



Dead Simple

By Peter James

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Michael Harrison had it all: good looks, charm, natural leadership, a wicked sense of humor, and now, Ashley, his fiancée. While out celebrating with a group of friends a few nights before the wedding, Michael suddenly and unexpectedly finds himself enclosed in a coffin equipped only with a flashlight, a dirty magazine, a walkie-talkie, and a tiny breathing tube. It's all in good fun — payback for the grief his mates suffered due to his own penchant for tomfoolery — that is until the four are killed in a drunk driving accident just moments after leaving Michael completely alone and buried alive.

Detective Superintendent Grace—himself dealing with the pain of losing his wife—is brought on to the case when Ashley reports Michael missing. Suspicions are raised when Michael's only friend not at the bachelor party refuses to cooperate, and Ashley's faithfulness—not to mention her increasingly mysterious past—are suddenly thrown in to question. As Superintendent Grace soon discovers, one man's disaster is another man's fortune.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

British author James's far-fetched but terrifying thriller is the first of a new series featuring Det. Supt. Roy Grace. Michael Harrison, a successful real estate developer with a penchant for practical jokes, gets a horrible taste of his own medicine. As a prank, four of his friends bury Michael alive in a coffin equipped with a breathing tube and a bottle of whiskey and leave him, ostensibly for a couple of hours. But when their van crashes head-on into a truck and three of them are killed (the fourth dies later "in hospital"), Michael is trapped. His cell phone doesn't work, but he does have a two-way radio whose companion is in the hands of Davey, a mentally challenged young man who finds the phone near the scene of the accident. Grace, a detective with a taste for the supernatural (he uses mediums to help him solve crimes), gets on the case and discovers just how devious Michael's friends have been. The "buried alive" trope is undeniably powerful, and Grace shows promise as a hero—but the crime and the plot surrounding Michael's plight are just too cumbersome and transparent to really engage the reader.

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From [Booklist](#)

James, the executive producer of the recent film adaptation of *The Merchant of Venice*, brings his filmic talent to a suspense tale that is almost excruciatingly easy to visualize. His opening premise is startlingly simple, that of the trickster tricked. Four friends celebrate one of their members' impending marriage by embarking on a pub crawl through several Sussex villages. What the groom-to-be doesn't realize is that his pals plan to play a payback prank on him by burying him alive (with a breathing tube and a walkie-talkie) for a couple hours. They leave the scene and are killed by an oncoming vehicle. Enter Detective Superintendent Roy Grace, assigned to investigate the missing-bridegroom case. Grace finds the case difficult, both because of the dearth of clues and because of his own wife's disappearance some years before. Achingly well plotted, with suspense that has no letup. *Connie Fletcher*

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Review

"Achingly well plotted, with suspense that has no letup." —*Booklist*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tanya Nolan:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources within it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each information they get. How people have to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Reading a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information specifically this Dead Simple book as this book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

Angel Sutton:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book may be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the guide untitled Dead Simple can be excellent book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Wm Schroeder:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a publication. The book Dead Simple it is quite good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book has high quality.

Warren Bowers:

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