



## Soft Target

*Conrad Jones*

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SOFT TARGET is a chilling fictional story that takes the reader inside the hearts and minds of a violent terrorist cell. Based around the Terrorist Task Force the story is a rollercoaster ride of frighteningly real events across America and the UK. The story is the first of three that follow the lead agent John Tankersley, AKA, Tank. The plot has been described as worryingly good. Controversy and violence are never far away when Tank and the Task Force are around.

## Soft Target Details

Date : Published February 1st 2009 by GeriCon Books Ltd (first published January 5th 2008)

ISBN : 9780956103406

Author : Conrad Jones

Format : Paperback 296 pages

Genre : Thriller, Suspense, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Soft Target for online ebook

### Olwyn Lacey says

Brilliant don't need to say more!

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### Jack says

Well plotted post 7/7 terrorist thriller, with reference to many real events. Some of the explanatory bits were a little over the top (but may have been useful to a non-British reader). There were a few spelling errors, and the punctuation indicates the writer had a previous career as a greengrocer.

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### Kimberly Fradale says

I felt it had gratuitous violence and little to no redeeming message. The characters were shallow and the numerous grammatical errors were distracting.

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### Neil Wright says

The debut novel of Conrad Jones, a former restauranter of Manchester who got caught up in the I.R.A. bombings of 1996, which subsequently and somewhat admirably inspired Jones to write the Soft Target series. To turn a traumatic and harrowing experience as this into something productive, informative and creative is in itself a credit to Conrad Jones.

The setting is primarily in the north of England, Liverpool and Warrington hold centre stage for the novel, so living a few miles further down the motor way myself made the locations familiar and enjoyable to read about. The plot is centered around the prevention of a major terrorist attack by a dangerous and infamous islamic terrorist, with a past record of attacks on high profile global targets. The law enforcers are a terrorist task force based in Liverpool.

It is important to mention that this is Jones' debut novel, and the scent it gives off is one of someone cutting his teeth in an area that isn't to familiar. The plot is good, it has all the ingredients of a gripping and exhilarating thriller. However, some of the language leaves a little to be desired, it is not of the caliber of what one might expect. Not that I expect a novel to be written in the queen's perfect English, but it has to be of the highest standard in the style that it was intended to be. For example, the work of Irvine Welch is written in a rough and ready streetwise slang, ideal for the nature of his stories. Forsyth writes with an academic, concise journalistic prose, perfect for his detail. However, I'm sure Jones is morphing his own style as his books progress.

The characters of the book were difficult to connect with also. This is no fault of the author, but the main man is a million miles away from me and I found nothing to relate to. Maybe that was just me but there didn't seem to be much background to endear the reader to the characters other than; 'this is the good guy and this is bad guy'. And on the unbelievable coincidences that occur in the story, I shall not mention.

I enjoyed reading about the places and locations that are familiar to the north west of England, but as a novel, I don't think I'll be clamouring over browsing shoppers to get my hands on the sequel. I hope that the next books in the series are an improvement on the first, which I am sure they will be (as their sales figures on Amazon suggest) but for me I'll be looking for something different.

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### **Joe Stamber says**

I'm in almost total agreement with another reviewer, Neil Wright, who says that Soft Target has a good plot but that the writing leaves something to be desired. The narrative often feels laboured and some of the dialogue is unrealistic. However, I can't deny that the story is an exciting one that whips along and makes up for some of the shortcomings. Thrillers tend to skimp on character development, and Soft Target is no different, although Jones does give the reader a perspective from both sides, which I liked. Overall Soft Target is a decent thriller and shows Conrad Jones has potential that needs work to be fully realised.

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### **David says**

Pleasantly surprised as it was a cheap buy for Kindle. Will read at least the next one.

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### **Debbie says**

Harsh, gasp out loud story! Not what I would have thought I would have liked but I could not put this one down! Excellent.

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### **Shannon says**

This sounds like a thrilling book full of suspense. Should be very interesting and a great read. I'm really looking forward to reading this book. I love that it is part of a series so the story can continue and characters can be more involved!

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### **Andre Walter says**

A great book full of suspense. Story woven in and around real time events relevant to our times. I found the book hard to put down and was continually inquisitive about what is going to happen next.

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### **Kirby says**

[ This is a self-published book that took off so quickly when it was published this year that a publisher bought the rights to the book within a few months of it's self-publishing.:] This is a book about an elite group of agents who track terrorists and neutralize them. At this point they are tracking one of the the most prolific

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and bold terrorists, Yasser Ahmed, first in the U.S. and then over to the U.K. As we watch we see how terrorists are made, why they plan to do what they do and how the simplest plan can bring about horrific devastation. What is frightening about this book is how close to the truth the author is on terrorism and terrorists and how easily anyone or any country anywhere can become the soft target.

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### **Andrea Susan says**

This was a very realistic and uncannily close to recent events at the time of reading. It had some stark reminders about previous terrorist activities as well as a fast paced plot about a terrorist cell and its soft targets.

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### **Amy Peck says**

#### **Boom!**

Well plotted, action driven story that does not let up until the very last page. Looking forward to reading the next volumes in the series.

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### **Amanda Gorry says**

This is a very thought provoking novel. It tells the story of these terrorists in such a way that it makes you feel that it is a documentary bringing to life real events. Makes the threat of terrorism feel much more real and closer to home than something distant that happens to other people on the news

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### **Michael Reid says**

#### **Thoroughly enjoyable**

A lot of detail, some local history and general knowledge all combined to produce a ripping yarn. Terrifyingly realistic and possible the story gallops along with no self indulgent prose of the type that entertains the writer more than the reader.

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### **Matthew Andrus says**

After reading the reviews of this book on amazon I decided that I would give it a go mainly as the book is set near where I live so if anything I can relate to the locations in the book.

I have to say apart from some of the editing in the latter part of the book this isn't a bad book at all.

The story is actually well though of and gripping enough to keep you reading on

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