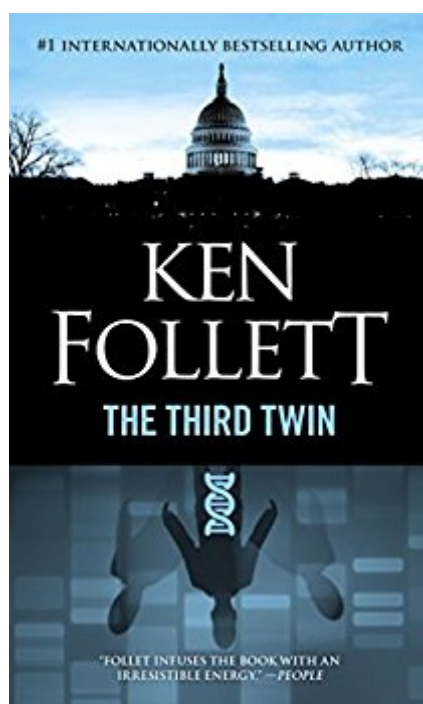


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Third Twin: A Novel Of Suspense



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Using a restricted FBI database, genetic researcher Jeanie Ferrami has located identical twins born to different mothers. Frightened by her bizarre discovery, she is determined to discover the truth at any cost "until she finds herself at the center of a scandal that could ruin her career. To fight the charges, Jeannie plunges into a maze of hidden evidence. With growing horror, she uncovers a cynical, far-reaching conspiracy involving disturbing genetic experiments and some of the most powerful men in America "men who will kill to keep their secrets concealed. Praise for Ken Follett and *The Third Twin* "Follett infuses the book with an irresistible energy. "People "A provocative, well-paced, and sensational biotech thriller. "Variety "A page-turner . . . Follett is one of the smoothest suspense writers around, and *The Third Twin* will only enhance his reputation. "Chicago Tribune "Follett is a master of the fast-paced plot. "The Washington Post From the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

I notice that there are two distinct groups of reviewers for this book. One group feels that it is excellent and the other feels that it is very poor in quality. However, I have found the book to be an

excellent read and so have other book lovers among my acquaintances. The story is gripping, full of suspense and with a lot of twists. I liked the strong determined character of the heroine. The characters of Steve Logan, Berrington Jones etc. are also well drawn sketches. The plot is intriguing and deals with cutting edge BioTechnology. It has been thoroughly researched as any Ken Follett novel generally is (I know Follett has a good research team to help him out while writing) The tension is taut throughout. It is well written as any Ken Follett novel is. It has all the ingredients of a top class thriller. The only drawback that I have noticed was the computer program that Jeannie Ferrami wrote to retrieve matches from databases. That seems a bit far fetched since the program seems to run on any platform, search any database of any type. I have not come across any program like that. However, apart from this minor flaw, there is hardly any blemish in the book. It made me a Follett fan at once and though the other books he has written are different, I have enjoyed most of them.

On a recent trip to Florida I stopped in at the airport book shop and purchased a book for the return flight to Italy. I had read Ken Follet's excellent "Pillars of the Earth" a few years ago and decided to try another of his books. This book did not even approach the level of the first Follet novel I read. Unlike "Pillars", in "The Third Twin" Follet does not appear to have done any research on his subject matter. In one section he has a character reminiscing about his father who was a SECOND LIEUTENANT in the US NAVY. The US Navy has never had second lieutenants; junior officers of that pay grade are called Ensigns. But this is only the beginning of technical errors that destroy an otherwise compelling story line. One of the main weapons of the protagonist is a computer program that she wrote to compare elements in database to develop genetic comparisons. Unfortunately, the way the thing is supposed to work is closer to something that Gandalf or Harry Potter would whip up rather than something out of computer science class. The poorly researched and unbelievable stuff goes on and worsens throughout the book. More examples - people out on bail without a security clearance wandering the halls of the Pentagon and putting magic floppy disks into the Pentagon computers - you guessed it - so they could search the databases on those computers. All in all, I was very, very glad when the book drew to its predictable close. Follet is a good writer, but he really needs to research his subjects better before writing a book.

It's inconceivable to me that the author of Pillars of the Earth could come up with something so bad. Had the political characterizations been written by Nancy Pelosi, they would have been more balanced. The plot was entirely predictable, the dialogue juvenile, and the brilliant characters

incredibly stupid at times. The research was atrocious. For example, one of the Pentagon employees was an overweight 50 something female lieutenant. In the first place, the military doesn't have junior officers in their 50's. In the second place, junior officers with weight problems are disciplined, not given plum jobs in the Pentagon. Soldiers don't fire warning shots, especially not inside the Pentagon. The black WWII veteran had an antique pistol that he took off a German because black soldiers weren't allowed weapons, even in a war zone. The Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps are proper nouns and should be capitalized. Police officers don't carry their weapons into interrogation rooms and jail. The list goes on and on. Follett is usually a much better researcher. In short, had Ken Follett's name not been on the cover, no one outside the author's family would pay to read tripe like this. Follett is a great author. I don't know what happened to convince him to publish this train wreck.

"The Third Twin" is the first Ken Follett novel that I have read, and I must say that I am definitely going to try some of his earlier works, even though I know this book is different from some of his earlier efforts. However, I really liked this book; it moves well; it has likeable heroes and nasty villains. It addresses the question of nature vs. nurture, and Follett obviously believes that no matter what's in your genes, it's important as to what kind of environment you are raised in. Jeannie Ferrami, the heroine, is a strong, determined character, and I liked her persistence in proving not only that her scientific studies are correct, but that the conspiracy she has uncovered needs to be addressed! I wish sometimes other reviewers wouldn't...mention some of the plot's "surprises," such as the number of clones, but even though in reading the reviews, you get advance information, don't let that spoil the finesse in which Follette weaves his tale. I liked Steve Logan, too. He comes across as a sincere, honest type of guy, who wants to be a good lawyer and is caught in the unbelievable maze of discovering he is a clone. The novel opens briskly with one of the evil clones rape of Jeanne's best friend, and we get involved with the confusion when Steve enters Jeannie's life. The villains are all particularly vile, but Berrington Jones is the worst. Such a pompous, self-serving fool. Fortunately, after our heroes go through countless setbacks, the ending is justifiable and the epilogue at the end is particularly touching. A great book; I really enjoyed it for its entertainment value!

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