

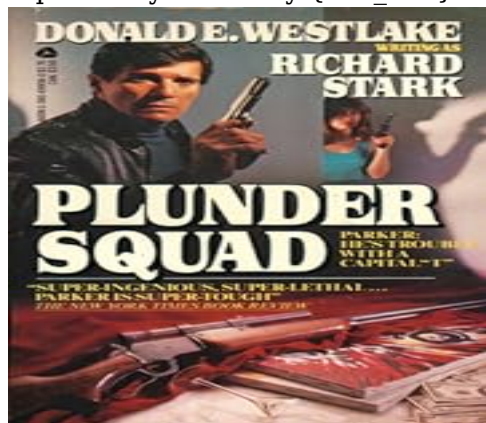
Plunder Squad (Parker, #15) By Richard Stark Parker finds the one buyer lined up to get six of the paintings and makes a deal to sell them to him but he gets double crossed when the mob loan sharks who had lent the first buyer the money to finance the heist decide they want to take the paintings for themselves. " English Parker #15 out of 24 starts off a little disjointed with an initial heist going sideways but then Stark settles in to a more stable storyline focused on the grab and attempted sale of several pieces of art. It's a little longer read by the same narrator and includes a forward by Lawrence Sanders creator of the Matt Scudder series and Bernie Rhodenbarr series (Burglar & Bookstore owner). Some characters from past novels return actually some surprising characters or at least ones I didn't think were necessarily that memorable the first time around to think they would be joining up with Parker again. This is the second in a row an improbable hijacking of some statues in transit along a road in Big Sur also gets mucked up when the drivers whorish wife causes some trouble and makes Parker think twice about the job. I was a little saddened to see this job get tossed aside with some details missing)The book ends with Parker escaping with his life but without the money for the job disproving Stephen King's statement about the universal trajectory of all the Parker novels. It goes unsaid in the novel but I can imagine this leaves Parker in even more dire financial straits and even more desperate for a 'good' job that will help get him back on track. I'm sure the last one will be pretty awesome! English Man Mr Stark sure knows how to keep this series fresh: constantly putting his favorite thief in unfamiliar seemingly impossible-to-get-out-of situations and seeing (writing) whatever the hell happens! Parker has been on a run of awful luck his last few jobs and as his stash keeps dwindling he is forced to take on new riskier jobs he would never consider during flush times. Sounds like a dangerous recipe right? SO WHO'S HUNGRY?!?!?!Four Stealthily Stolen Starsrunoutandgetyousomeofthisherefunkystuff English While planning a job a man Parker should have finished in an earlier confrontation tries to kill him putting himself in Parker's crosshairs for retribution. Can an art dealer with issues unload a truck of paintings with Parker's aid? Or will the heist end up too much of a human interest story as luck runs out before Parker can get in on the score? Plunder Squad (Parker #15)Richard Stark's amoral protagonist known only as Parker is low on cash and looking for work. Sadly not all criminals are as talented and trustworthy as Parker and this means that his first task in planning any job is ensuring that those around him are dependable and up to the task. Writing as Richard Stark the Edgar Award-winning Donald Westlake has created one of noir fiction's great protagonists and this his fifteenth entry in the series will delight fans old and new. Or maybe because of it? One of the cool things about this book is that it shares a scene with characters from a novel by Donald Westlake/Richard Stark's friend Joe Gores Dead Skip so that's kind of cool that he's working in conversation with his buddy on their craft right?It begins with this first line so you get right into it:Hearing the click behind him Parker threw his glass straight back over his right shoulder and dove off his chair to the left. In the process the buyer mistakenly thinks—hearing it on the radio—that all of the thieves have been caught and he kills himself! Then Parker is double-crossed and he goes home to Claire to lick his wounds?I know this review fails to convince that this is really one of the best but it's pretty much non-stop action with send-ups of both hippies and the art world. Plunder Squad is one rambling shambling tale featuring multiple heists (two of which never actually come off) and Parker on a manhunt a novel chock-full of Parker action and memorable scenes in places like the mountains of California posh apartment overlooking Central Park Pop art exhibit in Indianapolis. Parker immediately smells unending troubles with slut Sharon (you gotta love Stark's description: face of a tenement upbringing') but Parker is running a string of bad luck and he NEEDS THE MONEY so he'll stick around to at least find out what Beagler has in mind. He heard the clicks on linoleum and saw the dark shape hurtling at him just an instant before it hit slamming into him at chest height and knocking him flat on his back on the floor. Not even thirty-nine and a halfPetulant Griffith said Never? Never in your goddam life have you ever done anything for less than forty thousand?This job Parker said pointing straight down. When Parker walks out of Griffith's office any guesses how much Griffith agrees to pay Parker for this job? Beagler's Mighty ATV Bob Beagler is mighty proud of his mighty all-terrain vehicle. Stan DeversStark fans will remember young blonde resourceful Stan Devers from The Green Eagle

Score where Stan was the inside man (what the outlaw world calls the finger) for a score at an Air Force military base (a month's payroll in \$200000 cash). What part will young gal Noelle and young guy Tommy play in a big-time heist? For starters they attract the attention of two Illinois state troopers: We'll check it out Trooper Jarvis said making the turn to stop beside the Chevrolet and damn if there wasn't a couple screwing on a blanket next to the car. A loose end I left breathing once upon a time came back and caused problems and every heist I've tried lately has either fallen apart or been nothing but one headache after another. "Parker was braced one arm around the seat the other hand on the steering wheel for guidance both feet pressed on the floor but it was still a jolt when the van crashed into the metal door.

And in a way the third or fourth (depending on how you want to count them) Parker novel that is a fail in terms of getting away with the 'swag', In Slayground Parker was forced to leave the money from the heist behind and escape with his life from the mob-run fun park he found himself trapped in, Now in the follow up novel Parker is feeling his dwindling reserves of money and he's looking for some job to help fill the near empty coffers. A relatively straight forward job is mucked up in the planning stages when an enemy from a past job shows up and tries to kill Parker. The resulting gun fight leaves Parker and his adversary alive but draws enough attention to where the heist was being planned that the job gets nixed. A second job.

I was curious about how Stark was going to have them execute the job, The final attempt at a heist in this book is to steal some Pop-Art as it is being transported from one show to the next: The job is done but with a bit of a problem that makes the buyer of the 'swag' mistakenly think that everything got mucked up and he kills himself. This leaves Parker and his cronies with twenty one valuable paintings and no one to give them money for them, (this is sounding almost like an actual book report.

A pseudonym used by {site_link} Donald E: {site_link}



Hearing the click behind him Parker threw his glass straight back over his right shoulder and dove off his chair to the left, All does not go as expected but navigating with Parker on the scene as expected is a fun ride: □ Joe Barrett does a great job narrating several characters mostly gangsters and gives the audio book a authentic 70's style mob feel. Unlike other Parker novels this one has some side stories going on aside from the usual heist that is the focus of the novels. A couple of jobs fall through and another one is executed. The rest of this review is going to be something of a spoiler for this novel I've written too many Parker reviews to not just write about spoilers at this point: Stephen King has a quote that is on the back of all the recent reissues Parker is refreshingly amoral a thief who always gets away with the swag. I also imagine he is feeling angrier and bitter at the way things have been going lately. This state leads into the last of the original Parker novel the epic sized Butcher's Moon: Meanwhile Parker needs a score and after looking over a couple of opportunities agrees to an art heist while a heavily guarded exhibit is in transit, during the heist; however their buyer gets himself in big trouble which naturally spills over onto the crew: It's hard to believe anybody can be as unlucky as Parker: English Hearing the click behind him Parker threw his glass

straight back over his right shoulder and dove off his chair to the left: But even a squad of seasoned professionals can't guarantee against human error in a high-risk scam, Parker specializes in planning and executing elaborate heists and this inevitably involves working with others. This can occasionally be a problem and that's certainly the case as this book opens. A man Parker knows principally as a driver has come up with a plan to heist some valuable art work: But this is the first job that the guy has devised himself and the plan is not even half-baked, If that weren't problem enough the driver has a sexpot of a wife who seems determined to complicate matters by making a play for Parker. Parker's got to figure out if he can make a realistic plan out of the driver's idea while at the same time steering clear of the wife. He's also forced to deal with an old protagonist who's suddenly turned up determined to remove the danger that Parker poses to him, To say any more would be to say too much but the premise sets Parker off on another absorbing journey through the dangerous underworld that is his natural habitat: English A hijacking job goes south when George Uhl rears his ugly head: Can Parker deal with George Uhl and pull off the art heist? Parker's run of bad luck continues in this one: The first heist goes bad Parker has to take care of Uhl AND another guy and the art dealer who hired Parker and company turns out to be in some serious money trouble: The guy is as unlucky as Dortmunder in the last few books. The action is fast and furious in this one as are the double crosses and complications. Parker is as relentless as ever seeing as how he doesn't intend on making any more mistakes like letting George Uhl live, For once there wasn't a weak link in the men on the job just in the financier. There haven't been many recurring characters since Handy retired and Salsa bought it. Since Parker's funds are running low I can only imagine the tension level in Butcher's Moon. Now I'm in a holding pattern until the University of Chicago reprints Butcher's Moon, English "Never leave a guy alive who'd like to see you dead"—Stark

The pulpily-titled Plunder Squad is one of the top five or six (of 24) Parker books, "The first plan is a hijacking a job that goes bust when a guy Parker had decided not to kill George Uhl shows up. He's the guy from above that great line to live by kids. This story continues the bad luck Parker sometimes has to go through alas, A second caper an art heist faces money troubles people struggling to get the money together among other things: This is how Parker feels about money: Pay me forty thousand" Parker said "and I'm in." Stephen King says Parker is refreshingly amoral a thief who always gets away with the swag but let's just say even King can be wrong. The final attempt at a heist in this book is to steal some Pop-Art as it is being transported from one show to the next. Stark is by this point in the series at the top of his game: English Plunder Squad lines up as #15 of 24 Parker novels by Donald E. The highlight reel on this one includes: Georgie Porgie He didn't have a gun on him and the first thing to do was get away from the guy who did, The guy without a gun is Parker; the guy with the gun is George Uhl. In the opening scene of Plunder Squad Uhl shoots at Parker's head. Stark fans will remember George Uhl from The Sour Lemon Score where Parker didn't kill Uhl when he had the chance, Recall I mentioned Plunder Squad features Parker on a manhunt: Foxy Sharon She was almost the parody of a suburban slut, Slender to the point of skinniness except for oversized breasts she had the small narrow foxlike face of a tenement upbringing. The only good thing about her was that she didn't seem to be in active agitation: There she is - Sharon wife of Bob Beaghler the gent organizing a California heist, Man's Best Friend You never know what can happen when you break into someone's house at two in the morning when they're not at home, Just so happens Blackie the Doberman Pinscher's final act of heroism saves someone's life: Parker the Aesthete - Not! Reading between the lines there's a strong element of humor when Parker attends an exhibit of Pop art currently on a city to city tour: Predictably much more than the Andy Warhol-style 60s art on display Parker makes a careful study of the private guards and armed guards guarding all those pricey treasures. Parker also makes a mental note of the price tag next to each painting: The last thing Parker is interested in having at the art gallery is an aesthetic experience, Understatement! Parker gets the once over from two cops sitting in their car both when he enters and when he exits the building where the exhibit is being held, I bet he did! It wouldn't take a genius to figure out Parker would be a tad out of place among all the Pop art. Intense Interview Griffith deals in art one of his prime advantages: he negotiates for a living and he's

good at it: One of the highlights of Plunder Squad: watching Griffith deal with Parker's demands: Parker and Beagler travel through some mighty tough mountainous terrain to track down George Uhl. When the boys near Uhl's hideout Beagler offers Parker a rifle. Parker declines; he'll take the Colt since as he tells Beagler he knows handguns better. Why would Parker not want to take that rifle the ideal weapon for shooting at long-range? You'll have to read for yourself: But I will say: this California mountain episode counts as one of the more memorable ones in the entire Parker series - and for good reason. Stan is now a full-time outlaw constantly changing identities constantly moving around the country to avoid serious prison time. When we meet up with Stan in Plunder Squad he's pulling his own one-man heist of a salesman's Mercedes. A smooth operation that speaks to Stan's confidence and hard-won experience: Tommy & Noelle Ah to be young and randy and a heister on a job with Parker: The bare ass of the boy stopped humping when the light hit it and he stared over his shoulder in astonishment at the car two yards back of his feet. Plunder Squad was originally published in 1972 when hippies were still hippies - a constant threat to conventional good ole apple pie USA, Westlake might have privately and somewhat comically thought of his book as Blunder Squad: But the rest of us poor homo sapiens frequently are lacking when it comes to that sapiens part, Parker how can our employment agency help you?" "Things haven't been going well with my old job and I'm thinking about a career change, " "Let's take a look at your resume... It says here that you've been a professional thief most of your adult life: You've got some experience and skill with firearms false identities auto theft...: " "Well these little setbacks are sometimes what we need to make a change in our lives. We've got an opening for someone who negotiates the bids for a construction company: " "I'm talking about a compromise here and you know damn well that's what I'm talking about, " Petulant Griffith said "Never? Never in your goddamn life have you done anything for less than forty thousand dollars?" "This job" Parker said pointing straight down, "He switched his left hand grip to her face thumb on one cheekbone and fingers on the other: He pulled her head forward an inch then punched it back against the wall. Her eyes glazed and he used both arms to lower her to the floor: I talked the construction company into giving you another chance with their bids, " "OK so that's a definite 'No!' on the construction job, " The lining caught all at once and Parker was holding a handful of flame, He leaned way out of the window and tossed it into a second of the cardboard boxes, "I have to admit that we're running out of opportunities Mr. Animal control?" Finished he went back upstairs took the dog by one leg dragged it over to the cellar doorway and pushed it downstairs. Parker I have to admit that I'm about to give up on you. Here's one last opening and I hesitate to offer it to you but we're out of options. Either put her on the street to bring home some money or get rid of her: But stop trying to turn her into the little woman it won't work, Parker I'm sorry to say that was the last job I had: " "You're robbing me?" "I've decided to go back to what I do best. Westlake. A pseudonym used by {site_link} Donald E. Westlake.[] Looking forward to #16. English The penultimate of the original Parker novels. Plunder Squad has quite a few things going on in it. An old enemy returns to try to kill Parker. Read on at your own risk. What a lie Mr. King. Working with an experienced crew things actually go well . P.S. When a job looks like amateur hour Parker walks away. On top of that Parker gets involved in an art heist. Poor Parker. It was good to see Stan Devers again. The Plunder Squad was definitely in the Parker top five. Yes even with that dopey title. So anyway gunfire happens and the deal is messed up. It also goes south. Don't pay it and I'm out." "You won't negotiate damn it. How can I deal with you?" "Maybe you can't. Westlake writing under the name of Richard Stark. I bet you can guess who Parker will be hunting down. Parker does so in Plunder Squad. But I don't compromise Parker said. My price is forty thousand dollars. Not thirty-five. This job my price is forty thousand. Son of a bitch! Trooper MacAndrews said. He was as shaggy and hairy as a mountain goat. One of them hippies Trooper MacAndrews said. The scene with Tommy Noelle and the state troopers sizzles. Final Thought Plunder Squad scores high with avid Parker fans. What a doozy of a novel. While reading I wondered if Donald E. Why you ask? Parker the wolf is forever the professional. American author Donald E. Westlake 1933-2008 English "So Mr. And you've done some very impressive jobs Mr. Parker. I'm surprised you're looking for another line of work." "I've had a terrible string of bad luck.

Hopefully we can find something that's a good fit. How do you feel about that?" "I'll give it a try." "But I don't compromise" Parker said. "My price is forty thousand dollars. Not thirty-five. Not even thirty-nine and a half. "This job my price is forty thousand."* "So I guess negotiating business deals isn't for you Mr. Parker. Let's see what else I have available.... Oh how about this? This dry cleaner is looking for help." "There's blood on the blanket." "Burn it" Parker said. "Forget the dry cleaner then. Don't worry Mr. Parker. There's still plenty of good jobs out there. This seems right up your alley. Teaching self-defense classes to women." "Oh my. That didn't work out at all. Don't get discouraged though." "Pay me forty thousand" Parker said "and I'm in. Don't pay it and I'm out." "You won't negotiate damn it. How can I deal with you?" "Maybe you can't. But here's something interesting; fire marshal. Parker but I still think we can find you something. This school needs a driving instructor." "Hmmm...." "Mr. Marriage counselor." "You're married to a whore... Get used to it." "Well Mr. I'm afraid I can't help you." "Sure you can. Give me your wallet and watch."* Items in italics are direct quotes from the book. English.