



The Turnaround

By George P. Pelecanos

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On a hot summer afternoon in 1972, three teenagers drove into an unfamiliar neighborhood and six lives were altered forever.

Thirty five years later, one survivor of that day reaches out to another, opening a door that could lead to salvation. But another survivor is now out of prison, looking for reparation in any form he can find it.

THE TURNAROUND takes us on a journey from the rock-and-soul streets of the '70s to the changing neighborhoods of D.C. today, from the diners and auto garages of the city to the inside of Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital, where wounded men and women have returned to the world in a time of war. A novel of fathers and sons, wives and husbands, loss, victory and violent redemption, THE TURNAROUND is another compelling, highly charged novel from George Pelecanos, "the best crime novelist in America." -*Oregonian*

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The Turnaround By George P. Pelecanos Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As the title implies, redemption lies at the center of Pelecanos's novel as adults try to disentangle themselves from their youthful indiscretions. Some 30 years later, and still bearing the physical scars of those indiscretions, Alex Pappas halfheartedly runs a diner while dealing with the cards life has dealt him when he unexpectedly reunites with his assailants. Though there is potential for forgiveness, one of the assailants is looking to stir up trouble and bring all of them down. Dion Graham delivers a solid performance, providing a smooth-flowing narration with a deep and slightly raspy voice. His inflection and emotional projection help the more sober moments within the story. The only drawback is the similarity of his male characters' voices, which can cause confusion. *A Little, Brown hardcover (Reviews, June 30).*(Aug.)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

While some may see shades of Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities* in Pelecanos's plot—both deal with the after effects of a racially charged incident in the inner city—in reality they have little in common. Critics all commended Pelecanos's ethos and his focus on what it means to be a man in modern America, rich and poor and white and black. Some praised the experience he gained writing for the HBO series *The Wire*, which focused on the problems of people a lot like those in *The Turnaround*. There was the occasional hint that the repeated focus on What It Means to Be a Man bordered on annoying, but if anyone can use the mystery novel as a vehicle for introspection and spiritual longing, it's Pelecanos.

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review As in *Drama City* (2005), Pelecanos changes his focus a bit here from those who either commit crimes or attempt to solve them to those whose lives are altered by their proximity to crimes being committed. Alex Pappas is the hardworking owner of a D.C. diner he inherited from his even-harder-working father; Raymond Monroe is a hardworking physical therapist who had to work hardest of all to escape the fate of many of his friends in Montgomery County's Heathrow Heights. One man is white, the other black; they don't know one another, but they are linked by an incident that occurred in their teens, a senseless shooting that followed an equally senseless outburst of racial antagonism. Now it's more than 40 years later, and the two are thrown together again, but this time in an attempt to prevent more violence. Throughout his career, Pelecanos has written again and again of the sense of inevitability that pervades so much inner-city violence: lives running on collision courses, individuals powerless to jump the tracks that poverty, prejudice, and ignorance have set them on. But this time he tells a different story. After starting more lives racing toward one another on those same tracks, he asks, What if we could change course? What if we could reroute our lives? It's a daring premise, one fraught with the temptations of sentimentality and false hope, but Pelecanos tells this story of tentative reconciliation with the same unrelenting realism and concern for the roundness of his characters that have characterized the bleakest of his novels. Yes, Pelecanos is among our very best crime novelists, but he may become even more renowned for writing fiction about working-class America that is both beyond crime and beyond ideology. --Bill Ott

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Suzanne Macdougall:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the spare time or they will get lots of stress from both way of life and work. So , once we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not only a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer can unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is The Turnaround.

Edna Pilon:

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Corey Barksdale:

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Craig Duran:

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