

SUSPENSE MAGAZINE BOOK REVIEWS INSIDE THE PAGES

SHOVEL READY

By Adam Sternbergh

This tale, set in New York City in the 'new future,' has more twists, turns, and oddities than ever before seen.

Once a garbage man working in the city, the main character now has a big 'S' on his chest, so to speak, but it doesn't stand for a comic book hero. Instead, he is the Spademan, who basically has a mission all his own.

There was a terrorist attack. On that day, the city went quiet; businesses shut down forever and people ran for their lives in search of safer places. Sadly, one of the victims of the hideous attack was the former garbage man's wife. Suffice to say, the tragedy altered his attitude drastically, changing him overnight from a 'normal guy' into a man who has pledged his days to being a hit man for anyone who wishes to bring death to others.

The Spademan is hired to kill the runaway daughter of a TV Evangelist. But when he goes on the hunt, tracks her, and finds her, a bevy of surprises come to light that alters both the story and the Spademan's beliefs dramatically. What he thought was a simple 'job' turns out to be a truly evil proposition, causing him to go back and forth between reality and fantasy.

In a city that most definitely doesn't sleep, the reader is brought along on a strange ride through New York streets into a dark and dreary place where most of the richest citizens have chosen to spend their days living in virtual reality rooms while medical staff take care of them.

This tale is unusual and readers will certainly have a tumultuous and exciting time of it as they deal with grit, fear, pain, and the true oddity that instead of building up the city they love, people chose to turn their backs on it. A sci-fi/suspense lover's dream.

Reviewed by Amy Lignor, author of "The Hero's Companion: Tallent & Lowery Book Three" published by Suspense Publishing, an imprint of Suspense Magazine ■



CITY OF THE SUN

By Juliana Maio

War book aficionados will be pleased with this one. Even if you're not a military/history buff, this in-depth story is still one of the most interesting and thrilling reads imaginable.

It's the year 1941, and the German Army is doing its best to take over North Africa. The Afrika Korps, headed by General Rommel, has Cairo on the ropes. Great Britain is trying to keep control of the country and its ultimate prize; the Suez Canal. And Farouk, King of Egypt, doesn't know what to do to save his land.

Walking into this Cairo mess is a refugee Jewish family by the name of Blumenthal, and their arrival coincides with the appearance of American reporter, Mickey Connolly. Mickey is having problems of his own. The British have made sure his press credentials remain expired because he didn't exactly give them positive press, and he's about to be sent back to America. Mickey came to Cairo to land a story of monumental proportions, and his reporting career depends on him doing just that.

The U.S. Ambassador offers Mickey a deal: the Ambassador will intercede on his behalf if Mickey will go undercover and find Erik Blumenthal, a brilliant physicist who's known to be hiding somewhere in Cairo. America wants this man to work on their side of the fence to develop weapons that will allow them to destroy the Nazis.

Seeing light at the end of the tunnel, Mickey takes the job, but finds it's not that easy to go up against the brutal Nazis who are also searching for the much-wanted genius. Add in a daughter, Maya Blumenthal, and you have a book that provides history, suspense, spies, and of course, a great romance.

Driven by fascinating characters, this author weaves an amazing tale based on real historical figures. Cairo in the early days of the North African campaigns definitely produced people you love to hate. Well done! Reviewed by Amy Lignor, author of "The Hero's Companion: Tallent & Lowery Book Three" published by Suspense Publishing, an imprint of Suspense Magazine ■

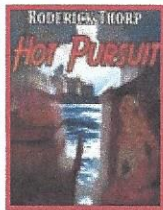
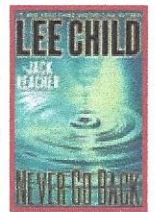
NEVER GO BACK

By Lee Child

No contemporary author provides as much pure reading pleasure to fans as Lee Child, and he continues that winning streak with the release of "Never Go Back." Solid writing, peppered with laugh-out-loud moments, a hero who *isn't* the stereotypical 'hero,' and your favorite adult beverage, are all you need to have an entertaining evening.

Jack Reacher has drifted down to his old stomping grounds in Virginia. All to meet a woman. However, commanding officer, Susan Turner, isn't at the 110th MP when he arrives. She's been taken into custody for crimes that Reacher immediately questions and a lieutenant colonel named Morgan is now leading his old unit. Morgan's a paper-pusher and a man with an agenda. When he places Reacher back on active duty, diehard fans know it's best to hang on because that's the last thing Morgan should have done. Layering on what appear to be trumped up charges from Reacher's past, a normal soldier may have run for the hills, but as I've said, Reacher isn't stereotypical. Yes, he's a man who excels at disappearing, but now he has some very important unfinished business.

What draws me in each and every time is Reacher's ability to always do what we mere humans secretly wish we could... and not serve a lengthy prison term for. Just like Reacher, Child doesn't know how to fail. Reviewed by Shannon Raab for Suspense Magazine ■



HOT PURSUIT

By Roderick Thorp

"Hot Pursuit" is an adrenaline-filled romp that will leave you cheering at the end. The adventure will begin in Key Largo, Florida, but will quickly race to Washington, DC and the Bahamas before the action builds to a crescendo in Cartagena, Columbia.

Lieutenant Commander Sam Merrill of the U.S. Coast Guard stumbles upon a vessel off the coast of the Florida Keys that is dead in the water. After boarding the vessel, he and his crew find it packed with drugs and money. Sam soon finds himself to be a media darling and Washington's newly dubbed hero. He and his wife Amy head to the White House and then on to an all expense trip to the Bahamas where their luck goes from 'bad' to worse. Amy is kidnapped by the ruthless Chino and Sam begins an exhausting chase to find her.

With every stone Sam turns over, he finds a new snake, and he soon realizes he can only trust his wife, himself, and his Coast Guard buddies.

You will gasp at situations he and Amy find themselves in and cheer when you see their ingenuity.

With "Hot Pursuit," Thorp has written a thriller that is a non-stop, action-filled, tidal wave of a story that will ultimately show you the depth of the human spirit and how far two people will go in the name of love. Reviewed by J.M. LeDuc, author of "Cornerstone," published by Suspense Publishing, an imprint of Suspense Magazine ■