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Graveyard Of Memories [Kindle In Motion] (A John Rain Novel Book 8)



Synopsis

What makes a legendary assassin? For John Rain, it was the lessons of love, war, and betrayal he learned in Tokyo in 1972. Fresh from the killing fields of Southeast Asia, Rain works as a bagman under the watchful eye of his CIA handler, delivering cash to corrupt elements of the Japanese government. But when a delivery goes violently wrong, Rain finds himself in the crosshairs of Japan's most powerful yakuza clan. To survive, Rain strikes a desperate deal with his handler: take out a high-profile target in the Japanese government in exchange for the intel he needs to eliminate his would-be executioners. As Rain plays cat and mouse with the yakuza and struggles to learn his new role as contract killer, he also becomes entangled with Sayaka, a tough, beautiful ethnic Korean woman confined to a wheelchair. But the demands of his dark work are at odds with the longings of his heart and with Sayaka's life in the balance, Rain will have to make a terrible choice.

Book Information

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Mystery & Crime

Customer Reviews

In this action-packed prequel, we meet a 20 year old John Rain, back in Japan after years of military

combat with a knack for violence and no inhibitions about using it. Barry Eisler's half-breed assassin initially becomes the blunt instrument used by a shady CIA handler to pursue a complex political agenda until he learns to take charge of his own life. Rain's adventure is narrated by the thoughtful, older, wiser version of himself which highlights the young assassin's learning curve. John Rain fans will have their fill of visceral combat, cold blooded murder and the attention to intricate detail that keeps him successful and alive. Eisler, as in his other novels, also provides lush, intimate portraits of Tokyo's beautiful and historic venues and interweaves the story with insights into Japanese culture and customs without interrupting the flow. Along the way Rain has a unique affair with beautiful, wheelchair-bound Sayaka, the likes of which the reader will not encounter anywhere else in literature. Eisler's conjuring of that relationship is brilliant, insightful and incredibly sensual. Avid Eisler readers will enjoy the origins of Rain's friendships with Tatsu and Miyamoto who have pervaded his other books. All in all, a great and satisfying read. Happy to know Rain is coming back in "Zero Sum"

This is a "throwback" book, that should probably have been either Book 1 or 2, since much of the story is told in retrospect (both first and third person perspective). With that said, Barry Eisler gives John Rain a much more "human element", and shows how he's had to "grow" (learn how to kill), to survive. I enjoyed the story and, in particular with Rain's playful interplay with Sayaka, his love hotel's receptionist. At times you wonder if Rain, would be able to figure out his blind spots, but since the book was #6 in the sequence, the thoughts were moot. It's still a fast paced and engaging book and it was a fun read from cover to cover.

My second in John Rain series. I like this the best so far. Great introduction to young John Rain. Hot tempered, reactive, yet showing a latent sense of growing self-awareness and genuine human feeling. His compassionate love interest with the remarkable and sensual young Sayaka is deeply moving and totally believable. The meticulous ingenuity and creative problem solving abilities Rain shows for his "natural causes" assassination at the Japanese public bath is a harrowing and chilling anatomy of a murder. I almost stopped reading at this point because it was so realistic. If the love interest with Sayaka had not been introduced to humanize his character I would have dropped the book. But even Dostoyevsky took us deep into the mind workings of a young assassin, yet we kept following Roskolnikov through his Crime and Punishment. In many ways Eisler transcends the genre needs in Graveyard, and writes a literary espionage thriller.

Rain is getting older and his career cannot go on forever. Thus it is logical for the writer to continue the series with something from Rain's earlier days. Also, Eisler's knowledge of Tokyo is best when it refers to earlier times. As usual, the local colour is impeccable.

I became aware about the coming of this book on Dennis Martin's forum in December. It was through Den and the people on this forum that I started reading Barry's books. The first one under its old title Rain fall about the Assassin specialized in natural causes John Rain. I read all the sequels apart from the ebooks up to the detachment. What attracts me to Barry's books is the description of the tradecraft and the mindset, how the protagonists think. However I have never asked myself questions like: how did Rain learn what he knows, where does he come from, how did he become what he is and why does he do what he does? Although these are very good questions. This book answers a lot of these. The book took hold of my attention from page one where after surprising plot twists and action scenes kept it till the end. There is a quote attributed to several people that goes something like: good judgment is a result of experience, experience however is a result of bad judgment. Same goes for maturity I think, after Rain makes a mistake he is catapulted into a life changing adventure which also puts him on the path that will later become his destiny. Another thing I like about Barry's books is the research that goes into the scenery descriptions. It kind of makes me want to travel to Japan and have a tour visiting the various sites, teahouses and coffee shops described although it is situated in the 1970's. Reading the book Barry has clearly access to many experts in various fields. At the end of the book he describes the many sources and encourages readers to give him feedback upon detecting an error. In short a very good read that will satisfy old fans and will draw new readers to become new fans.

I'm sure this book would be interesting to those who enjoy reading about murders, assassins, violence but I'm not one of them. I appreciate the author's use of historical, international intrigue and business/political conspiracies. I at least learned some things from the book. But it was difficult for me to get through. The last few chapters were the only ones that went quickly.

I was excited to see that there was a new John Rain book, because the others in the series had been excellent. This was not. The "A" plot was formulaic and its clear that that plot is not what Eisler wanted to write about.. Eisler is a gifted writer, but he's bored here, and it shows. The "B" plot, about a romance with a paralyzed girl, was preachy and unrealistic. It was clear that Eisler cared about

that plot line much more than the "A" plot, and wanted to make a lot of points about the treatment and love lives of disabled persons. A worthy goal, no doubt, but not the stuff that thrillers are made of. Two stars because the book is just not very good or interesting.

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