



No Easy Target: A Novel

Iris Johansen

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From #1 New York Times bestselling author Iris Johansen, an explosive thriller featuring fan favorite Margaret Douglas, an animal psychic

ON THE RUN

Margaret Douglas has worked hard to put her painful past behind her. Raised off the grid in an abusive home, her only escape was the nearby forest where she sought refuge whenever she could. There, in the peaceful woods, she discovered a strange gift: the ability to understand animals and to communicate with them. Now, Margaret wants nothing more than to live a quiet life, close to the animals and under the radar. But her abilities have not gone unnoticed...and there are those who would use them for their own purposes. Determined not to be a pawn in anyone's game, every time someone gets too close, Margaret uproots her life and outruns them.

INTO THE LINE OF FIRE

When CIA operative John Lassiter breaks into Margaret's apartment, she vanishes again. Still, Lassiter has good reason to be persistent: one of his men is being held captive by an unrelenting enemy--someone who has set his sights on Margaret. Which means that Lassiter must control her to use her as bait...With danger in hot pursuit, Margaret finds herself matching wits with a man who refuses to stop or be stopped. Turning from the hunted to the hunter, Margaret must use everything she has ever learned to not only survive, but to defeat a great evil. And to prove once and for all that she's no easy target. . .

This edition of the book is the deluxe, tall rack mass market paperback.

No Easy Target: A Novel Details

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From Reader Review No Easy Target: A Novel for online ebook

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

If you like Iris Johansen's thriller style of books, you will like this one. It takes Margaret Douglas, who we met briefly in a previous book and throws her into the role of main character. Like all of Johansen's characters, Margaret has a past that is shared with the reader throughout the book as her relationship with Lassiter, the male lead, deepens. Margaret escaped from a psychopath, Nicos, three years earlier, but he has not stopped looking for her. When Lassiter's mentor, BFF is kidnapped and tortured by Nicos, he finds Margaret, hoping to use her as leverage to be able to free his friend. Of course once he meets Margaret he is intrigued by her, and his plans change. Margaret, on the other hand, is tired of running and decides that she needs to end this once and for all.

Margaret, as the female lead, is a strong character as are all of Johansen's women. She has a strange talent where she is able to meld with animals and they can communicate telepathically. This helps her out of some jams as you might expect. Lassiter is a good guy and does bad things to bad people to right wrongs. The white hat/black hat storyline. The one thing I do not like about his book and so many of the others written by this author is the sexual assaults on children and/or young women. Fortunately they are not described, but it is still there and somewhat taints the book, so it does not get that last star. It is a thriller that is fast paced and keeps you turning the pages to see what happens next. It was a good story that had me reading throughout the day to finish to find out if Margaret and Lassiter succeed in their quest. The publisher generously provided me with a copy of this book via Netgalley.

Maureen Carden says

Abandon hope of a realistic plot all ye who enter here. But then this is Johansen, and this is what makes her different series fun. Private planes and yachts, island hideaways and Colombian torture camps all in one story?

Nicos, Salva and Brukman, the worst villains evah. John Lassiter, Silicon Valley rich guy and his merry band of assassins and former special forces military men who are trying to rescue a comrade. The woman Lassiter plans to use as his dangle, Margaret Douglas, an animal communicator and empath.

Actually being an animal communicator and an empath might seem the hardest to swallow, but are maybe the most realistic aspects of the story. Although I've never heard of someone being both and I've only known dog communicators.

Minor quibbles. Only one character per book should be able to twist his lips, and then only once. (Just like a character can only smirk once per book) I think Johansen should have a better update on the political situation in Columbia-confusing as it might seem at times. "Do you want to have sex?" is neither sexy nor romantic even when spoken by an earth child/woman.

If this is the beginning of a series I would certainly read others. Entertaining, moves right along, original-even if highly unrealistic-plot and characters you care about are all part of this book. I even shed a tear or two over Margaret.

Oh, and that ending! I kept thinking three problems, three bullets. After all ya got that fine assassin along with you. But no, Johansen shows why she is a bestselling author and will remain so.

Thank you to NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Suzanne says

This book introduces Margaret Douglas, who can communicate telepathically with animals. She is on the run from an evil drug lord, and being used as bait by an ex-CIA agent.

I really like the premise of this book, and for me, the animal communication was well-done, and those were my favorite parts of the story. (Not that I didn't like the rest.) One thing I also liked about Margaret was that she was sincerely concerned about the animals she communicated with, and didn't just use them for her own agendas.

The rest of the story was also good and I'd love to see more books about this character!

Note: I got this book from netgalley, which did not influence my review. Thanks for the fun read!

CL says

Iris Johansen has done it again. I like that she takes a fringe character from her other books and writes a whole story around that character. Margaret Douglas has been on her own since she was very young. Relying on no one and trying to do it all on her own. She has been running for over 3 years trying to stay out of the hands of the psychopath Nicco that she has escaped from. Enter Lassiter who is looking for Margaret to use as a pawn in an effort to get what he wants from Nicco. Against her better judgement after he captures her she becomes involved in his plan and finds herself strangely attracted to him the more she gets to know him. With her straight forward and way of innocence she has become important to him as well. In this book as we learn in more detail the story about Margaret Douglas' early years. Great read. I would like to thank the Publisher and Net Galley for the chance to read this ARC.

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

I was really intrigued by the synopsis on this book and was eager to read it after I picked it up from the library. I was immediately pulled into the book and the type of character Margaret was and then she got kidnapped.

And from that point to the end, the story wasn't working for me. The dialogue between Margaret and Lassiter made me cringe. I began skim reading to avoid cringing too much. I found it hard to believe that Lassiter really needed Margaret and the plot pivoted on this "need" or what would be the point in kidnapping her. Everyone had to "talk" about why they were doing something and the excessive dialogue was just too much.

The story has potential, but for me it fell way short.

Louisa says

Yeah, Margaret's story was fantastic! She has a heck of a story to tell, and yeah, new character Lassiter! I don't know if there'll be a series for them (though I kinda hope for one) but I know they'll be in future books!

Kat Valentine says

Let me start by saying I hope nico's and salva rot in HELL!!!! Iris Johansen has written some really scum bag villains before but these two are some of the worst!!! No Easy Target was a rollercoaster ride from beginning to end. Our heroine Margaret Douglas the animal whisper who we first meant in Taking Eve is being hunted down not only from Stan Nico's the monster who almost destroyed her, but she's also being hunted down by the charismatic and deadly John Lassiter who will use Margaret to save his friend and mentor Sean Patrick, but when Lassiter finally finds her and spends time with Margaret he starts to rethink his plans. Together Margaret and Lassiter with the help of some good friends like Neal Cambry and Mandell will go up against Nico's and all his network to bring Sean Patrick home and put an end to Nico's and Salva's reign of terror. I loved this book so much and learning more about Margaret and her talent with animals and seeing her relationship with our mother to be, golden retriever Juno who she finds trapped in a mine barely alive and mourning the loss of the little girl she loved, who died. I went through every emotion reading this book from crying to laughing to rage to finally Hell ya!!! I hope to see more of Margaret and Lassiter they have awesome chemistry and when they finally came together it was explosive and hot!!!!

Danielle Urban says

I loved it!

Jen says

I used fantasy as category because the plot is so fantastical. I've tried this author before, and I know that many people love her novels, but they simply don't work for me. This one is fast-paced and full of romance, violence, and the paranormal as usual. Rinse. Repeat. This one doesn't feature Eve.

The Bibliophile says

No Easy Target is a huge disappointment.

After reading the first two chapters I knew exactly how the story would progress and I wasn't impressed. In a nutshell; girl finds out she is in danger, does not run away. Boy finds girl, beats her unconscious and kidnaps her. Girl tries to escape, boy beats her unconscious again. Boy wants to catch 'bad' guy (never realising that he is 'bad' as well) by using girl. Awkward sex, girl now likes boy. Girl gets injured while helping the boy.

Big climax (as in ending). Boy swears he will stalk girl until end of time until she is his.

Blegh!

Carol says

E-galley provided by Edeweiss, St. Martin's Press and author Iris Johansen, for my honest review. Published April 25, 2017

The Hook - Many years ago I was intrigued by the idea of forensic facial reconstruction and how it would help identify bodies found and solve crimes using science and artistry techniques. Iris Johansen's Eve Duncan series was a natural to explore. I read a few of these and this new book reminds me to consider the others.

No **Line** per request of the publisher.

The Sinker What a premise! Iris Johansen's latest protagonist, Margaret Douglas, is a woman with a special relationship with animals. She's kind of like an animal whisperer extraordinaire, but don't think, "If I could talk to the animals" of Dr. Doolittle fame. Margaret Douglas is a resilient, smart, though somewhat flawed woman harboring a painful past, who really can communicate with animals of all species. Margaret was introduced in Taking Eve, part of Johansen's long running series featuring Eve Duncan, a forensic sculptor but it's easy to see how fan demand and a character with the Douglas' incredible abilities needed her own book and a vehicle to tell her story.

I was hooked from the prologue that finds Douglas in the San Diego Zoo trying to make a connection with a tigress that is rejecting her cub. In a perfect world Douglas would use her talent only for good; unfortunately others can see how this gift can be used to their corrupt advantage.

In No Easy Target, Margaret Douglas proves that the title is aptly named. I had some quibbles with the romantic angle and fleshing out the plot but this tense thriller still managed to fulfill the promise that there's a new gal in town for accomplished author, Iris Johansen. I can't wait to see where this character takes us next.

Jaclyn says

Made it a third of the way through this one. Simply put, this was not my cup of tea. I wasn't a fan of the romantic suspense elements paired with the extraordinary/unexplainable. I also found the main characters to be rather flat and kind of boring. Moving on!

Diane S ? says

Have read this author's Eve Duncan series from the beginning, and it was in one of those that the lead character in this makes her appearance. Found her abilities and back story fascinating, that she can communicate with animals, escaped from the head of a drug cartel, an interesting combination.

A usual Johansen has multiple characters wanting opposing things, a little romance, sexual tension, adventure and much running from the various bad guys. Her books are easy to read, they flow quickly, and though I found some parts better than others, on the whole I got tired of the constant dialogue, back and forth nature of conversations and was disappointed. Or maybe that is not the correct phrase, since she does what she always does, what her fans expect from her writing. I think maybe the correct phrasing may be that I have outgrown this author. Though I expect next time an Eve Duncan novel come around I may attempt her once more.

ARC from NetGalley.

Yodamom says

This author has been recommended to me by many people over the years. When I read the blurb for this book I was excited to finally get to her work. A pet whisper who helps take down a killer/drug dealer. I'm a sucker for paranormal stories, add animals and I'm a happy reader. I was not a happy reader while reading this. I'm warning you I was feeling a bit rant-ish after finishing it.

What went wrong for me: Never ending telling and retelling, over explained everything down to the smallest little detail, repetitive explanations, cold mechanical sex, weird methodical dialog, silly goading, too many dialogs, one dimensional characters, conversations that I could not figure out who was speaking, the conversations with the animals were odd and didn't feel emotional like they were told to be. Yes, told, the book spent a lot of time telling me how it was to be felt. They talked/inner dialog/explained so much I just wanted them to shut up so I could read the story. The romance, sigh, what romance ? It was ridiculous, heated glares, glances, and "let's have sex" after you kidnapped me and plan on using me in a way that could get me tortured and killed. It was step A, step B, step C, done. Really, is that supposed to work ? The suspense, was so cheesy, the big bad guys so hollywood derived, I never felt it. The worst ?

Raping/kidnapping/killing of 12 year old girls, brought up then passed along without a glance. If you bring up something so horrendous don't brush it away. The ending was, nothing, it went to nothing.

What did I like about the story ? When she rescued Juno, that was a good moment. Till the dog started talking, ugg ruined moment that lasts and lasts. I hope that I never get to talk with animals if they keep repeating themselves like Juno. My dog is looking at me now and I'm so grateful I can't hear a word, sorry pup.

Stubborn to the end I finished this book even when I knew at 10% in it wasn't working for me. I will not be reading more from this author her style does not work for me.

AH says

Finally finished this book. It seemed to take forever and I am not sure if it was because of the book or my mood. I was definitely heading towards the did not finish category. The plot was a little convoluted, with a main character who was a kind of Dr. Doolittle who could communicate with animals. Funny that I have no problem reading shape shifter books, but this one took a toll on my level of belief.

My copy was called No Easy Prey and it seems like the publisher changed the name after the ARCs were handed out. I'm not sure that I would recommend this book.

I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

