

[Library ebook] Needles

## Needles

*William Deverell*

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**William Deverell : Needles** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Needles:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. NeedlesBy STANI have enjoyed all of William Deverell's books so far, and recommend them to anyone who likes courtroom action and twisted endings.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent experienceBy MarcThis is a review of the audiobook version of Needles. This is the first book that William Deverell published, and it has just been re-released in audio format on audible.com.Ive been meaning to try a Deverell book for a couple of years. Im always on the lookout for new Canadian authors to try, and Deverell was highly recommended by a good friend. I decided to give Needles a try, and I am extremely happy that I did. I will be picking up more of his books.Needles is a legal thriller that takes place in Vancouver, British Columbia. Foster Cobb is a former prosecutor, trying to start up his own law firm. In his youth he overcame heroin addiction, put himself through law school, passed the bar, became a successful prosecutor and married the ski-instructor daughter of a high profile lawyer. Now, with his marriage failing, and without enough clients to sustain his practice, he again finds himself turning to, and once again becoming addicted to heroin.His best friend, currently chief prosecutor, throws a case his way: prosecuting Dr. Au, well known as the head of the Chinese drug trade in Vancouver, but someone that the government has never been able to convict. Witnesses tend to recant their stories, or disappear, whenever Au is brought to trial. Cobb needs the money, and takes the job.Needles is a story that takes place in the courtrooms and back alleys of Vancouver. It is well written (I was very surprised to find it was Deverells first novel), fast paced and action filled. Its full of plot twists and has its share of gritty back-room violence, corruption and action. The characters

feel real; Cobb knows that he shouldn't be on heroin, but you can feel his helplessness to the addiction, and his guilt/relief when he takes a hit. Overall this was a great book. I'd highly recommend it for anyone who enjoys legal thrillers. The audiobook was read by Steve and Maggie Scherf, and they did an amazing job. I listen to audiobooks in the car, and the narrators made it so easy to keep track of what characters were speaking. It was quite amazing to listen to the different characters in their distinctive voices. In many audiobooks it is quite obvious that there is one person reading, with very slight differences in tone to indicate different characters. In this book it was difficult to believe that all the characters were coming from these two narrators; the voice was very different, and very believable in terms of the character being portrayed. Five stars for the book. Five stars for the narration. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Needles By Customer It has been a long time since I read "Needles", William Deverell's first book. It was considered a sensation at the time, particularly in Vancouver legal circles, given its milieu and Mr. Deverell's former profession. I have much enjoyed "rereading" the book via the audio version as produced by Steve Scherf. He has an amazing knack for voices, and carries off the narrative in a seamless and interesting fashion. Courtroom and back-alley scenes alike come alive. Highly recommended.

Lawyer Foster Cobb prosecutes the mysterious Dr. Au, the West Coast's primary drug trafficker. But Cobb under pressure of a failing practice and a disintegrating marriage has himself taken up a long-abandoned heroin habit. With a racing plot and dramatic flip-flops, Deverell's literary page-turner takes the reader into the seamy undergrowth of crooked cops, Asian drug lords, and a super-charged courtroom scene. Winner of the \$50,000 Seal First Novel Prize in 1979, William Deverell's *Needles* has gone on to sell 250,000 copies. Deverell's first novel launched his career, and since then his books have sold over 1,000,000 copies in various editions. "Deverell has a narrative style so lean that scenes and characters seem to explode on the page. He makes the evil of his plot breathtaking and his surprises like shattering glass." Philadelphia Bulletin "Spell-binding, first-rate. A brilliant craftsman." Buffalo News