



Set Free

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The truth will set you free. Can lies do the same?

Within minutes of arriving in the exotic, enigmatic, sweltering city of Marrakech, renowned author Jaspar Wills is kidnapped, blindfolded, bound, and beaten. As Wills struggles to survive the ordeal, he recounts his rise to fame and the tragic events that led him to Morocco. With the kidnapper's demands left unmet, Wills faces death with fear, grief...and guilt. Is what happened in the past tied to his abduction? Is someone he loves responsible? Or is this payback for his sins? Living with a loss far greater than his own death, Jaspar yearns to be set free. But do some kinds of freedom come at too high a cost?

Six months later, struggling reporter Katie Edwards travels to Morocco to stake her claim on the story with everything—international intrigue, mystery, celebrity, violence, sex, heartbreak, betrayal. Once there, she discovers a shocking truth. As the young journalist's career soars, Jaspar Wills' is destroyed...until an act of revenge leads to a stunning revelation that will change everything.

Set Free Details

Date : Published September 2016 by Bon Vivant Books

ISBN : 9780995229211

Author : Anthony Bidulka

Format : Paperback 283 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Fiction, Drama, Business, Amazon

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From Reader Review Set Free for online ebook

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

Absolutely brilliant book! I'm glad I discovered this talented author. This book had me well hooked and as for the twists! Woot! I did NOT see that ending coming and I love a book that surprises me.

The plot is really interesting and dynamic and twists and weaves as you go. I was engrossed in the story really quickly. Very well written with characters I could picture and connect with easily. The plot has a central theme around kidnapping but it really does go places unexpected and is one of those books where you are keen to know what is going to be happening next. Did I mention very clever and brilliant twists?

A highly readable novel from an author I am keen to read more from now I have uncovered his talent. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys books basically, especially those with twisty bits that keep you on your toes. There are some characters I loved to hate in this book too! Just when I thought I had it all worked out....well I was wrong. Really wrong! 5 stars from me!

Thanks so much for reading my review! To follow more reviews, be alerted to awesome online author events and HUGE book giveaways and more come on over to: <https://www.facebook.com/BookloverCat...>

To follow me on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/promotethatbook>

To enquire about joining my VIP book reviewers team: <http://goo.gl/forms/GWMOvlofZg>

To enquire about my varied and affordable book publicity services: <http://goo.gl/forms/eVwa2HFKnK>

Kerstin Vollbrecht says

Set Free is a book with so many twists and unsuspected turns, that the reader gets to feel as if riding a rollercoaster. The story is about a famous author, Jaspar Wills, and his wife Jenn, whose 13 year old daughter Mikki is abducted to not appear again. The book tells the story of the upcoming events that follow this tragedy, as he decides to travel to Morocco where he's being abducted himself.

The book captured my attention from beginning to end, making it difficult to put it away, as there's so many surprises and unexpected developments. I have to acknowledge the authors imagination in the composition of this story, as it is nothing like a "flat" story, but packed with events and revealing the characters real faces that were surprising and original. The description of the characters also makes it easy to comprehend their motives, even to sympathize with them, in the case of Jaspar and Jenn.

It's a very enjoyable and moving read.

Nikkie says

Set Free

“How was I to know that, instead, I was simply being taken?”.

Meet Jaspar Wills, best selling author of *In The Middle*, as he arrives in Marrakesh, Morocco. He is taken from the airport, beaten, starved, photographed and left for dead. What do his kidnappers want? Is it fame and money? Is it related to his past?

His wife Jenn is left at home in Boston, with their friend Katie Edwards. As we travel through the book, we go back in time, seeing Jaspar's marriage to Jenn, how they met and a kidnapping of their own to name a few trips down memory lane.

“Voices. People. Were they here to save me or hurt me?”.

A great thriller with lots of twists and turns, a betrayed friendship, marital difficulties and a massive strain on the couple.

“Either he needed to trust her, and hold on for dear life, or let go and get as far away from her as possible”.

The last third of this book is absolutely packed with some massive twists in which I couldn't put the book down, to find out what would happen!

The ending of this book is left to the discretion of the reader, which is an ending I personally do not enjoy because it can be interpreted in different ways. However, to me the ending was clear in what I felt happened so in this instance I didn't mind as much as I would normally!

Thank you to Booktasters and Anthony Bidulka for the copy of this book in return for an honest review, I very much enjoyed this book!

Misty says

I was sent this book by the author through booktasters on twitter in exchange for an honest review.

WOW that was all I could think when I finished this book last night. Well that and What kind of ending was that? (more about that later)

This is the first book I have read by this author and it makes me want to read every book he has ever written. I picked this book from booktasters to read because the synopsis sounded intriguing to me and it had a pretty high star rating on goodreads and now I see why. It was AMAZING!! It switches back and forth between past and present which I usually have a difficult time keeping up with but the transition between past and present was done so well in this book I followed along with no problem. It was full of twists and turns that I never saw coming and it has plots within plots that keeps the reader guessing until the very end. I kind of expected to be able to figure out what happened and who was behind everything because usually I am pretty good at guessing but that didn't happen with this book. I never knew what was going to happen next so I have to applaud the author for that.

Now we can talk about that ending. I am not going to say what happens or how he ended it or anything like that because I don't want to spoil it for anyone who hasn't read it yet. When I finished this last night I literally looked at my husband and was like what kind of ending was that?(of course he had no idea what I was talking about lol) I initially didn't like it because it leaves you on a sort of cliffhanger. It wasn't until I went to bed and literally couldn't stop thinking about the book that I was like wait maybe my first initial thought of the ending was wrong. So I got up this morning and re read the last paragraph or two of the ending and realized I was wrong. Yes it leaves you on sort of a cliffhanger but at the same time if you pay close attention

you do get closure. If you enjoy suspenseful reads I highly recommend you pick this one up!! Also there is slight mature content in this novel so be aware of that.

Divya Mahajan says

Thank you @Booktasters and Anthony Bidulka for this book.

An unputdownable book. In the beginning I was ready to abandon the book not even halfway but somehow I couldn't put it down, and continued; and I am happy that I did (though I've never left a book halfread) but here something about the plot compelled me to read. The book starts with a kidnapping and the story of the main character also starts with a kidnapping. Both kidnappings are for a different reason but egg you to find out "What Next" Though the repeated past and present in the first half was a little frustrating but it makes sense in the end. And the the friend/journalist reminds me of the James Bond Villain Carver of "Tomorrow never dies"

I have given this book 5 stars only for the chapters / novel "Truth Be Told" These chapters just turn the whole plot around and have different tone than the rest of the book. Though the ending leaves you to wonder but still a very good read.

I am now starting if ever there is a sequel to this book what would it reveal? Only Jasper or Anthony Bidulka know

Chelsea Girard says

"Don't let the movies fool you about how easy it is to be a hero. Or worse, give you unreasonable expectations for your significant other's performance in dire circumstances."

Jasper Willis, an author, a traveler and a discovery junkie. Find himself in a similar situation, negotiating for a life, only this time it wasn't his daughters. Finding himself fighting for his life as he is held for ransom at the hands of murderers in Morocco, the reader follow the thoughts of Jasper as he undergoes the unimaginable- kidnapping.

As Jasper resurfaces into the world six months later after escaping from his kidnappers in Morocco, many have questions and he's not sure how the world will take his answers. With his story on the line and his life already in twists, Jasper has no choice but to dig deeper for the truth.

As an old friend, detective and now famous network host, Katie plans to use Jasper's story for her own fortune and travels to Morocco to find more details about his kidnapping. Little does she know she is walking right into a trap.

What she finds, will change.

What Jasper finds, will change everything.

It's been a lie, since the beginning.

Ilonka says

For me, a novel earns a 5-start rating:

- when I connect with the characters,
- when the story is plausible and compelling, and
- when the ending stays with me long after I've finished the last page.

'Set Free' does all of that and weaves it together with superb writing.

This novel is a total departure from Bidulka's earlier work. Jaspar Wills is not the witty, globe trotting PI of the Russell Quant series, or the high-living, disaster recovery agent of the Adam Saint series. Rather, Jaspar Wills is an ordinary man—likeable, successful, a contented husband and father—until a life-shattering event crushes his family and sends Jaspar down a path of dangerous bad decisions. Along the way he is forced to examine himself in ways that most of us will never do.

In 'Set Free' Bidulka has managed a tricky balance of sometimes unbearable suspense with moments of deep introspection and a plot that keeps on twisting.

Anneka Avery says

Absolutely Thrilling Read

I absolutely loved this book! It was a thrilling ride from start to finish and with so many superb twists and turns. I never guessed any of them before they happened! That's when you know you've read a good book! Getting to know the relationships between the characters and their back stories was interesting and I felt close to them. The wealth of emotion in this book was a real page turning aspect for me alongside the mystery and intrigue of wanting to know more. The descriptions of the places featured in this book were perfect and I really felt immersed into them, imaging the sights, sounds, smells and culture; even in Boston! I am now an avid follower of the author and I look forward to seeing what else he releases, his fortune will be greater than that of Jaspers I'm sure! Fantastic book and I would highly recommend it.

Kelly says

I started reading Anthony Bidulka a few years ago after I typed into Google something along the lines of Canadian, crime stories. I had been reading good authors, but I wanted Canadian literature. I discovered Anthony and another author who lives and bases his stories (so far) in Edmonton.

One of several things I liked about Anthony's works was the setting rural Saskatchewan and the city of Saskatoon, both familiar places. I went to university in Saskatoon, lived for a year prior to that in a smaller community between Regina and Saskatoon, so the setting was comfortable.

Anthony has an easy style of writing characters. I quickly devoured his Russell Quant series and recommended them to a German friend of mine who was as equally enthusiastic about them. Then I sat back to wait for more. In a short period of time came Adam Saint. I finished the first book, and by this time had started following Anthony on social media (poor man!). I barely ended the book when I tweeted: "You did not just end the book that way. You did not just do that to your character!" His response was: "Sorry!". The second Adam Saint came out and I rushed through that one. My tweet this time was along the lines of: "You really like to leave him hanging don't you?" This time the response was "But it's so much fun!"

This sense of humour shines through in Anthony's work. The main characters are human, with foibles, shortcomings, and attitude, and strengths. The homefront is comfortable I recognize the settings since I lived there, or in places similar to that. The characters have a strong sense of home, deep roots; so regardless of whether Russell Quant was in Saskatoon or somewhere on safari in Africa, or hanging out in Hawaii, the

sense of home stayed with the tone of the book. The same with Adam Saint - his first instinct when presented with the underlying thread of the story was to go home to Saskatchewan, to his family. To recharge and regroup by stepping back on the soil of his hometown. I think that's where the strength of the characters come from ... that sense of roots.

In Set Free, Anthony once again gets the reader deep within the story. He sets up a plot, this time the kidnapping of a child, then turns it on its side, when the father also gets kidnapped and then turns it on its side again. Plots within plots within plots, intricately woven together to keep the reader guessing until the end. He also has a habit of pulling a plot twist out of left field and ending in a way readers wouldn't expect.

And he STILL ends the book on a note which would have me tweeting him my exasperation keep us coming back for more, Anthony, because I certainly will!!!

P Franke says

I received this book from the author for an honest review. That said, wow! Once I started reading I didn't stop until 3 am.

Who do you believe?

What do you believe?

Do you even believe yourself or, more to the point, do you start questioning every damned thing?

Every character in "Set Free" is likeable right off the bat and the reader wants to cuddle up and hug them all and cheer on efforts to console when Mikki is kidnapped.

After that, everything goes down the crapper.

"Set Free" will keep you second guessing yourself (and switching loyalties) from beginning to end.

My own conclusions, which do not include any actual spoilers:

Abuse and torture, either mental, physical, or a combination of both, can break and even completely shatter a psyche. How a person responds to abuse/torture manifests itself in a variety of ways; some become stronger, others are broken beyond repair.

As a professional journalist (as well as a retired university professor of journalism, media communications, and ethics in journalism), I am really outraged with Katie just for that. The rest about her, enough said there for now...

Jenn, I believe, has problems within her marriage (and even her own life plans) that had nothing to do with Mikki's kidnapping.

Jaspar...where to start? So much guilt, but where did the guilt begin and where does it end, if ever? Jaspar's mental state throughout is so complex and interesting. Did he fake everything or were his experiences "real"? Some combination of the two?

Is the ending of the novel a true ending of Jaspar's story or a continuation of a delusion?

And who, after experiencing the events in the novel, can ever know for certain that the here and now is "true" and they are without a doubt "set free"?

Rosa says

Brilliant! I loved every minute of this book. Once I started it, I couldn't put it down. Not only the writing is brilliant, that didn't surprise me. Time ago I read Russell Quant mystery series, and despite it took me some

time to get used to Mr. Bidulka's writing style back then, I knew this book also was going to be good, but also it seems I've read it at the right time and mood. Sometimes timing is everything. The book has been languishing in my to-read pile since 2016/11/05 when I got it through Amazon as a freebie, but at that time I was reading Wheel of Time series and I was still in a phase when I was really invested in the story and I didn't want to change from fantasy to suspense. And then, I'm ashamed to say, I forgot I had this book in my Amazon account waiting for me. But better late than never as they say!

The book is fast paced and alternates between Jasper's and Katie's point of view. First we have Jasper, he is a writer with a successful career and whose life shatters one day when his daughter Mikki and later on, himself, are kidnapped. The book also shows us how he copes through his writing with all those life changing situations and how he starts healing, and through that healing, his life changes again. Then we have Katie, a reporter, friend of Jasper and his wife who is by their side the whole ordeal, first as a friend, making tea and just being there, later as a spokesperson for the press and, later on, as a journalist telling their story. However, nothing is what it seems. There are a lot of things going on here at the same time, different plots intertwining, and everything that you think is happening maybe is not. (view spoiler)

The story and the writing style is gripping, once you put your eyes in the first lines you'll find difficult to stop and the ending... just incredible! (view spoiler)

I highly recommend this book!

Christina says

As a fan of Anthony Bidulka's books, I was extremely excited to read this stand-alone novel. And I was not disappointed! From the first sentence, through the harrowing twists and turns, to the very unexpected ending I was held captive (pun intended!) by the mysterious characters and interesting locales. From the big city of Boston, to the exotic Middle East, to small town America; each place reveals something about our main characters. I had one main thought running through my head as I read this novel: "Where is he going with this?" And I mean it in the best way possible--I did not see that twist coming! The only thing I didn't love about this book was that it ended.

Mary Jaimes-Serrano says

I found this book very intriguing. I started out thinking okay a book about a writer, this could be interesting. I found I could not put it down. The plot twists were so unexpected and very engaging. I wanted to jump into the scene and help poor Jasper and Jenn so many times. I would recommend this book for all mystery enthusiasts as well as inquiring minds. I look forward to reading more by Anthony Bidulka.

I received this book in return for an honest review.

LucyLui's Reviews says

Set Free - Anthony Bidulka

Title: Set Free

Author: Anthony Bidulka

First Published in the UK: 2016

Publisher: Bon Vivant Books

Pages: 284

Price on Amazon: Paperback £11.44 Kindle: £4.58

ISBN: 099522921X

Two Kidnappings, One family and a Journalist.

Mikki is kidnapped on her way home from school one evening, the one night her parents decide she is old enough to be on her own for a few hours. Not long after the parents receive the ransom demands, through the post. Not over the phone or e-mail. The ransom says nothing about not contacting the police just how much money they want in return for their daughter alive. However, the ransom is never collected and the case goes cold. Mikki is not found.

Some weeks down the line Jenn, Mikki's mother is arrested for attempted murder of their neighbour Scott, as she found one of Mikki's pink hair clips in Scott's bed. It then comes out that Jenn has slept with Scott. Scott is arrested and his daughter then accuses him of abuse.

A few months down the line Jester Mikki's father decides to go travelling to get back into his writing. He flies to Morocco, he lands in Morocco, where he catches what he believes to be a taxi. He has however been kidnapped himself. Jester goes through a terrible time whilst being a prisoner including beatings.

When Jester makes it home he writes a book about the kidnapping of his daughter and of his own kidnapping experiences. Is all how it seems though?

Throughout all of this, the family's friend Katie who is a journalist is helping them, she is controlling the media and being the spokesperson for the family.

I started off enjoying this book, I found I couldn't put it down and I found myself praying that Mikki would be returned safely to her family. I also found myself hoping that Jenn and Jester wouldn't be torn apart by this ordeal as we see so many times.

I found Katie at this stage of the book to be a really great friend, helping with the media, it's the last thing the parents want to deal with. Giving the family advice. Yes it helped boost her career but I believed she saw that as an added extra not her reason for doing it.

When Jester was kidnapped I did think did this have something to do with Mikki's kidnapping. I also felt so bad for Jenn, first her daughter and now her husband. This book throws you through a rollercoaster of emotions.

Later on, when Katie reveals her secret I won't say any more than that for spoilers I was shocked I couldn't believe it. I didn't know whether to be angry or sad or just damn confused.

I must admit at this stage I didn't know where the book could go from here and thought it was going to end in a very disappointing way and I was no longer going to enjoy it. How wrong was I?

This book had plenty of places to go, I must say when Mikki's kidnapper is revealed it floored me. I am usually so good at guessing who done it as they say but I was so far out with this one. So seriously well done.

I was confused with the ending I don't know whether Mikki is alive or dead though so that's put my mind to thinking. I have chosen to give this book 5-Stars as it put me through my paces emotionally, it kept me guessing throughout and it still managed to surprise me. I would recommend to anyone looking for a great

read. This is deffo on my to reread list. This is a book I will be thinking about for some time.

Donald Sinclair says

This book would make an interesting film.
