Never Look Away by Linwood Barclay

With a storyline that's wound tighter than a rattlesnake's coil, author Linwood Barclay returns to play upon our deepest fears with Never Look Away. Journalist David Harwood is left only with questions after a family outing becomes a terrifying nightmare in the mere blink of an eye. Someone, it would seem, is out to get him, and when suspicious evidence labels him a "person of interest" in a mysterious disappearance, the unassuming Harwood is forced to bare his teeth in pursuit of the truth. Fans of Fear the Worst, Too Close to Home, and No Time for Goodbye should already know the drill: Barclay refuses to grant readers any respite with gut-wrenching plot twists that keep firing until the final page. But those unfamiliar with his work would be wise to clear their calendars for this engaging non-stop thriller.

Dave Callanan    Amazon Exclusive: Linwood Barclay on Never Look Away

Years ago, when I worked on the city desk for The Toronto Star, every once in a while someone would phone in with a hot tip.
Something they’d heard from a friend of a friend. The story was that children were being spirited away from a local theme park. Grabbed, disguised, thrown into a van and driven away so fast their parents hadn’t even noticed they were gone yet.

And the kicker was, the story was being suppressed because the theme park owners didn’t want bad publicity.

There was never, ever anything to it. I’d worked in the news business long enough to know that when a kid goes missing. That story gets out. Big time.

Our theme park was not the only one where this urban myth played out. I’d heard the same story about a number of big attractions. But never with any real names attached. It always happened to the boyfriend of someone’s cousin’s brother’s boss.

But the story stayed with me just the same. I started playing around with it in my head. I thought, okay, let’s start with the myth, but then let’s do something entirely different. Someone’s going to disappear, all right, but not the person you’re expecting...

As I began working out the storyline for my new thriller, Never Look Away, the amusement park scene became a way in to a very different kind of tale for me. One about secrets, about past, hidden lives, about how sometimes the people we’re closest to are the ones we know the least. One significant way in which it differs from my previous novels is that it is not told entirely in first person. This time, there were things I had to keep from my protagonist that the reader just had to know.

That time on the city desk was part of more than 30 years I spent working in newspapers. It was a period in which papers mattered a great deal. They still do, but it’s hardly news to point out they’re facing tough times, a perfect storm of changing technology meeting harsh economic realities. So when it came to deciding what that protagonist would do for a living, I decided to make him a reporter at a small daily that’s more concerned with maintaining revenues than breaking scandals, especially if breaking them will hurt the bottom line. (I like to point out, I never encountered anything like that at The Star.)

I was well into writing this novel when Michael Connelly’s terrific novel The Scarecrow came out, which is also set against the backdrop of a newspaper in decline. I suspect these will not be the only two novels to explore—either in depth or in a tangential way—the significant changes this institution is going through.

Another urban myth that used to get called into the paper now and again was that some unscrupulous developer was building houses so cheaply, someone’s piano went right through the living room floor. We
never found that house, but there might still be a murder mystery in that story, especially if there was some poor bastard in that basement. -- Linwood Barclay

Features:
* ISBN13: 9780553807172
* Condition: NEW
* Notes: Brand New from Publisher. No Remainder Mark.

**Personal Review: Never Look Away by Linwood Barclay**

Linwood Barclay recently shared space with Harlan Coben in a NY Times article. Their stories of suburban suspense were compared, with Coben getting the nod for more action, Barclay getting the nod for stronger characters and writing. Coben's "Caught" debuted at #1 on the NY Times list, while I can't seem to find Barclay's latest anywhere near the front of most retail stores. Why, I wonder after reading four books of his, don't more readers latch onto this fabulous writer?

"Never Look Away" starts with a good hook and a slight twist. The main character, David Harwood, takes his wife and four-year-old son to a theme park, but finds his life turned upside down when an apparent kidnapping leads to all sorts of trouble. Soon, the local cops are questioning his story, and he becomes their primary "person of interest," even as a dead body shows up and as circumstantial evidence mounts against him. In the midst of his personal--and very public--struggles, Harwood is also caught in two professional battles, one with the sagging newspaper for which he works, and the other with a dangerous man who aims to build a private and profitable prison complex on the outskirts of Promise Falls. (For those familiar with Barclay's last few books, you may have fun recognizing the location and a few of the minor characters in the book.)

The plot twists tighter as Harwood uncovers disturbing truths about his wife's past and his own domestic situation. Although these twists don't continue into the last 50 pages (save one that feels a little forced), they are very believable and well written. Barclay takes his time crafting characters we love and understand, and, in a few cases, despise. He doesn't rely on over-the-top serial killers, but on the secrets that burble under the surface of regular lives. For those who doubt the credibility of such scenarios, all you need do is read your own daily paper.

Barclay makes some interesting side notes about the demise of objective journalism, government-run prisons, and American life in general. At the same time, he keeps his story driving forward with ever-increasing speed. As in his earlier books, this is a serpentine mystery laced with some thrills. Coben and Barclay are two masters of their genre. Coben's "Caught" was a bit faster-paced, but not as intricately crafted. I enjoyed it thoroughly, but
I did lose interest in some of its characters, whereas "Never Look Away" never let me go.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:

Never Look Away by Linwood Barclay 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!