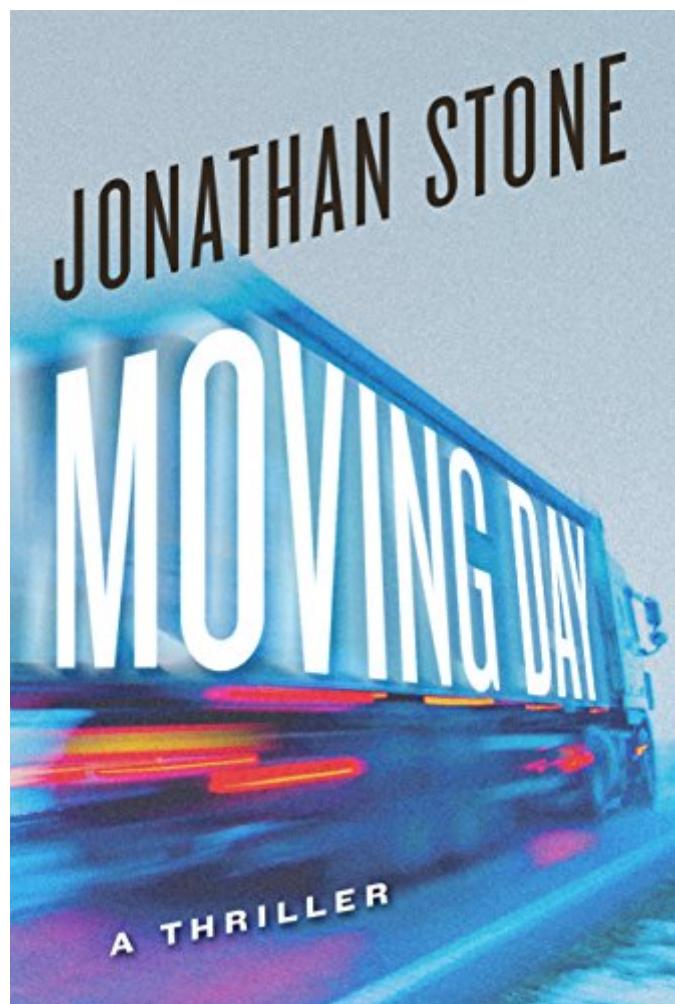


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Moving Day: A Thriller



Synopsis

Forty yearsâ™ accumulation of art, antiques, and family photographs are more than just objects for Stanley Pekeâ "they are proof of a life fully lived. A life he could have easily lost long ago. When a con man steals his houseful of possessions in a sophisticated moving-day scam, Peke wanders helplessly through his empty New England home, inevitably reminded of another helpless time: decades in Pekeâ™s past, a cold and threadbare Stanislaw Shmuel Pecoskowitz eked out a desperate existence in the war-torn Polish countryside, subsisting on scraps and dodging Nazi soldiers. Now, the seventy-two-year-old Pekeâ "who survived, came to America, and succeededâ "must summon his original grit and determination to track down the thieves, retrieve his things, and restore the life he made for himself. Peke and his wife, Rose, trace the path of the thievesâ™ truck across America, to the wilds of Montana, and to an ultimate, chilling confrontation with not only the thieves but also with Pekeâ™s brutal, unresolved past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I chose Moving Day from the May Kindle First options because it was listed as a crime thriller. It was not quite what I was expecting. It does start out with a fairly sophisticated crime that was made even

more grim because of targeting trusting senior citizens. In this case, the senior citizen has the means and ability to fight back. If you are a reader who always wonders about the motivation of others, this may be a really enjoyable book for you. For senior victim, Stanley Peke, this crime is a catalyst for introspection of his entire life and how it has all been effected by his experiences before age ten. Not only does Stanley dwell on his own motivations and need to gain control and reclaim his possessions but he also dwells on the motivations and thought processes of the thief. The reader also gets to read about the musings of Stanley's wife as well as those from the thief. Jonathan Stone has a crisp writing style and while I personally was not enthralled by this book, I can see where it would appeal to many. I think it really belongs in the literary fiction category rather than thriller.

This is an epic struggle between a thief who loves to annihilate his victims, and a victim who refuses to give in to that fate. Although I wish there had been a bit more about Nick the thief in *Moving Day*, I realize that Stanley Peke is the real focus of this book; it is his story that must be told. As Stanley and his wife Rose drive across country to locate their stolen belongings, Stanley's past is slowly uncovered a bit at a time, and we see how his traumatic childhood has closed him off from everyone around him-- even the family he loves deeply. *Moving Day* succeeds on so many levels: as the story of the theft and attempted recovery of valuable art and antiques, as the road trip tale of an elderly couple who've never seen the interior of the country, as a glimpse into how some people live their lives in remote sections of states like Montana, but most of all as a nuanced and deeply moving character study. This is a compelling book that's marred by only one thing: the author's writing style relies far too much on sentence fragments. Sentence fragments work in small doses, but most pages of *Moving Day* have several. Sentence fragments that are lists, sentence fragments where the same phrase is repeated, or one word in the phrase is changed and then repeated. It almost became too much for me to deal with because those fragments chopped the flow of the narrative to pieces. But no matter how annoying it was, the story fascinated me, and I had to know what happened. I'm glad I kept reading, and I'm glad I know what happened to Stanley and Rose. I just wish the experience hadn't been such a chore.

This book starts simply enough for a mystery/thriller. An old couples' furniture is all stolen by a fake moving company. From there it moves to a cerebral mystery that is part psychological thriller. The old man is a survivor of WWII and that fuels much of what he does and how he perceives the world. *MOVING DAY* starts with a bang when the reader learns in the first few pages that the movers

have stolen every material thing the couple owns. Unfortunately it then slows to a near crawl for the next several chapters. There is so much cogitation that the plot almost comes to a halt. After that, though, the book turns into a thoughtful page turner. The reader knows most of what will happen - for a while -just not how. The old man pulls off a coup that is believable and leaves the reader shaking his head in wonderment. The ending is a tad over the top, but still exciting and by then the reader is so caught in the chess match between Peke and the bad guy, the bits that skirt incredulity (not by a lot) are more than forgivable. This is a very good mystery/thriller. It was only those 60 or so pages of crawl that bring it down from a five star recommendation to a 4.5. Still highly recommended. The brief slog is well worth going through to get back to the "moving" and smart plot.

"As if the Mercedes is being poured from a bottleneck of urban density out into vastness and shapelessness, out into inexplicable space and plenty". If you like this sentence, you will love this book because there are countless more like it. Look at it: a horrible, totally uninspired metaphor of a car flowing like liquid out onto the plains. "A bottleneck of urban density"! You don't pour from a bottleneck, which is a blockage, you pour from a bottle. Why is the space "inexplicable" or shapeless? The self-indulgent rambling is a misguided attempt at poetic imagery in a cheap thriller. The author takes off on these ungrammatical flights of misty fancy to pad out the slow-moving action. This clotted prose chokes the book, which has one good idea (the crooks who move you out a day early) and lots of bad ones (like inserting a GPS chip into a wristwatch, or the victim, a Jew, dressing up as a Nazi). If you are looking for shapelessness and inexplicable space and plenty, look no further: it is the book "Moving Day."

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