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The Temporary Agent (The Agent Series)



Synopsis

Scarred by war, former Navy Seabee Tom Sexton vows to leave his violent past behind, only to be drawn back into that life when a deadly conspiracy forces him to face an agonizing choice no man should ever have to make. Five years after his life was saved in Afghanistan by Marine Force Recon Leader Charlie Cahill, Tom lives a bleak, nomadic existence, haunted by the debt he can never repay. Salvation appears in Stella—a woman as damaged, and resourceful, as he. But when a coded distress call from his former CO leads him to a shadowy NSA operative, Tom is recruited for a black op to bring back the now-rogue man who saved his life. As he searches for Cahill, Tom quickly uncovers a much larger web of treason and betrayal that calls his entire world into question and forces him into the ultimate no-win scenario.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was afraid to write this critical review because of the negative comments that I will probably receive as a result. However, I must follow my conscience. If readers only posted glowing reviews then every book would be a Nobel Prize winner. To be fair, the plot is fine—if you like pulp fiction. There is nothing wrong with pulp fiction. Pulp is those low-priced magazines and paperbacks with

bigger-than-life heroes, pretty girls, and mysterious villains that were popular with young working adults and teenagers. In fact, the writer is very talented in coming up with dramatic scenes and action that is very typical of pulp fiction. I believe that if he found a good editor or better yet, several good editors who would be willing to work with improving his writing style, I think he could be an outstanding author. But he is not there yet. The writing style seems unpolished, like it was a first draft needing serious comments and markups. Another reviewer commented about several elements that bothered her with style. She complained about the constant use of incomplete sentences. That is true but I elaborate and state that the entire book is composed of paragraphs that are one or two sentences long and many of those sentences are only phrases, not sentences. Example 1: Inside his heart, a rage was building. Aimed not at the men who had come after them but at himself. Example 2: The badly tuned engine gunned, and the van hurtled across the lot. Aimed straight at the door of the motel room Cahill just exited. Example 3: Before he could do anything more than that, Cahill was at the door. And put two hollow-points into the man's forehead. This is how the ENTIRE book reads.

This book is worth a read, but all things considered, I couldn't give it more than 3 stars. PLOT -- If all I was considering was the story, I would have awarded four stars. The plot had a few hiccups, but otherwise was good. STYLE -- The writing contained a few elements that bothered me. The first was the constant use of incomplete sentences. As a device, and used sparingly, this can create emphasis and pull the reader along. When used over and over and over, it is nothing short of distracting. I hesitated when I saw this Kindle First book was 402 pages long, but the Shamus Award (for 2003 book "The Poisoned Rose") convinced me to choose M. Judson's book. Once I started reading, I saw why it has so many pages. I would guess over 95% of the book's descriptive paragraphs are only one sentence long. I can see how this would inflate the size of a book, and as a purchaser of many hardcovers and paperbacks, I would have been horrified to order a book and find out it was in no way deserving of the advertised length. I would hope the author didn't do this to make the book bigger, but if it was used as a writing technique, it hurts the flow of the book. As far as the technical aspects, I would believe the author either owns guns or has researched them thoroughly. I would tend to believe it is the latter, as some of the descriptions read like an ad. Additionally, even James Bond does not shoot as well as the main characters in this book. I don't want to give out spoilers by describing exactly what I mean, but it takes thousands of rounds shot REGULARLY for top shooters to achieve the legendary accuracy at 50 feet described in this book, not to mention what happens to almost everyone's nervous system when placed in a stressful gunfight...

Brief UpdateYou might note *The Temporary Agent* has attracted a wide array of reviews. A few are exceptionally critical. Indeed, one review by a new reviewer has garnered great support. I was one of the earliest reviewers and, just as did ILUVBOOKS, I recorded my difficulty in poring through a challenging writing style. Unlike ILUVBOOKS, however, I found the annoying broken sentence pattern to be addictive (mind you, not until well into the story though). I mention this so you can get a better feel for why a book that has an exceptionally harsh review (that itself has achieved huge success in terms of helpful votes and is on the path for hall-of-fame immortality), yet the book is number one in all of Kindle. How does one reconcile the two points? Is the ILUVBOOKS a fair review? Absolutely. The reviewer raises some valid points and provides great insight... to a point. Yet, as I state this, I hasten to add that the overall star rating by some 400 reviewers gives the average rating of 4.3 stars --- My point is, *The Temporary Agent* is a story written in a manner that is going to astonish those who choose to give it a try. Just as great art will annoy and anger many, so, too, will a provocative story that is written in an edgy manner. Of this you can be certain, *The Temporary Agent* is written in an artistic manner that breaks new ground - Many will hate it, many will love it, but few readers will be unmoved by *The Temporary Agent* by Daniel Judson. As for me? I greatly enjoyed the read.

Quick OverviewWord of caution: If adult language and situations (sexual scenes and f-bombs, to be more specific) are a turn-off for you, you will want to read a different book.

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