

Reader Views

Book reviews, for readers, by readers.

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Impact with Intent

By Jack H. Jones

Author House (2005)

Reviewed by Tammy Petty Conrad for Reader Views (4/06)

It is 1979 in Manhattan and John Thomas notices things others don't. In his first real job out of school with a prestigious company, IBS, he manages to save the day on an expensive lawsuit, get fired and rehired as a consultant by the same company, perform a tracheotomy on a Russian colleague in a restaurant and attract no less than three women at the office. And most of this happens within six weeks of his hire date.

Thomas is almost too good to be true. He's a doctor, lawyer and has a PhD in Mathematics. Although a novel, the author, Jack H. Jones, was determined that the protagonist's behavior in "Impact with Intent" should be an example to readers and even to his own children. His goal while writing was that John Thomas would use his brain rather than his brawn to right the wrongs of the world. But John doesn't have the average brain. In addition to his three advanced degrees, he speaks five languages, including Chinese and Russian.

His obsession with the theory that "nothing happens until someone does something," permeates the book. The main character is able to maneuver his work situation so that he is paid handsomely to prove his theory works and is marketable. Thomas likes to explain to anyone who will listen that "the equation is simple: Human Intent – Leads to – Action Decision – Modified by – Influencing Factors – Equals – Action Results." The author obviously uses his scientific background and business experience to make his novel more realistic. The excessive details may slow some readers down a bit, but others will find it worthwhile in setting the scene.

But don't worry, there is a bit of romance thrown in to keep you from falling asleep in the boardroom! Elizabeth, Lori and Victoria are all entranced by Thomas' charms. I was curious about how the Intent Theory, as he called it, would be proved, but was even more entranced to find out who got the guy!

The length and weight (both physical and intellectual) of the book keep this one from being a beach read, but it is an interesting premise.

Issues to address with the writer:

Editing is required to delete numerous typos, grammar errors and repeated information that is already shared with the reader. This could reduce the novel, maybe by as much as half and keep the reader from getting bogged down.

The point of view switches whenever another character is involved. Although it is John Thomas' story, it sometimes happens in the middle of a paragraph.

Unrealistic accomplishments within unrealistic timeframes kept John Thomas from being a real man for me. The main character takes on so much work, is fluent in so many languages and has so many women falling into his arms that he seems more like a superhero, but not one I want to root for.

I question whether three women in the same company would fall for the same guy, especially when two of them are in committed relationships. It sounded like he hadn't had any relationships and he was already in his 30's. How come they are falling all over him now?

The dialogue is not natural as people speak, but rather stilted and lengthy at times.

There are large sections of information "dumped on the reader" as if the author is trying to share as much info as he knows about a topic before moving on.

The author "tells" everything rather than showing readers what is happening and allowing them to draw their own conclusions.