fleetwood has lived with unbearable guilt—and the enduring disdain of the entire Bay area. Now he hears from the real Piper—and it's not for an interview. The kidnapper has the reporter's son. But he doesn't want money...he wants blood. And he's going to use Fleetwood to get it.

In the tradition of Harlan Coben and Gregg Hurwitz, Simon Wood weaves a plot thick with suspense and heavy with action. *Paying the Piper* grabs hold from page one and doesn't let go until new debts are paid and old scores settled.

## **Paying the Piper Details**

Date : Published November 13th 2012 by Thomas & Mercer (first published October 30th 2007)

ISBN :

Author : Simon Wood

Format : Kindle Edition 362 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Crime, Fiction

 [Download Paying the Piper ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Paying the Piper ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Paying the Piper Simon Wood**

---

## From Reader Review Paying the Piper for online ebook

### Joan says

*Paying the Piper* is the most interesting book I've read in several months. The characters are drawn completely and compellingly, the plot is delightfully and believably complex and filled with unexpected turns, and the pace is rapid while still not leaving the reader behind. If half-stars were available I would have rated this one 4 1/2 stars (I assign a 5-star rating only if there is also significant literary value.) Just for pure reading enjoyment, this book has it all.

---

### Andrea Susan says

Fast paced book that despite dealing with a haunting subject gives a great read.

---

### Justine Peroni says

#### Wow!!!!

Having never read a novel by Simon Wood I felt I should as I liked the reviews and it was definitely my kind of read. In a nut shell it blew me away! I have read many a novel now and it has been a while since I have read a book that is written that has you gripped from page one! Normally they reel you in but this was different - more like wham and you are suckered in straight away! A cleverly crafted and well written novel. At one point I thought I had it figured out - I was half right! Be that as it may the story centres around a cold case of abduction that turns into something a lot more. A journalist by the name of Scott becomes the pawn in the abduction of his twin sons; with the help of the FBI and a private investigator the story takes of many twists and turns, that leads to an explosive ending. I would highly recommend this novel, but beware it is impossible to put down!

---

### laurie says

Wow! Excellent book. Lots of suspense, action, strong characters. I enjoyed this book much more than the first book of Simon Wood's that I read, *Accident Waiting To Happen*. I was biting my nails right up until the end. Twists and turns abound. First 5 star rating I've given in a long while!

---

### Sandy says

I had so many "ah" moments with this book that I just have to give it 5 stars! One night I woke up frantically wondering if my own children were in their beds, only to realize they were either sleeping in their college dorm room or living at their own house.... that's how drawn in I got. This is a first-rate thriller that kept me on the edge of my seat all the way through till the end. It's a parent's worse nightmare to have your child abducted from you and the author does a great job playing with the readers emotions with all the various characters as he plays out the scenarios that surround the kidnapping. Who is paying the Piper and who is

playing with the Piper? How far would you go to get your child back? Would you let your emotions get in the way? Well done...bravo, bravo!! Looking forward to reading more by this author!

---

## **Elizabeth A. says**

Eight years ago a serial kidnapper known as the Piper terrorized San Francisco. He successfully snatched child after child from the city's wealthiest families, holding them until a ransom was paid. In every case, he collected the ransom and returned the child unharmed. Until crime reporter Scott Fleetwood got involved, that is. Contacted by someone claiming to be the Piper, Fleetwood withheld information from the police and FBI, bent on chasing the story—and resulting book deal and fame. Only Fleetwood wasn't really dealing with the Piper, merely a wannabe copycat.

What should have been simply a career embarrassment turned into a disaster, however, when the Piper killed the child he was holding at the time of Fleetwood's spectacular blunder then disappeared without a trace. The resulting backlash from the public, his employer, police and FBI branded Fleetwood with a scarlet letter, though arguably no one was harder on him than he was on himself.

Now the Piper has returned, apparently up to his old games. Except, this time it's about more than money. With the selection of one of Fleetwood's own sons as the first target in his renewed career, the Piper serves notice that he's come out of retirement for more than money—he's back to collect his pound of flesh as well.

In *Paying the Piper*, author Simon Wood has crafted the ultimate page-turner. After all, what could possibly be more compelling than a man doing cat-and-mouse battle with a master villain, with the life of his son at stake? The pace is relentless, as is the Piper's determination to exact revenge for what he sees as being Fleetwood's fault that the Piper was "forced" to cross a line he never had before and kill. Neither Fleetwood nor the reader gets a second to rest, with Wood rocketing events along at breakneck pace toward a showdown and conclusion which, while craftily unfurled, is possible for the careful reader to potentially deduce.

On a deeper level, however, there are some very interesting character studies going on as well. Though on the one hand Fleetwood obviously wants his son back, on another level, one he almost can't consciously control, he also sees the situation as a chance for redemption. As a result, he's not content to sit back and do what the authorities request of him, instead choosing to insert himself into the case, often over their objections. Naturally, this leads to more than a few confrontations, especially with the FBI.

FBI agent Tom Sheils was involved in the first Piper investigation, and his absolute loathing and contempt for Fleetwood have simmered to the boiling over point in the eight years since the two last saw each other. As the new Piper investigation unfolds, Sheils is constantly forced to reconcile his feeling of disgust about Fleetwood's past actions with the fact that in the current situation Fleetwood and his wife are the victims, and that a little boy's life hangs in the balance.

All of which adds up to a book that strikes a nifty balance between popcorn action and something more substantive. If you're looking for a fast-paced beach read, but one with a little depth, look no farther than *Paying the Piper*.

---

## **MissSusie says**

I could not put this book down; I read it in 2 days. This was my second book by this author I read his book "The One That Got Away" thanks to the Kindle First Program and loved it so I thought I'd try another one and this one grabbed me just as fast as the first one I read. If you are a fan of Harlan Coben I think you will like Wood's books too.

This book had some edge of your seat moments and also a lot of What Ifs? Or What would you do? I also figured something out early, but thought it was a great red herring then got blindsided by being right!

8 years ago Scott Fleetwood was an up and coming reporter when he gets the call of a lifetime from the man known as The Piper who has kidnapped 8 children and is offering Scott an exclusive, but what he thinks is his big break turns out to be a crank call that causes the death of the Pipers current victim. The Piper has never killed before and there is a note on the boy's chest saying 'You're to Blame'. And everyone blames Scott including the FBI, the public, the family and The Piper. And now 8 years later one of Scott's twin boys has been kidnapped by the Piper but this isn't the Piper's MO this is revenge and it's personal.

This book had a lot of twists and turns, and since this time it's personal the Piper is asking a lot more than money of Scott he wants him to pay in more ways than one. I really liked how strong of a relationship Scott had with his wife, Jane and I truly felt the pain of poor Peter whose twin was fooled into getting into a car with a stranger while he was told he couldn't come, so heartbreaking. All of the side characters in this book were very well developed including all the FBI people I especially like the way Agent Guerra handled matters with the family and how good she was with Peter. Even Agent Sheils who at first wasn't very professional grew on me eventually.

I don't want to give anything away so I will just say this was a great thriller, I plan to read everything Simon Wood has written and think he is right up there with Coben in writing a good thriller.

4 ½ Stars

---

### **Kelly says**

Thrilling edge of your seat ride from start to finish. I literally couldn't put it down. Every time I thought I had it figured out, there was another twist. Very much looking forward to reading Saving Grace now.

---

### **Karen says**

Do not read this book if you can't handle kids in jeopardy. I did not realize I was so sensitive to this until I picked up Paying the Piper.

The stress level was incredible and was continually getting stronger as the pages flipped by. Very strong characters, a nice description of San Francisco and the Bay Area, and heart stopping drama. Simon seems like such a nice guy in person, who knew the depths of his talent?

---

### **Gerald Sinstadt says**

Simon Wood has enough titles - and enough awards - to his credit to know that he has a loyal readership.

Perhaps they will welcome Paying the Piper but someone new to this author may feel uninspired by a familiar plot, some cardboard characters and clichéd writing: "... in this day and age" on only the second page.

Scott Fleetwood is a journalist who covered past kidnappings by 'The Piper.' Now his own child has been snatched. Tom Shiels, the FBI agent assigned to the case, also has personal issues to settle. Jane, Fleetwood's wife, fluctuates between bursting into tears and being a fierce mother demanding action. And this is the problem. Characters change personality in order to drive the plot.

Provided that is no bar to enjoyment, indulgent readers may travel with a convoluted plot to its somewhat predictable conclusion. It is not too demanding - except in requiring belief in the people involved.

---

### **Ed says**

I'm not a big fan of the child-in-peril thrillers. That said, Simon Wood keeps that part within the respectable PG-13 bounds in Paying the Piper. We've been table-of-content mates in short fiction anthologies. I liked his sense of pace, nifty plot twists, and well-drawn characters, particularly the law enforcement types. His writing is forceful but smooth. In short, I spent several nights following his heroes and villains in print with enlivened interest, and I remained entertained until the surprising end. Great stuff here.

---

### **Terralyn says**

This is hands down one of the best books I've read in this genre. I was sucked into the story line from the very beginning and that feeling never relented. The character development and relationships were outstanding. Though there were many twists and turns, the author succeeded in making the pieces fit into the puzzle. The author preys on the reader's sympathy, fear, and feelings of right and wrong, leaving the reader wanting to read more in order to reconcile their own conflicting feelings. Great from beginning to end!

---

### **Kathleen Hagen says**

Paying the Piper, by Simon Wood, a-minus, Narrated by Mel Foster, Produced by Brilliance Audio, Downloaded from audible.com.

Crime reporter Scott Fleetwood involved himself in trying to bring "The Piper" to justice. The Piper earned his reputation by kidnapping children from the wealthiest families asking for millions, and always getting it for the return of the child. But in this case something goes wrong and the boy is killed. Now, eight years later, The Piper surfaces again, this time kidnapping Scott's two boys. And this time the kidnapping is personal, a revenge kidnapping, and he's not so interested in money. But who is the piper? He wears a mask. No one has seen him. And he keeps offering games to make Scott think he's getting his sons back and then continually pulling the rug out from under him. A spine-tingling thriller which keeps readers on the edge of their seats and continually having to reassess what the truth is. Very good.

---

## **Jaidis Shaw says**

If you're looking to get pulled in and pumped up by a truly kick-ass suspense novel, then this book is for you! Simon Wood's *Paying the Piper* is a pure adrenaline rush that will have you hanging by the edge of your seat while clawing at your heartstrings. Mr. Wood tells the tale of a parent's worst nightmare, the kidnapping of a child and the unrelenting attempts to get them back! The excitement begins as soon as you open the book, the story moving along at a swift and thrilling pace. The storyline is fantastic and the characters are complex and diverse. I saw and felt this novel come to life as I'm sure many readers have and will!

Right off the bat we are introduced to Scott Fleetwood, a crime reporter for the Independent, as he races his way across town to his children's elementary school. His wife had just called with horrible, life-altering news...their son had been kidnapped! Every parent hopes and prays for their children to be kept safe from such a tragedy, but Scott had almost expected it. Just eight years ago Scott had made a terrible mistake and put publicity and a good story above bringing down the bad guy. Scott believed the man on the phone was The Piper, a serial kidnapper contacting him personally to tell his story. This was huge, or it would've been had he really been speaking with The Piper. Scott soon realized he had been duped when the area's highly feared kidnapper became a cold-blooded killer, showing the F.B.I., the news and Scott that they had made a grave mistake in ignoring his demands. A young boy had been killed and Scott has been blamed by all for his death. Now, after eight years his children were being used as pawns in this sick and vengeful game that The Piper had waited long enough to play. Scott wanted his children back and was willing to get them no matter the cost. It was time to pay The Piper.

I highly recommend reading this book to just about anyone! I was completely engaged in this story from the beginning and found myself emotionally vested in the main character's course to get his kids back. There were twists and turns I never saw coming, keeping the storyline fresh and invigorating! Loved this book!

Hazel O'Shea

Written for the Juniper Grove Blog

---

## **Tom Stretton says**

### **Enjoyable read.**

*Paying the piper* is my first Simon Wood novel and I did enjoy it. A story of kidnap, murder and revenge for mistakes made 8 years previous, this tale kept me gripped until the end with some late twists that I hadn't completely ruled out earlier in the book, although the author did a good job of steering me away with his talent for telling the story from the different characters points of views. *Paying the piper* is a book I'd recommend and a good solid 3.5 stars. I'll certainly read the sequel at some point too.

---