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F. Paul Wilson

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But there are a few things about Duncan that Gina can't quite figure out. Why did he trade vascular surgery for the more profitable but less vital plastic surgery, and why won't he accept his patients' medical insurance? What caused his daughter's death and the breakup of his marriage? Why do his tirades against the new congressional medical ethics committee have such a bitter personal sting? And what is his connection to two committee members who died in accidents not long after Duncan operated on them?

Soon Gina's curiosity about Duncan is replaced by suspicion and fear. With the help of Gerry Canney, a high school classmate now working for the FBI, Gina determines to find out what ruined Duncan's personal life and aroused his wrath against the congressmen. She finds a man much more complex and mysterious than the sharp-tongued but kindhearted physician she thought she knew. Then two more congressmen fall ill after Duncan's surgery. And Gina discovers another kind of implant in Duncan's arsenal. . . .

Implant Details

Date : Published September 15th 1996 by Tor Books (first published April 6th 1995)

ISBN : 9780812544701

Author : F. Paul Wilson

Format : Paperback 448 pages

Genre : Fiction, Horror, Thriller, Mystery, Suspense, Medical

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Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

In many ways the story worked well. The beginning makes sure the reader knows who and why, but because of telling through the antagonist's eyes from the start, there's not much mystery. The reader is left wondering a few things, such as the full back story, but not much else. Otherwise, though, it was fun to read to see what Gina would discover, when she'd put it together, what she'd do about it, and how Lathram would react when he found out. The story isn't unpredictable by any means, but it's still a fun little thriller. The plot itself isn't complicated in the least, it's a simple straight forward ride, but there's a certain comfort zone in these types. Wilson does an admirable job making sure the scenes work together well, keeping action alive, although it can be said that the beginning focuses strongly on other action pieces, and not the major one.

As a fault, the romance relationship between Gerry and Gina reads like a stereotypical romance. Their relationship is one of those 'good natured' kinds that you expect from Avon or Historical types. When they're together it's hunky dory, and, despite any problems unraveling later on, the way they respond to each other is a bit formulaic. I also found her internal dismissal of the past love unrealistic and convenient. That aside, I did enjoy their characters individually, and can't fault Wilson too much on this.

Some of the scenes, particularly in the end, are full of suspense and written in a tight pace that kept my heart thumping.

Gina is hard-working and determined, and, even though a bit wooden, turned out to be an entertaining protagonist. Gerry, also wooden, came across as a nice guy, the perfect doting father with a traumatic background to his wife. Strangely enough, the most fun person to read through was the antagonist, Lathram. Wilson made sure the reader understood his reasoning; he definitely wasn't a bad guy all the way through, just a confused one, and a lot of sympathy/empathy was on his side.

The main story long wasn't strong in the beginning chapters, but it was still entertaining because something was always happening in the scenes. The pacing was consistent and didn't feel rushed, nor too slow. Plot kept traveling uphill on a steady path, picking up frequency at the top, unraveling well at the resolution.

Wilson's style is direct, uncomplicated, and unhurried. He injects enough detail, and changes the wording when in a point of view of another character. As an example, the character of Lathram uses large, rare words...because of this, most of the scenes he's involved in uses more complex descriptive vocabulary. When Wilson uses medical jargon, he makes sure it's spelled out for the reader as to what it is. One of the first chapters speaks of a pulmonary embolism, and the definition is given through Gina's eyes via internal dialogue. While sometimes this technique is frowned upon because it can take the reader out of the story and remind him/her they're reading, it works here and isn't used too often. Dialogue is convincing and used when needed, description isn't relied on too heavily, and all things come out nicely trimmed and well edited.

The medical thriller turns out to be a story with an easy to follow plot, predictable twists and turns, but still is light and enjoyable reading. I wasn't disappointed reading through this, but I suspect Wilson offers better stuff. I remember reading 'The Touch' years back, and remember enjoying it more than this. Don't pass this one up if you own it or see it somewhere cheaply, but don't go in expecting a literary orgasm either. Wilson does his stuff well enough, but you don't get fireworks.

Ramu Atmakuri says

(Y)

Nick Milinazzo says

A young female internist works for a renowned surgeon and finds out he's using a discontinued serum to mentally incapacitate certain politicians.

Wilson is a suspense writer and most well-known for penning the Repairman Jack series. Having read the entire series, it's hard to not draw comparisons (Gerry for Jack, Gina for Gia). I can't say it's nearly as successful, but becomes better as the story escalates.

Jennifer says

The references to "the car phone" and "the payphone" were so odd. I kept thinking, "When was this written??" After I finished it I looked and it was 1995. Didn't we have cell phones by then?! Maybe not but it is hard to believe there was a time when emergencies just had to wait until someone came by or you had to walk to a phone (how sad HAHA).

The story itself seemed forced. I don't like to be given "clues" as to how the story is going to progress. I'm an adult, you can just let it evolve naturally (or organically as people like to say - you know, without all those harmful pesticides and fertilizers).

I like a good medical thriller where some crazy doctor feels it is her/his right to kill off whoever she/he sees fit. I mean they went to school for 8-12 years so they are entitled, right? What is really scary is when you find a doc who really believes this because who is to say there are not medical "professionals" out there who are employing this philosophy right now? I'm talking about pre-clinical drug science folks: the toxicologists and veterinary pathologists, radio chemists, regulatory affairs folks....etc etc,...people you don't really think about because you never see them.

It could be happening right now.....scary.

John says

It's been a long time since I last read a straight-forward medical thriller in the vein of Robin Cook...

IMPLANT is a solid, though unremarkable, novel--entertaining enough, but overly long and predictable. As a fan of F. Paul Wilson's Repairman Jack series, I was expecting more.

That being said, two aspects of this novel do manage to stand out. First, Wilson does a first-rate job with all the medical stuff, putting his real-life experience as a General Practitioner to good literary use. Second, at the heart of this book is a fascinating discussion of the pitfalls of government-run health care. To a large extent, it seems IMPLANT was written in response to Hillary Clinton's proposed health care plan back in the early

90's, though it remains just as relevant today in light of the national fiasco known as Obamacare. It is this aspect of the novel that really makes IMPLANT pop, providing the story's villain with a highly intriguing--not to mention surprisingly relatable--motive behind his deplorable actions.

Jon Recluse says

The medical thriller meets DEATHWISH in this fast paced offering from F. Paul Wilson, as a plastic surgeon wages a personal vendetta against politicians determined to change healthcare in this country, potentially for the worst. But are his motives really that crystal clear?

Originally published in 1995, this prescient novel foresaw the coming of government interference in healthcare, and remains timely to this day.

A must-read for anyone who enjoys a solid, intelligent thriller by one of the best in the business.

Mary says

Dr. F. Paul Wilson may know his way around a hospital and how to use a thesaurus but his ideas about smart young women are so off it is ridiculous. Gina Panzella...the heroine in this story idolizes Dr. Duncan Lathram. Granted, he had performed surgery on her when she was a young girl, then she worked part-time in his office when she was a pudgy and of course, pimply, teenager but apparently that's not enough adoration for Dr. F's female character. Now as an adult and a busy doctor in her own right, she is still assisting him in his new field, cosmetic surgery and still trying to win his approval.

Gina, who has left behind the man she loves, to go forth and make a difference in the world, falls madly in love with FBI agent Gerald (Gerry) Canney. When Gerry, a former highschool classmate recognizes her and waits around to speak with her, he refers to her by an old, unflattering nickname - Pasta Panzella. Really? I have to ask myself right here, what kind of an idiot would do that & expect any woman to respond positively to that remark? But Dr. F. apparently thinks that this is the stuff of romance. Gina had a school-girl crush on Gerry all those years ago when he was of course, captain of the swim team, co-captain and quarterback of the football team and an honor student. But all he can remember about her is that her nickname was Pasta Panzella.

If this isn't enough to make you want to fling the book at Dr. F for creating such an unflattering image of a "smart, young woman", it gets even more ridiculous with the ending. What do I think? I think that publishers who consider this worthy material should have their eyes plucked out and doctors who write like this should stick to prescriptions.

Anne Fontaine says

F. Paul Wilson is a physician, better known, perhaps, for his Repairman Jack series about a resourceful Chuck Norris-y guy who solves mysteries with a tiny bit of supernatural help. The medical thriller 'Implant' predates that series, concentrating on issues such as uses for new technology and the business and politics of medicine. Those issues dovetail into a seemingly foolproof way for a wronged plastic surgeon, Dr. Duncan Lathram, to exact revenge on his perceived enemies until his protege, Dr. Gina Panzella (brilliant and gorgeous, natch), gets in the way. It is well-paced, very interesting, and intriguingly plausible; brief glimpses

into the politics of politicians and the politics of medicine make one despair that anything gets done in government at all without the loss of soul or sanity.

Daniel says

I love F. Paul Wilson's books, and when I say this I don't mean anything otherwise, but *Implant* wasn't as good as many of his other books. It is a serious medical suspense thriller and it is well written and solid. The plot is good and involves a creation that aids in healing and longevity. There is much more here than I will cover and to many other people, this might be an astounding book. I felt it wasn't what I am used to from the writer.

Nobody can take away how good the writing is here, of course. This one just didn't move me like *The Keep* and many others have. Try it out and see what you think.

Danny

Jeff Miller says

I hadn't read anything from this author up to a year ago. Since then I have read three of his books and each time was quite impressed. This one as a medical thriller was very taut throughout and it was hard to imagine how he was going to keep up the pace. Simple answer is that he did pull it off.

Kristin says

At first, I was worried this was going to be some freaky sci-fi book about implants turning people into crazed robots or something weird like that. Instead, the title object is used by a plastic surgeon to minimize scar tissue by being installed during surgery and gradually releasing a healing cocktail that fights off the body's natural processes of closing a wound.

Gina is a young doctor who owes her life to Duncan, the surgeon installing the implants, but at that time, he was a vascular surgeon who kept Gina from losing too much blood following an accident as a child. Now, about 15 years later, he has moved his practice outside of Washington, D.C. and only accepts patients for elective plastic surgical procedures who are willing to pay out of pocket. Naturally, being so close to the political hub of the nation, there are plenty of potential clients who look to benefit from Duncan's healing implants for appearances on TV and the campaign trail.

Dr. Panzella works part-time in Duncan's surgery, seeing him as something of an idol, but does wonder why he has changed so much since he was her doctor. Trying to get information out of the doctor himself or anyone else who works with him is easier said than done, so she instead focuses on moving forward with her career. Her current goal is to seek a position with the Senator who has revived a healthcare reform committee that had gone dormant after the death of its previous leader, something Duncan does not approve of, and Gina suspects this disapproval comes from the same place as what prompted him to change careers. Bad luck befalls the committee yet again, as multiple members either fall ill or die, and Gina begins to realize that all were surgical patients of Duncan's. Coincidence or does he have an axe to grind with these men?

I've read other books of Wilson's, and this might be one of my favorites. He kept the plot moving well, and even though readers are made aware of the obvious connection, seeing how Gina discovers it and attempts to prove it make the book interesting, but he leaves enough loose to keep readers guessing until the end.

Glenn says

A young doctor takes a new career turn - putting her in Washington DC with hopes of getting on medical oversight committee, etc. Her idol, and reason for practicing medicine, is beginning to act strange after local politicians seem to be dropping like flies. Dr. Panzella tries to uncover what is really going on and if it's too late.

Implant is a mediocre Medical thriller that doesn't really thrill at all. The story is quick and to the point, but there's much that's left unsaid (it's in the past...). The story seemed to be writing itself- unfolding in such a predictable manner. I suppose it's good for a quick read, but it didn't leave me craving for more F. Paul Wilson.

Sean Randall says

very exciting, full of the milieu of the medic of course but with an almost enchantingly whimsical look back at the time it was published (mobile phones were new! imagine!). I utterly enjoyed the twists and turns, and of course, how can anyone be unhappy with the last sentence? Bravo.

Mike Owens says

As a medical thriller, Implant, for this reader comes up a bit short. Set in Washington, DC, in the midst of congressional hearings on upcoming guidelines for medical practitioners, a young, beautiful (of course) physician decides she should leave her medical work for a position on the congressional committee. Her aim is vaguely "to make a difference," but specifics on how she hopes to accomplish this are few. Her current boss, a cosmetic surgeon, formerly vascular surgeon of note, is out to make a difference too. He performs limited cosmetic surgical procedures on several members of the committee. While he's at it, he implants a tiny device that is activated by ultrasound, which he controls. When the implant is activated, the subject goes berserk. The first couple of attempts don't turn out well. The surgeon, whose vascular surgery practice was ruined by these same congressmen, only aims to ruin reputations, as his was ruined. But one victim leaps out of a window, another crashes his car. His final aim is, of course, the president.

The plot is thin at best. Besides the surgeon, the other two characters, beautiful doctor lady and the rugged FBI agent she reconnects with are flat and predictable. Of course they thwart the attempt on the president, of course they become a romantic item. There are a few twists and turns in the last third of the book, but the outcome is never really in doubt.

Ice says

Young doctor Gina Panzella has known her boss, plastic surgeon Dr. Duncan Lathram, almost her entire life, and respects him deeply. Charming and brilliant, Duncan has invented a dissolving implant that allows incisions to heal without scarring. Duncan's artistry in the operation room is the salvation of Washington's biggest power players whenever they need touch-ups for C-Span.

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