



Ghostman

By Roger Hobbs

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Ghostman By Roger Hobbs

Stunningly dark, hugely intelligent and thoroughly addictive, *Ghostman* announces the arrival of an exciting and highly distinctive novelist.

When a casino robbery in Atlantic City goes horribly awry, the man who orchestrated it is obliged to call in a favor from someone who's occasionally called Jack. While it's doubtful that anyone knows his actual name or anything at all about his true identity, or even if he's still alive, he's in his mid-thirties and lives completely off the grid, a criminal's criminal who does entirely as he pleases and is almost impossible to get in touch with. But within hours a private jet is flying this exceptionally experienced fixer and cleaner-upper from Seattle to New Jersey and right into a spectacular mess: one heister dead in the parking lot, another winged but on the run, the shooter a complete mystery, the \$1.2 million in freshly printed bills god knows where and the FBI already waiting for Jack at the airport, to be joined shortly by other extremely interested and elusive parties. He has only forty-eight hours until the twice-stolen cash literally explodes, taking with it the wider, byzantine ambitions behind the theft. To contend with all this will require every gram of his skill, ingenuity and self-protective instincts, especially when offense and defense soon become meaningless terms. And as he maneuvers these exceedingly slippery slopes, he relives the botched bank robbery in Kuala Lumpur five years earlier that has now landed him this unwanted new assignment.

From its riveting opening pages, *Ghostman* effortlessly pulls the reader into Jack's refined and peculiar world—and the sophisticated shadowboxing grows ever more intense as he moves, hour by hour, toward a constantly improvised solution. With a quicksilver plot, gripping prose and masterly expertise, Roger Hobbs has given us a novel that will immediately place him in the company of our most esteemed crime writers.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review A first novel comes along every few years that clearly separates itself from the field, like Secretariat winning the 1973 Belmont Stakes by 31 lengths. This year's Secretariat is going to be *Ghostman*, a propulsive thriller that combines incredible detail and nonstop narrative drive. Jack White is the *Ghostman*, a pseudonymous loner living far off the grid who specializes in disappearing. After a high-level heist, he makes sure that all traces of the caper vanish. Only once, in Kuala Lumpur, did it all go bad. The organizer of that job, a master criminal named Marcus, blames Jack for the fiasco, so when Marcus penetrates Jack's deep cover, it clearly means trouble. But Marcus doesn't want to kill the *Ghostman*, at least not yet. What Marcus wants is for Jack to even the score by making a botched armored-car robbery in Atlantic City disappear—except, of course, for the take, which has itself disappeared but needs to be found. The clock is ticking because if the \$1.2 million in freshly minted bills isn't recovered quickly, it will explode. Naturally, there are multiple levels of double- and triple-crosses layered within the premise, and Hobbs tantalizingly reveals them—always keeping his hole cards thoroughly vested as he tracks Jack's progress. The suspense builds inexorably, heightened rather than impeded by the supportive detail with which Hobbs undergirds the action (the backstory on those exploding bills, for example, will have readers wondering how a twentysomething author could possibly know what he knows). There's also a jaunty, cat-and-mouse subplot involving Jack and a female FBI agent who may be more interested in Jack than the crime. Comparisons to Lee Child are inevitable here, and surely Hobbs possesses a Child-like ability for first unleashing and then shrewdly directing a tornado of a plot, but he also evokes Elmore Leonard in the subtle interplay of his characters. A triumph on every level. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Knopf knows it has a winner here and is backing Hobbs' debut with the kind of marketing support rarely granted a first novel. Movie rights have been sold to Warner Brothers, and options have been signed by 13 publishers across the globe. --Bill Ott

Review

“Fast, hard and knowing: this is an amazing debut full of intrigue, tradecraft and suspense. Read it immediately!” —Lee Child

“A slam-bang, pedal-to-the-metal crime story that fires on all cylinders and then some! *Ghostman* is a gritty, lean, mean adrenaline machine. Mostly, though, it was just plain fun to read. I absolutely loved this book and cannot recommend it highly enough.” —Christopher Reich

“Smoking-fast.... Hobbs seizes our attention and holds it tight through his sheer, masterly use of details, and the authoritative, hard-boiled voice he has fashioned for Jack, a “ghostman” [with] an encyclopedic knowledge of criminal tradecraft.” —Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

“Hobbs, a first-time novelist who's barely out of college but already writing with the poise of an old pro, has put a great deal of wit and ingenuity into Jack's sophisticated professional skills. . . . But Jack is no common trickster, and his daring criminal exploits are grounded in detailed, well-researched knowledge of all kinds of practical matters, from picking locks to faking the Kazakhstan Crown Diamond. . . . Although Hobbs is an assured stylist who favors clean, precise prose, he handles violence with a lyric touch. In a narrative stuffed with gruesome murders, the most graphic death is executed in a gracefully choreographed scene that's remarkably poignant.” —Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times Book Review*

“A stunningly accomplished debut [with] narrative speed and structure, as well as [an] encyclopedic

knowledge of subjects ranging from the Federal Reserve's security measures to gunrunning in Malaysia. . . . Hobbs has the talent to fuel best-sellers and summer blockbusters for years to come." —Doug Childers, *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*

"Stylishly gritty and fast-paced." —Abbe Wright, *O Magazine*

"A first novel comes along every few years that clearly separates itself from the field, like Secretariat winning the 1973 Belmont Stakes by 31 lengths. This year's Secretariat is going to be *Ghostman*, a propulsive thriller that combines incredible detail and nonstop narrative drive....The suspense builds inexorably, heightened by the supportive detail with which Hobbs undergirds the action.... Comparisons to Lee Child are inevitable here, and surely Hobbs possesses a Child-like ability for first unleashing and then shrewdly directing a tornado of a plot, but he also evokes Elmore Leonard in the subtle interplay of his characters. A triumph on every level." —Bill Ott, *Booklist*

"Terrific: lightning fast, absolutely compelling and smart as all get-out....*Ghostman* is a real piece of work—without question, the strongest crime-fiction debut I've read in a long time." —Adam Woog, *The Seattle Times*

"Hobbs commands every detail. He delivers information with absolute authority. . . . Because of his precision, comparison to Lee Child and his superlative Jack Reacher novels are inevitable. And what Child's debut novel, *Killing Floor*, did for thrillers, Hobbs does for crime novels." —Robert Anglen, *The Arizona Republic*

"Richly imagined and darkly fascinating." —Gerald Bartell, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"A gripping adrenaline rush, a dirty bomb of a crime thriller with a deceptive plot that confounds and stimulates characters and readers alike." —Sam Coggeshall, *Portland Monthly*

"Hobbs's unique voice resonates, making this newcomer a strong contender in the world of crime fiction. Like some of the best writers, Hobbs has created a character that evolves, becoming more complex as the plot rolls to an open-ended conclusion. Jack, like most ghosts, will always have unfinished business." —Sara Polomy, *The Wilkes-Barre Sunday Dispatch*

"This watertight debut [is] at once slick and gritty... Straight out of the gate, Hobbs has mastered the essentials of a contemporary thriller: a noirlike tone, no-nonsense prose and a hero with just enough personality to ensure he doesn't come off as an amoral death machine [as well as] heart-stopping scenes that illustrate how small mistakes can turn catastrophic." —*Kirkus*, starred review

"*Ghostman* is not just an impressive debut, it's an impressive book. It's one to buckle yourself in for because the ride is fast, thrilling and constantly veering all over the road with a very exciting new talent at the wheel." —Simon Toyne, author of *Sanctus* and *The Key*

About the Author

Roger Hobbs lives in Portland, Oregon, after graduating in 2011 from Reed College. *Ghostman* will be published in fourteen countries around the world.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Fern Barron:

The actual book Ghostman will bring that you the new experience of reading any book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to learn, this book very acceptable to you. The book Ghostman is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

Betty Walsh:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always try to and must have the spare time or they will get wide range of stress from both day to day life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, often the book you have read is usually Ghostman.

Elijah McWhorter:

This Ghostman is completely new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information because it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you in it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having tiny amount of digest in reading this Ghostman can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this book is easy to get by anyone. These books acquire itself in the form that is certainly reachable by anyone, sure I mean in the e-book application form. People who think that in book form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So there is absolutely no in reading a publication especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for an individual. So , don't miss the idea! Just read this e-book kind for your better life as well as knowledge.

Joel Padilla:

As a college student exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher expected them to go to the library or to make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just very little students that has reading's spirit or real their leisure activity. They just do what the professor want, like asked to go to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that studying is not important, boring as well as can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important for you personally. As we know that on this era, many ways to get whatever you want. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Ghostman can make you sense more interested to read.

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