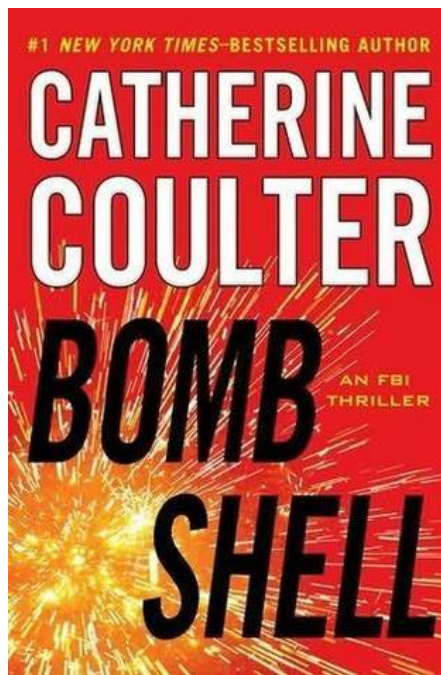




Bombshell

Catherine Coulter

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FBI Special Agent Griffin Hammersmith, last seen in *Backfire*, has been recruited by Dillon Savich to join his unit in Washington, D.C. Savich sees something special in Hammersmith, an almost preternatural instinct for tracking criminals.

While on his way to D.C., Hammersmith plans to visit his sister, Delsey, a student at Stanislaus School of Music in Maestro, Virginia. Before he arrives, he gets a phone call that Delsey was found naked, unconscious, and covered with blood after a wild party. The blood isn't hers—so who does it belong to?

Meanwhile, back in D.C., Savich and Sherlock have their hands full when the grandson of former chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank is found murdered, every bone in his body broken, and frozen at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial.

Was Savich right—is Griffin gifted with a unique ability to "see" how criminals think? And will he figure out who was behind the attempt on Delsey's life—before it's too late?

Bombshell Details

Date : Published July 9th 2013 by Penguin Publishing

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Author : Catherine Coulter

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From Reader Review Bombshell for online ebook

Michael says

Bombshell by Catherine Coulter had the feeling of a very amateurish novel by an author who is still seeking her voice.

With characters like Special Agent Griffin Hammersmith and his chiseled body and tight jeans, this book came dangerously close to being supermarket-checkout-lane drivel. But thankfully, it never had any sexy-times (if you know what I mean) and it tried very hard to imitate the writings of Tom Clancy. But seriously, Griffin Hammersmith? Why not have a Brock HardAbs or a Dirk ManPecks? The obvious romantic interests, the very un-Clancy-like writing style, and somehow the author's cutesie picture taking up the entire back side of the dust jacket, screamed that this was just a failed attempt at another "thrilling" FBI story.

Now this really bugged me, the story repeatedly mentioned how some mysterious person posted a picture of the murder victim to YouTube... Mrs. Coulter, YouTube is for videos. You can post pictures just about anywhere, but YouTube is for videos.

Overall, I thought Bombshell had way too many characters and most of them were the good guys. So naturally, there was way too much friendly and annoying banter. But how was this supposed to be thrilling? It took 50 people to figure out who the killer was.

And why did the gang members choose Delsey's apartment to kill undercover agent Anna's partner? We know that because Delsey saw the dead body, the gang members were hunting her through the rest of the story. But why were the gang members there in the first place? There was no connection at all. If they chose Delsey's apartment at random- they made a terribly poor choice since Delsey's brother happens to be none other than Special Agent Griffin Hammersmith with his chiseled abs and tight jeans, not to mention his psychic abilities (no joke, he had psychic abilities to solve mysteries).

Unfortunately, Bombshell seemed very poorly written and transparent in that it revealed the author's true passion, grocery-store romance novels. Perhaps I'm being too cruel in my estimation. But after struggling through this book, I really feel like Coulter hasn't found her voice. Hopefully she'll get there soon.

By the way, I'm not really sure why this was called 'Bombshell.' It seemed like the characters had suspected who the true killers were fairly early- so it wasn't really a surprise or anything.

Bryn says

Just couldn't get into this book but attribute that to the voice actress on the audio version. I think the hard copy version would have held my interest better.

Diane says

Really enjoyed this book from the first page to the last. Lots of twists, turns, a ton of characters to keep straight, one or two "I didn't see that coming", stuff that blows up and some very terrible characters and sub-characters and some misleading despicable characters.

Savich and Sherlock have such a good rhythm, along with Dix and Noble and now Griffith and Anna - glad I read the other books (not The Cove mind you).

I small intro for her next series - she has written it with J.T. Ellison - looks good.

2 thumbs up and 5 stars - would I recommend this book - yes!

Jackie says

This was a marginal read at best. It felt like Ms. Coulter was writing in her sleep. Or maybe playing with cardboard figures that she would move around on a table as the scene changed.

1 star for writing/plot.

1 star for character development/interaction/emotional attachment.

1 star for the way the whole thing just felt disjointed to me.

And 2 stars because I soldiered on and finished the whole thing even though it was a struggle.

The best part: that I didn't (directly) spend any hard earned cash on the book.

B. Barron says

Blea.

Trite, tired, and with names only a deranged Hollywood screenwriter would think are clever (Hammercock... I mean Hammersmith? Really? Sherlock? God Shoot me now!). It gets a solid 2 because its still better than the Tax Code and it did two things that I appreciated:

1 - it did not have a sex scene between the ruggedly handsome Hammercock....Smith and the beautiful but tough undercover DEA agent Mr Southern stereotype even though the two demonstrated the appropriate level of fake attraction that again only a deranged Hollywood screenwriter would think was in any way reasonably, likely, or appropriate.

2 - There were two parallel stories and, in the end, they were unrelated save the investigators know each other. If they had been connected I would have given this POS a 1 with prejudice!

Anyway its crap - find something else.

Marybeth says

I almost gave up on this one! I usually like the FBI series but this one? Not so much! No chemistry between the characters, story lines were far-fetched, and I thought Sherlock and Savich come off as pompous you

know whats! Disappointed.

Cardyn Brooks says

Bombshell is an overall disappointment because Catherine Coulter's writing is usually more sophisticated. This book reads like C.C. for simpletons. Character chemistry is one of her signature writing strengths, and there's zero chemistry between Griffin and his supposed love interest. More shocking is the fact that there's zero chemistry between Sherlock and Savich--even a few Sean exchanges don't resurrect the engaging family dynamic from previous books.

All the characters are wooden, one-dimensional props. Too many different characters say, "Let me tell you..I'll tell you...kick...kick butt...butt-kicker." The dialogue for the 20-something characters doesn't ring true. And there's lots of dialogue; more dialogue than action.

MB (What she read) says

9/8/13 on first read:

Entertaining, but you'll need to check your common sense at the door. This is one of Coulter's most ludicrously plotted books, and hers are always out there, so take it for me, this one's extreme!

Some major problems:

For high powered law enforcement professionals, these people seem to think actual investigation is done by sitting around telling each other how hot they are, as well as by coincidences, and by every single character being connected with all the others. You know right away who the love interest is going to be because she's the only available female who gets air time, and isn't a sibling. The whole music college and twin thing is silly, the reason why the body was in the bathtub just had me shaking my head in despair....really?! Why?!?

Also implausible: who murders someone 'secretly' by throwing them out of a high rise office tower, then schlepping them across town, and depositing the body at the feet of the Lincoln Memorial?? You don't think someone else in a busy city--even at night--might notice? Then to post the photos to youtube? Why doesn't the author consider that a public monument like the Lincoln Memorial surely must have many many security cams, and I would hope, a 24 hour security detail?

When trying to identify the mystery body in the bathtub, why does no one bother to check if he paid for his meals with plastic, or used the town Atm for cash?

How does a big shot FBI agent not know that his college age younger sister is going to school somewhere there's already been multiple murders (involving his colleagues), and repeated instances of sketchy behavior by faculty, staff, and the administration? Would you let your younger sister anywhere near such a travesty of supposed higher education?!! Btw, IRL, colleges have to disclose this stuff, you know? Doesn't he talk to his peers about work? Or follow the news media? Is he the Ground hog or something?

What happened to the phone confiscated during the interrogation?

Why make a big deal about it and then forget to finish it?

Why would law enforcement professionals allow random people to wander in and out of guarded hospital rooms? (This seems to be a common trope in this series, btw.)

So... the whole using the drug mafia to try to kill, or maybe kidnap Delsey boiled down to female jealousy??

How many Hetero males go around using the word 'lovely ' as a descriptor for another Hetero male or his clothing choices?

These are just a very few of the many plot holes, implausibilities, and narrativial breakdowns that threw me out of the reading stream in this book! I think I had it happen about every 5 pages!

I'm curious to see if anyone noticed some of these problems (and I've mentioned only a few.) Or if its just me, being bothered by weird things as usual?? Feel free to add yours to the comments.

So, to sum up: if you want entertainment, and a plot made up of about everything plus the kitchen sink, then you'll enjoy this. If you need a plot that makes sense, You won't find it here.

2/2018 re-read. Author oops on page 231 of hardback. Nurse near me says "Wrong! Code Red means fire. She must mean Code Blue if it's about a person." Needs to be corrected in reprint.

Dotti Elrick says

I have read all the books in Catherine Coulter's FBI series and I love her writing and her characters. Bombshell started out a bit slow for me but it sure picked up quickly.

Once again we are thrown in the middle of two separate cases. Both interesting and intense.

Married FBI agents Dillon Savich and Lacy Sherlock, find themselves in the middle of the murder of a young boy, twenty year old Tommy Cronin who is found dead and displayed in the Lincoln Memorial. It is learned that Tommy's grandfather was part of a huge scandal involving the Federal Reserve Bank, where lots of people lost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The first impression is that Tommy was killed as revenge against his grandfather. But Savich and Sherlock start looking at Tommy's friends Walter "Stony" Hart, and Peter Biaggini. A picture of Tommy taken shortly after his death turns up on You Tube, and it was uploaded from Stony's computer, suddenly the investigation heads in another direction. And proves that money truly is the root of all evil.

The second storyline involves a new agent recently assigned to Dillon's special unit in the Bureau. Griffin Hammersmith has been an agent working in the San Francisco field office. Savich and Sherlock worked with him on an earlier case and were very impressed with him.

On his way to D.C., Griffin stops off in the small town of Maestro Virginia to visit his sister, Delsey, who is studying at Stanislaus School of Music.

Before Griffin arrives, his "Trouble Magnet" of a sister is involved in a crime. She has been attacked in her apartment. When she wakes up in the hospital, she remembers there was a dead man in her bathtub and two Hispanic young men were there as well.

Delsey's best friend Anna sets off Griffin's alarms. He knows there is something more to her than just a struggling student and waitress. He's very rarely wrong. As things start to unfold, it's learned that rumors of a major drug smuggling gang are working somewhere in the area of Maestro. And the main suspect is the visiting professor at the college.

Rafael Salazar is a brilliant classical guitarist. He has been asked to do some teaching at Stanislaus by his

twin brother, Dr. Elliot Hayman. Twins who were separated at a very young age, one went with the mother and the other stayed with their father.

This book starts out slowly, with lots of information gathering. But it's all vital to the outcome. It ends with a bang. Both cases coming together at the same time, with lots of action, suspense and a few twists along the way.

I loved re-visiting some of the characters from earlier books. (This book can be read as a stand alone, but the whole series is fantastic) Being back in Maestro, Griffin is working with the local sheriff, Dix and his FBI wife Ruth, who also works for Dillon. And back in D.C., we have the whole CAU (Criminal Apprehension Unit) team. And we get a small peek at the new upcoming book, introducing a new agent, and a new series. I highly recommend the book. It was a great story, as always. If you like a good murder mystery, with a bit of suspense and a nice romance thrown in, I think you'll like this one.

katwiththehat says

Catherine Coulter always writes a well-paced crime thriller. This book, like others in the series, features two separate mysteries that teams of detectives are working to solve. In one, an FBI agent's sister returned home from a party only to be attacked in her apartment. Untangling what's really going on in her small college music town turns out to be quite a mess. In the other mystery, a body is found at the Lincoln Memorial with no clues about the killer. Coulter's pacing and storytelling is always topnotch and I always enjoy seeing how Savich and Sherlock will untangle the latest mess! 4/5 stars.

Julie says

Perfect airplane book, which is where I read it.

Shari says

I love this author I cant believe I won a copy on Goodreads! So excited!!

Diana Murphy says

I guess I am in the minority, but I was disappointed with this book. First of all, I am turned off when all of the main people a book are beautiful, talented, perfect. Are there no other traits that can be described? It just seems to shallow.

My other main problem with this book was the misuse of technology. A major clue is an image posted on YouTube. Wait, what?? Images are not posted on YouTube. Are you telling me none of the proof-readers caught that? It isn't even as if this is new technology. Every time I read this I cringed. It made me doubt every other fact I read, since something that obvious was missed.

Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

4.5 Stars

Bombshell is one of the better in Catherine Coulter's FBI Thriller Series. Bombshell centers around 2 main cases: one in Washington, D.C., the other in Maestro VA. Griffin Hammersmith is on his way to D.C. to join Dillon Savitch's elite FBI team. He has a special talent. Hammersmith stops in Mestro to visit his sister, Delsey whom is a student at Stanislaus School of Music. Delsey Freestone is also her family's Trouble Magnet. And trouble finds her quickly. After a night of drinking at a party given by two of her professors, she heads home. A few minutes after she arrives at her apartment, she screams. She's found by a neighbor, unconscious, naked, and bloodied. But not all of the blood is hers. And why did her professor drug her drinks? Griffin must find out quickly, because the men who struck Delsey want her dead.

A body is found at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial. It is the grandson of former chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank and every bone in his body broken and frozen. Is this a revenge killing or something more personal?

Catherine Coulter is always a good read. She knows how to build suspense and keep her readers guessing until the end. I recommend this one to everyone who likes Thrillers, especially Romantic Mystery Thrillers.

Fredrick Danysh says

The unconscious sister of FBI agent Hammersmith in a pool of blood which leads to a serial killer. In Washington, DC, the grandson of a former Federal Reserve chairman is found dead at the feet of Lincoln.
