

The Informant (Butcher's Boy, Book 3)

By Thomas Perry

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“Perry’s novels—the best ones—are a master class in thriller writing. The Informant should be the newest addition to that syllabus, read for devouring first, and analysis thereafter.”—*Los Angeles Times*

The Butcher’s Boy is back. Thomas Perry’s vengeful assassin has returned to play a deadly psychological game with Elizabeth Waring, the only Justice Department official who ever believed he existed.

The Butcher’s Boy knows Waring can help him hunt down the Mafia boss who sent a team of hit men to kill him—and in return he offers her key information that will help her crack an unsolved murder. So begins a new assault on organized crime and an uneasy alliance between opposite sides of the law. As the Butcher’s Boy works his way ever closer to his deadly enemy in an effort to kill him first, Waring is in a desperate struggle, either to force her unlikely ally to become a protected informant, or to take him out of commission for good.

“Excellent . . . Perry offers a compelling, rapid-fire plot, credible Mafia and FBI secondary characters, an indictment of self-serving officialdom, and the old soul-shattering moral dilemma: what is truth?”—*Publishers Weekly*

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The Informant (Butcher's Boy, Book 3) By Thomas Perry Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

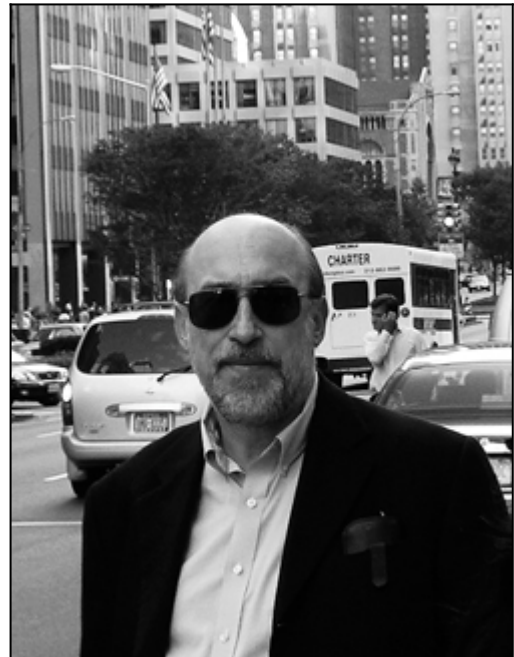
In Thomas Perry's Edgar-winning debut *The Butcher's Boy*, a professional killer betrayed by the Mafia leaves countless mobsters dead and then disappears. Justice Department official Elizabeth Waring is the only one who believes he ever existed. Many years later, the Butcher's Boy finds his peaceful life threatened when a Mafia hit team finally catches up with him. He knows they won't stop coming and decides to take the fight to their door.

Soon Waring, now high up in the Organized Crime Division of the Justice Department, receives a surprise latenight visit from the Butcher's Boy. Knowing she keeps track of the Mafia, he asks her whom his attackers worked for, offering information that will help her crack an unsolved murder in return. So begins a new assault on organized crime and an uneasy alliance between opposite sides of the law. As the Butcher's Boy works his way ever closer to his quarry in an effort to protect his new way of life, Waring is in a race against time, either to convince him to become a protected informant—or to take him out of commission for good.

Recommended Summer Reading from the Author of *The Informant*

Thomas Perry's Summer Reading List:

1) Lawrence Sanders, *A Drop of the Hard Stuff*. In this novel, Sanders brings back Matt Scudder, one of his great characters. Scudder has been sober for quite a few years, and now he is presented with a murder mystery within his circle of New York Alcoholics Anonymous members. The dialogue in this book is so concise and perfect in tone that the reader will wish he could follow Scudder around and overhear more of it. Sanders is one of the most respected mystery writers in America, and this new book, which was published in May, is a lesson in how to write.



2) Joe Gores, *Spade and Archer*. This is the final book of a fine writer who won three Edgar Awards and wrote numerous excellent books. He was also an expert on Dashiell Hammett, and in this is a prequel to *The Maltese Falcon* he writes in Hammett's style.

3) Josh Bazell, *Beat the Reaper*. Published in 2009, this first novel was written by a brilliant young man whose day job is being a doctor. It's original, witty, and maybe just a little bit crazy at times--the perfect book for summer. I believe we'll be reading Bazell's books for a long time, so it's time to begin.

4) Deon Meyer, *Thirteen Hours*. Meyer, who is South African, is gradually being noticed by other writers as a major talent. *Thirteen Hours* is one of the most suspenseful books I've ever read, and is a good introduction to his work.

5) John Sandford, *Storm Prey*. I chose this book, which came out in 2010, because it's recent, because it includes both Lucas Davenport and Virgil Flowers, and because I haven't yet read the book that came out in May, *Buried Prey*. But you can choose from any of his 40 others, and it will be well worth your time.

Review

"A book-length war of nerves that accentuates the best of Mr. Perry's gift for using pure logic and gamesmanship to generate breathless nonstop suspense...*The Informant* is a marvel of tight, thoughtful construction."

—Janet Maslin, *New York Times*

"Maybe you've heard of him. Named after the foster father (Eddie the Butcher) who taught him his trade, and introduced almost 30 years ago by Thomas Perry in "The Butcher's Boy," this cold-blooded professional killer is one of the immortals of the genre. Michael Schaeffer, to give his antihero his current alias, seemed a bit mechanical when he briefly came out of retirement two decades ago in "Sleeping Dogs," but he makes a great comeback in *The Informant* (Otto Penzler/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$27) – older wiser and deadlier. Perry has to exert himself to engineer a reunion between Schaeffer, who has surfaced from anonymity to defend himself from the mafia good squads that have taken a sudden interest in him, and Elizabeth Waring, a hyper-vigilant honcho with the Department of Justice whose fondest desire is to turn Schaeffer into a government informant. But once these uneasy civilities are attended to, the Butcher's Boy is free to kill again, in his own distinctly cruel and inventive way. The fun thing about his professional methods is how low-tech they are. That's poetic justice for a target like Frank Tosca, an old-school underboss who has called an extraordinary meeting in Arizona to convince the fractious leaders of the big crime families that he can revitalize the mafia and lead it into a new golden age. While everyone is on high alert for marauders brandishing advanced weapons of war, the Butcher's Boy quietly sneaks into Tosca's cabin and slits his throat with a hunting knife he picked up at a sporting-goods store. Perry's immaculate style – clean, polished, uncluttered by messy emotions – suits the Butcher's Boy, who executes his kills with the same cool, dispassionate skill. But this time there's something almost human about his awareness of the limitations imposed by his aging body. Luckily, one of the lessons he learned from Eddie is that "killing was mostly a mental business. It required thinking clearly, not quickly." And his mind is still sharp enough to devise the kind of ingenious logistical traps a young computer gamer could only dream of."

—Marilyn Stasio, *New York Times Book Review*

"Edgar-winner Perry's excellent third Butcher's Boy novel (after *Sleeping Dogs*) pits the Butcher's Boy (aka Michael Schaeffer), an impeccably effective hit man, against his old nemesis, Elizabeth Waring, an impeccably honest Justice Department official. Though Waring's boss, arrogant political appointee Dale Hunsecker, tries to hamstring her, Waring wants to bolster her 20-year pursuit of Mafia bosses by turning the Butcher's Boy into America's most important informant. Waring soon enters into an intricate pas de deux with a man who considers death a buy-sell commodity. Meanwhile, this icy yet strangely appealing killer, who reads Waring as well as she reads him, methodically murders capo after capo and their "made men" across the country, the only way he can safely return to his quiet retirement in England with his beloved wife, Meg. Perry offers a compelling, rapid-fire plot, credible Mafia and FBI secondary characters, an indictment of self-serving officialdom, and the old soul-shattering moral dilemma: what is truth?"

—*Publishers Weekly*, STARRED review

"Twenty years after a trio of lowlifes forced him out of retirement (*Sleeping Dogs*, 1992, etc.), the Butcher's Boy is back.

When you're a professional killer who works freelance, your employers are likely to include a large number of nasty guys. So it's not clear to Perry's nameless hero, who started calling himself Michael Schaeffer when he moved to England and settled in Bath as the husband of Lady Margaret Holroyd, which of his former associates sent the three men who inadvertently flushed him out of hiding and then tried to kill him. He has no trouble tracing the three to midlevel New York capo Michael Delamina, whom he kills on page two. In order to identify Delamina's boss, however, he has to consult his old nemesis, Elizabeth Waring of the Justice Department. Taking a leaf from Hannibal Lecter's playbook, he urges her, 'Tell me, and I'll tell you something.' When Elizabeth fingers rising under-boss Frank Tosca as Schaeffer's next target, he gives her some juicy information on an old Tosca murder in return. But although "he had never failed to accomplish his goal when all it entailed was killing someone," her news comes too late to help. By the time Schaeffer kills Tosca, the ambitious under-boss has convened a sit-down in which his counterparts from across the country have agreed to join his vendetta against the Butcher's Boy—a goal Tosca's death only makes them more eager to pursue. For her part, Elizabeth is so determined to bring Schaeffer into the Witness Protection Program as the ultimate informant that she's willing offer him a series of unauthorized deals, which of course he spurns. Schaeffer is squeezed between two collective adversaries with virtually unlimited personnel and resources. On the other hand, only Schaeffer is the Butcher's Boy. Beneath the sky-high body count, the twisty plot is powered by Perry's relentless focus on the question of where the next threat is coming from and how to survive it."

—*Kirkus*, STARRED review

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—Sarah Weinman, *Los Angeles Times*

From the Back Cover

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THOMAS PERRY is the author of the Jane Whitefield series as well as the best-selling novels *Death Benefits* and *Pursuit*. He won the Edgar Award for *The Butcher's Boy*, and *Metzger's Dog* was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Susan Burroughs:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a book your ability to survive boost then having chance to stand than other is high. In your case who want to start reading any book, we give you that The Informant (Butcher's Boy, Book 3) book as nice and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Avis Zeiger:

The publication untitled The Informant (Butcher's Boy, Book 3) is the guide that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to an individual. The language that article author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of exploration when write the book, to ensure the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of The Informant (Butcher's Boy, Book 3) from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

Rafael Perez:

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Richard Manning:

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