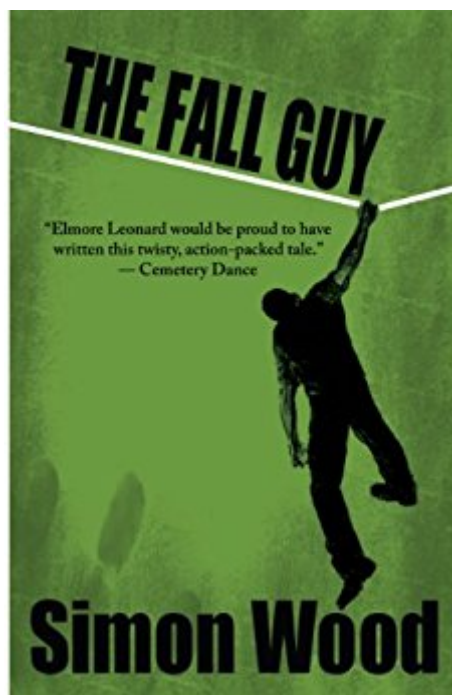


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The Fall Guy



Synopsis

Todd Collins has failed in every job he's ever undertaken, but that all changes when he backs his jalopy in a shiny, new Porsche belonging to a drug dealer. When the police stop the drug dealer for a broken taillight that Todd has caused and discover a cocaine shipment, a West Coast kingpin holds Todd responsible. On the run from organized crime, Todd discovers his true calling. The Fall Guy was originally published in the book WORKING STIFFS. What They Are Saying About The Fall Guy: "Elmore Leonard would be proud to have written this twisty, action-packed tale." "Cemetery Dance" "Tightly crafted. Wood delivers the goods!" "Reviewing The Evidence" "For a novice reader of Wood's work, this is an excellent place to start." "Hellnotes" "Crime hasn't been this much fun or unpredictable since the second-story man John Dortmunder squeezed himself into a dishwasher." "The Drowning Machine" "Great mystery with exciting plot twists and suspense galore." "The Midwest Book Review

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Customer Reviews

The next time you bump into a car and even contemplate not leaving a note, think of Todd. A simple hit and run starts Todd on a journey of not only trying to keep himself alive, but also one of self discovery. The 'Small Man' wants Todd to pay for the loss of his drugs (they were in the Porsche

when it got pulled over for the busted light), and sends him to Dallas to deliver what he thinks is "just a car." But nothing is ever "just" anything in the land of illegal doings. Todd soon finds out there is much more involved, and begins to live the life of a criminal. A life that is both completely foreign to him, yet somewhat exhilarating. He soon wonders if he could be cut out for a life of full time crime as he certainly seems to have the knack for it. As Todd zig-zags his way from San Fran to Texas to Seattle and home again he tests the boundaries of the law and how close he thinks he can come to going over the line. While he wasn't Mr Perfect (hello, he did hit a car and leave a fake note), he isn't/wasn't a hard core criminal. But will he become one? Will he be pushed to his limits? Will he do whatever it takes to save himself? Or will he run from everyone and live in hiding, working dead end jobs for the rest of his life, just below the radar? Can he ever find his way out of the wrong place, wrong time position he continually finds himself in? The Fall Guy is the true definition of a thriller ~ depicting a great mystery with exciting plot twists and suspense galore, and a character that struggles daily with choosing his true moral compass or a life he thinks he is meant to live.

The Low DownThe Fall Guy by Simon Wood gives us Todd Collins, a bit of a dead beat working a low wage job. He's going to be late for his dead end job and risking being fired when he backs his car into a Porsche Boxter. The Porsche happens to belong to small time drug dealer with big connections. And from this point of Todd's life becomes a roller coaster ride as he lurches headlong into a life of crime. A profession, as it turns out, he is quite suited to.The GoodI found the writing to be, fast paced, well written and the dialogue engaging. Wood introduces some humour as well, which doesn't distract from the story(though nothing like JA Konrath).The Not so goodWhat I did find was that the book stretched my suspension of disbelief. Todd tends to be too good too quickly at the jobs/tasks he's required to perform. For a guy who can't make it in time to his regular day job I am not convinced he would have the discipline and foresight to manage being a "player".I never felt that Todd was really in any danger at all. He seemed to me to fall into luck and out of danger too easily. I guess I like the realism in my crime fiction dialed up a little more.I also got the feeling that the story was a little rushed. Now, it only showed up as 122 pages on my Sony and it has been included as part of a larger anthology previously. Perhaps a longer book with more room for characterization would have made a difference, I am not sure.Final VerdictIf you enjoy a little fast paced crime fiction and you are not into gritty realism, then this book could be for you.

Perhaps there is no such thing as a coincidence in Simon Wood's THE FALL GUY. When Todd Collins has a fender bender with a Porsche, he thinks leaving a fake note will take care of

everything. His problems just begin, though, when the small man makes Todd pay. THE FALL GUY is a novel of revenge and vengeance. By being thrown into the dealings of a major drug cartel, Todd learns that he might have found the job for him, but even saving his own life comes at a price too high for him to pay. Mr. Wood yanks the reader into the novel full of twists and turns. I couldn't go through the pages fast enough to find out what would happen next to Todd. THE FALL GUY is a great action mystery story that takes the reader from California to Texas to Seattle and back to California.

Todd Collins is a failure. He's hopeless at his job, has no social life to speak of and really isn't at all bothered. When he bumps his wreck of a car into a beautiful new Porsche, he is relieved to find that the driver is nowhere to be seen and leaves a note but not with his name and insurance details. It simply says 'Sorry'. Unfortunately for Todd, the Porsche belongs to a local drugs dealer, who is later picked up by the police for driving with a broken taillight. They discover a large concealment of cocaine and now the drug dealer's boss decides to pay Todd a visit. Forced to steal a car and then deliver another vehicle to Dallas. Although he's not the sharpest knife in the block, Todd is a little suspicious and pulls over to check out the vehicle a little further. What he finds will change his life forever and will draw him ever deeper into the criminal underworld and for once he's going to have to learn and adapt in order to succeed. He knows that his life will certainly depend upon it. This is a shorter Simon Wood story and an ideal starting point for anyone new to the author's work. Like all Simon Wood books, the story is intriguing, intense and develops at a blistering pace. Full of amazingly clever and devious twists, it's sure to keep you guessing until the very end. Read this and you'll be an instant Simon Wood fan, desperate for more, and with so many great books the only thing you'll have to decide is which one next...

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