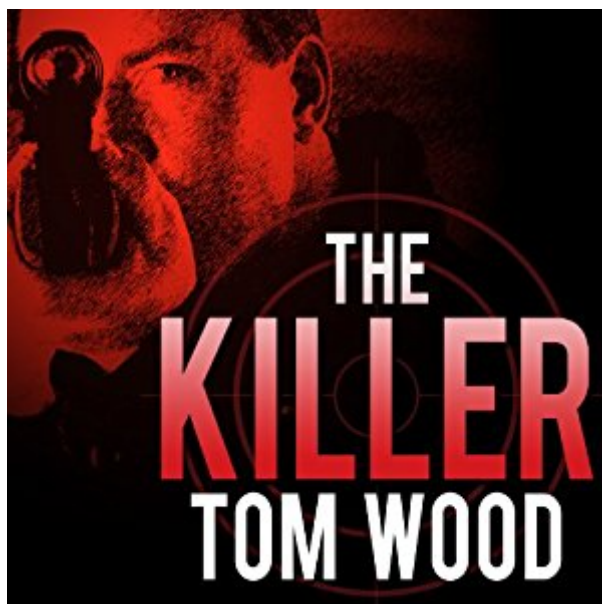


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The Killer: Victor The Assassin Series, Book 1



Synopsis

Forget James Bond. Forget Jason Bourne. Forget Jack Bauer. Meet Victor. He's an assassin - a man with no past and no surname. He lives alone. He operates alone. He's given a job; he takes out the target; he gets paid. He's The Killer. Victor arrives in Paris to perform a standard kill and collect for an anonymous client. He completes it with trademark efficiency - only to find himself in the middle of an ambush and fighting for his life. Pursued by determined enemies, a woman too beautiful to be safe, and intelligence agencies from both sides of the Atlantic, Victor will soon discover there is nowhere left for him to hide...and no one he can trust. But he is every bit as ruthless as those hunting him. And Victor will find out who wants him dead and why - one corpse at a time.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

Tom Hinshelwood's first novel is a winner. This is an old-fashioned spy thriller that truly does remind me of early Robert Ludlum, as *Publisher's Weekly* noted, it even has the same short-comings. Ludlum could create a thrill a minute plot and pace it at a dead run start to finish, but other than Jason Bourne, he couldn't create memorable characters. That's the same problem here, and what kept the book from 5*. It also keeps it from the list of Best First Thriller, which is still held by *Rain Fall* by Barry Eisler. (To bad Eisler's taken a detour down soapbox editorial row on his latest book.) The Killer, set in Europe and Africa, has at its heart the well used plot of turning the hunter into the hunted. Certainly not new or novel, but so well done you can't help getting completely drawn

into the race to the death. The Killer, 'Victor at the start then 'Tesseract' about a third of the way into the book. Even at the end you aren't sure if it's his real name or not. It suits the character who has, in many ways, erased himself from life. No connections, no ties, nothing he can't leave and never look back. An assassin for hire, Tesseract usually works through brokers so neither he nor those who hire him ever know each other. The level of tradecraft is good and lends the story a suitably realistic atmosphere, though not quite as compelling as that in the John Rain books. After he does a job in Paris, everything falls apart in no time. A group of killers are waiting for him at his hotel. Eluding them won't be an option, so he must kill them.

Book Review The Killer by Tom Hinshelwood/Tom Wood THIS REVIEW CONTAINS A SPOILER I saw this on the front page of Audible one day, and for some unknown reason, I have a bit of a thing for assassin books. I don't really know why, perhaps because of the left over sadness of years of investigating crime while a UK copper. Perhaps reading histories of the middle and far east whence the lore of hashashin and ninja began. It's the motivation for killing which always escapes me. Yeah, I get that you can get mad enough for revenge or anger purposes to put out someone's lights. In self-defence, no question, him or me. Killing for money or ideological purpose? Dunno, less clear cut. I'm also pretty certain that it's a difficult profession, rife with very high risk and there are many fewer hit-folk around than popular fiction would have us believe, thanks be. The Killer, Tom Wood's first novel comes highly recommended by its reviewers on and Audible. Well written and performed. There is quite a lot of Gun-porn, the naming and delineation of qualities of various armaments is mentioned, if not labored over. Fair enough, they are the tools of those who work around guns. The writing is good, and the plot and narrative works well for the first half of the book. Character development proceeds apace, although we are not told a single thing about the assassin's background. At about 2/3rds of the way in, a, "Hemingway Death," occurs, which totally throws off the narrative and the plot. Up to this point, the twin fulcrum of the narrative was the softening of the assassin and a growing bond between him and another. A very humanizing and sweet element.

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