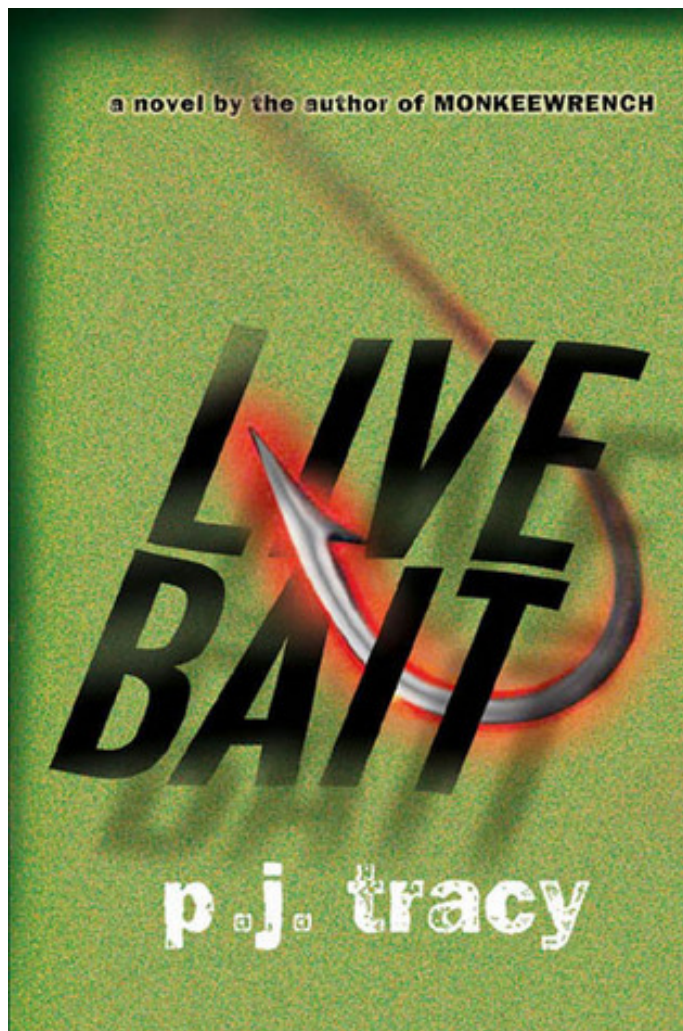

P.J. Tracy

Live Bait (Monkeewrench #2)



Title: Live Bait (Monkeewrench #2)

Author: P.J. Tracy

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Description

Minneapolis detectives Leo Magozzi and Gino Rolseth are bored-ever since they solved the Monkeewrench case, the Twin Cities have been in a murder-free dry spell, as people no longer seem interested in killing one another. But when elderly Morey Gilbert is found dead in the plant nursery he runs with his wife, Lily, the crime drought ends-not with a trickle, but with a torrent. Who would kill Morey, a man without an enemy, a man who might as well have been a saint? His tiny, cranky little wife is no help, and may even be a suspect; his estranged son, Jack, an infamous ambulance-chasing lawyer, has his own enemies; and his son-in-law, former cop Marty Pullman, is so depressed over his wife's death a year earlier he's ready to kill himself, but not Morey. The number of victims-all elderly-grows, and the city is fearful once again. Can Grace MacBride's cold case-solving software program somehow find the missing link?

Filled with intelligent, well-drawn characters, sparkling, snappy dialogue, and razor-sharp plotting, P. J. Tracy's stylish, high-voltage new nail-biter will have readers on the edge of their seats.

Insightful reviews

Katy: **Book Info Genre:** Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

Reading Level: Adult

Recommended for: Fans of the genre and series

Trigger Warnings: Violence, murder, hate crimes

My Thoughts This is the second book in the Monkeewrench series, following *Monkeewrench* ([review here](#) where formatting allowed). I first read this second book in the series soon after it came out in 2005, but didn't review it at the time. Since I have acquired books 5 and 6 (after having read the first four), I decided to re-read the whole series at a go before book 7 comes out next year, and actually do reviews for all of them this time (I believe I have an old review for *Snow Blind* out there, which I will share when I do the next one).

One thing of the very few things that bothers me in this book (and series) is the authors' constant focus on the weight of a couple of the characters. Admittedly, Annie and Gloria are also described as sensual and sexy, with men always tripping over themselves to gain their attention, but neither woman can be mentioned without the additional mention of how heavy she is, like this is terribly important to keep rubbing in the readers' faces. But that's just a personal issue, I imagine. The only other thing I have to complain about with this book is the occasional head-hopping that will occur out of the blue. Fortunately, it's generally only a paragraph and then the narration will return to the regular style used through the book.

None of that is enough to make me change my original assessment of this, given many years ago, as a five-star book. Let me tell you why. One of the truly outstanding things about this series is that the storylines, the ideas presented, they all make you think. Consider this line by Lily, wife of Morey, whose daughter was also murdered.

“You men. You always want to know who did this or that terrible thing, so someone can find them and make them pay. Always it’s been like this for men, the eye for the eye, as if it would make any difference.”

I mean, really think about that, about what that implies, about what that means. It’s wonderful. There are things like this in every single book in this series, something really profound that will make you question your motivations, make you question your beliefs. I love that—I love that they don’t allow you to escape by using easy answers; they insist that you question your beliefs, that you really take a good, hard look at your basic assumptions and then ask, “Is that really who I am? Is that really how I feel? And is that really *right*?” Not to mention that the authors are wonderful about hiding the villain until they are good and ready to reveal whodunit. That makes these among some of the best mysteries I’ve read since Agatha Christie.

So, despite any minor annoyances, these books are right up there with the best of the best, and I highly recommend them to anyone who enjoys a great mystery/suspense/thriller. Definitely check them out. Next up: *Dead Run*.

Disclosure I purchased first a hardcover and later an e-book version of this book for myself. All opinions are my own.

Synopsis Minneapolis detectives Leo Magozzi and Gino Rolseth are bored—ever since they solved the Monkeewrench case, the Twin Cities have been in a murder-free dry spell, as people no longer seem interested in killing one another. But with two brutal homicides taking place in one awful night, the crime drought ends—not with a trickle, but with an eventual torrent. Who would kill Morey Gilbert, a man without an enemy, a man who might as well have been a saint? His tiny, cranky little wife, Lily, is no help, and may even be a suspect; his estranged son, Jack, an infamous ambulance-chasing lawyer, has his own enemies; and his son-in-law, former cop Marty Pullman, is so depressed over his wife's death a year ago that he's ready to kill himself, but not Morey. The number of victims—all elderly—grows, and the city is fearful once again. The detectives' investigation threatens to uncover a series of horrendous secrets, some buried within the heart of the police department itself, blurring the lines between heroes and villains. Grace MacBride's cold-case-solving software may find the missing link—but at a terrible price.

Chris: I'd actually forgotten about P.J. Tracy's first book, Monkeewrench, until I was browsing in the bookstore and came upon this sequel. While Monkeewrench focused more on computer genius Grace MacBride and her team, Live Bait features homicide detective Leo Magozzi and his co-workers. A homicide lull is broken by several deceased senior citizens who appear to be pillars of the community, or at least nice people. The detectives are at a loss so they feed information to Grace who is helping police across the country solve cold cases with a new computer program that looks for missing links. A combination of technology and good old-fashioned detective work helps crack the case. The novel blends excellent plotting, multi-dimensional (but too numerous!) characters, clever dialog, and a puzzling mystery. Very enjoyable.

Marleen: Just re-read this one.

P.J. Tracy has a new huge fan in me. I couldn't wait to read this one after the wonderful "WANT

TO PLAY". I thought the first few chapters were dull compared to their previous novel, but as "Live Bait" progresses and as the case unfolds dramatically, the pace quickens.

The dialogues are still top-notch. Leo Magozzi and Gino Rolseth are the starts of this book -I love them. I have to say that again all the characters in this story are authentic and human and that's why I give it a 5. It is not often you read that policemen are so cool and dedicated and good-hearted. And for me, another favorite character in this book was definitely Jack Gilbert. Aah, could a character get more genuine than Jack?

Also, I really appreciate how the romantic side of the characters is approached here (well you need to read the books in order to understand their relationship): it's not openly described & steamy on the pages but there so many honest & unvarnished feelings expressed in the thoughts & words of the characters that it has a more profound effect on the reader, in my opinion. The doubts, the fear of getting hurt appeals very much to me. I love the vulnerability of Leo & Grace's relationship.

Charis Faith: i am onto you, P.J. Tracy. I am. The killer is often essentially the possible such a lot risk free character(s) within the story. and there is a likelihood that there is greater than one. Hohoho. However, this data didn't do something to forestall me from interpreting this web page turner of a booklet (even even though i used to be studying on a tablet, sue me), as the revelations simply stick with it improving and better. (Also, i used to be a great deal watching for all of the subsequent MacGozzi scenes I suggest UGH THAT ENDING).I imagine i have chanced on myself a brand new favourite sequence in spite of simply the 1st of the Monkeewrench books. Yay for secret and crime fixing and gradual yet pleasurable love tales simply because WHOOOOHOO! rather well written. unforeseen funnies alongside the way, typically from Rolseth. Gosh, i admire the range in those characters i am gonna puke rainbows. Seriously.

Kristin: it isn't too frequently that I end e-book one in a chain and instantly begin ebook two. I did here... Premise of the book: Seven months have handed among the terrible murders dependent off a working laptop or computer online game by way of the corporate Monkeewrench and Minneapolis murder has been in a lull up until eventually now. previous humans in Uptown are being shot to death, the physique count number is as much as 4 and so they all appear to revolve round one man, now dead. Suspect number 1 is the man's son, who additionally seems to be the following aim and he is not talking. What I loved approximately publication one and in this case in booklet is the robust major plot that's intertwined with those doubtless random subplots. It simply amazes me how the authors can maintain all of those threads instantly *and* have the ability to weave them right into a coherent finishing that leaves me simply extremely joyful at its complexity. I did locate with e-book quantity that it received off to a slower commence and that i discovered my recognition wandering greater than once, which ended in multiple 'rewind' to determine what I missed. I felt the ebook rather did not begin hitting its stride until eventually approximately midway via (I imagine it was once approximately there - tough to inform with CD's). I additionally puzzled the plausibility of the most plot (three Jewish pals seeking out and plugging Nazi's, 60 years after the war) in basic terms insofar as such with its feasibility sooner than the period of desktop seek functions. i am not announcing it is not thoroughly implausible; usually homicide mysteries are dependent off of a few nugget of actual

life. suggested if you may have learn ebook #1: Monkeewrench.

Mary JL: this is often booklet 2 within the Monkeewrench series. you may learn it first; but when you learn Monkeewrench aka are looking to Play first, then a few elements of the publication make a piece extra sense. And ebook #2 does have a couple of extra spoilers. That said, the Monkeewrench books are going best pace and firstclass for me. The dialogic is outstanding, as usual, and the secret is particularly good done. The finishing used to be a surprise. It obtained a four big name score rather than a 5, simply because i wished to work out even more of the Monkeewrench crew; proposal the components with Leo and Gino have been great! the ethical problem offered used to be gripping--won't ruin it--just learn it! The first 1/2 chapter 24, the place one of many detective's relives his wife's murder--she is murdered sooner than his eyes--is essentially the most gripping, good written scenes i've got learn in years! Favorite quote "You recognize the worst factor approximately undesirable people, Grace? it is what they make sturdy humans do." (Ch. 32). Very hugely recommended.

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