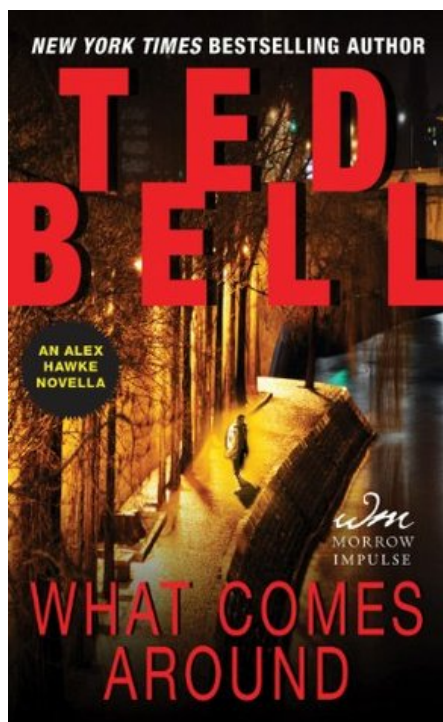




What Comes Around

Ted Bell

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An esteemed former CIA director dies off the coast of Maine.

Another senior CIA officer is found dead of a "heart attack" in a posh Paris hotel. Counterspy Alex Hawke and his friend Ambrose Congreve think this could be more than coincidence. Hawke discovers that the victims are connected through one man: Spider Hyde, a rogue intelligence officer whose dangerous exploits got him barred from the CIA. Now Spider believes he's been wronged and is out for vengeance-and Alex Hawke is his number-one target.

Hawke's only hope is to lure his deadly enemy into a trap he can't escape-and it's a place Hawke knows better than anyone: his seaside home in Bermuda.

What Comes Around Details

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From Reader Review What Comes Around for online ebook

Julie says

What Comes Around: An Alex Hawke Novella by Ted Bell is a February 2014 William Morrow Witness Impulse publication. I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher and Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

This novella or e-short could be numbered: Alex Hawke 7.5. The new Alex Hawke novel coming in April will be the 8th installment in the Alex Hawke series.

In this story a vendetta against old CIA contacts makes the case personal when an old friend of Hawke's is found dead. The death was ruled an accident but when another old CIA contact dies, suspicions are raised and an investigation reveals a rogue operative running from a murder charge may have a big chip on his shoulder.

This book is really short, but there is a nice preview of the next novel which will have you wishing for more. For those unfamiliar with this series, Alex Hawke is a M16 operative, a 21st century James Bond type character. These are adventure/thrillers that appeal to a wide audience. Overall this one gets a B+. I'm looking forward to getting to know Alex Hawke a little better.

Lee says

This Alexander Hawke novella finds him investigating the death of one of his friends a former CIA director. As he and Ambrose find the link they invite the killer to Bermuda for a final showdown. OK read.

Travis Jackson says

DO NOT BUY THIS NOVELLA if you are planning on continuing the series. It is actually the first several chapters of the book The Patriot. So if you're going to travel along with Alex Hawke and his escapades, save yourself the time and money, just go on to Warriors. You'll get to this story later.

If you're looking for a shortened tale, this is a good novella bringing in a man done wrong that wants revenge on those who did not come to his aid. This story brings in an "Oh, by the way, we never mentioned this before, but you should know this about Hawke" type scenario. It works out as well for the bad man named Spider as it does for anyone who tries to mess with Liam Neeson or his family.

Monica says

When Cam Hooker, retired CIA, goes out for his Sunday boat ride, he never thought he'd come to face his past. When Alex Hawke, MI6 operative, went on vacation in Bermuda, he never thought he'd be called to attend a friend's funeral and secretly investigate a series of possible murders. So much for relaxation.

Crisp and concise narrative accompanied by action guide the reader through this action and humor laced plot.

Characters, while few, are strong enough to carry the story from start to finish.

Without giving too much away, I will just say this:

Overall, an enjoyable read.

Charles says

A James Bond type of hero with all the trappings; wealth, special drinks, large yachts, jet planes, etc and a master spy too. Absolutely unbelievable background, Lord Hawke has done everything in the world and he is only about 31. But put aside the disbelief and he is a fun read with some great co-actors to help him in his adventures. The entire series has been worth it.

Jeanne says

This was an E-book short story that goes between Alexander Hawke books 7 and 8. It's been a while since I've read those, but the story line did come back as I remembered the characters involved. It seemed that the issue came to closure rather quickly and awkwardly, so was a bit unrealistic. Nice to fill in the gaps -- 4 out of 10 for me.

Brian Sewell says

Excellent lead in to the next Alex Hawke novel. Enjoy these writings.

Mailmanr5 says

A short novella which will give an insight to the characters involved in this series should you want to read the full length novels. The title speaks for itself. It's a great series that should be read in order.

Darrell says

Hawke novella is a good story that leads into an introduction to the next book, Warrior. In the novella, Hawke is faced with a rogue agent that is killing off high ranking people within the intelligence community. But more importantly, they are some of Hawke's friends. This is a quick but fun read for fans of the series.

Bob Milne says

In preparation for next month's Warriors, the eighth full-length Alex Hawke adventure, What Comes Around is a short novella from Ted Bell that shows what happens when our favorite MI6 operative has a well-

deserved vacation ruined by an ex-CIA agent's thirst for revenge.

It's been a long time since I've read an Alex Hawke novel, so it was nice to catch up with him on a small scale before the next book. This was an interesting read. It lacks the scope and scale of the adventures we're used to, but it still manages to capture the customary humour, adventure, and drama. It also raises some interesting questions about the spy trade itself, and about the ethics involved in the war on terrorism.

The plot here is simple - when high ranking officials with ties to the CIA start dying, each of them the victim of what seems to be an unfortunate accident, Alex Hawke sets himself out as bait for the killer. In an uncharacteristic twist, Alex goes into the situation far too cocky and far too relaxed, and ends up really having to battle for his life.

If you've never read an Alex Hawke adventure, this serves as a good introduction. He's very much a James Bond type hero, with a touch of Bruce Wayne thrown in, who balances action, politics, and personality in the sort of adventure that is sure to appeal to fans of Vince Flynn or Clive Cussler. What Comes Around is a fun, quick read, and a great way to whet the appetite for Warriors.

Originally reviewed at Beauty in Ruins

David Berkley says

Just enough action.

These two short books give you just enough action to want to keep reading the other Hawke books in the series.

Matt says

Ted Bell brings back Lord Alexander Hawke in another great adventure to give the reader a taste of adventure while awaiting the upcoming full-length novel. When former high-ranking officials within the CIA die under suspicious circumstances, current Director Brick Kelly turns to Hawke for some insight and assistance. Hawke determines the deaths were well-planned vendetta murders and posits that a rogue agent left to fend for himself after a soured operation might be to blame. Aptly named Spider, this man works in the shadows and has a sordid history with Hawke. Tasked with coaxing him out of hiding and letting a proverbial web be spun around him, Hawke lures him out and leaves nothing on the table in this battle to the death. Good for a reader looking to bridge the gap between novels, but by no means a stellar read or as powerful as some of Bell's novels with the same cast of characters.

My tepid relationship with Bell's work appears to come from his less than stellar shorter stories. Hawke and his band of merry men have a decent ability to weave a decent story, though some of the writing is less than captivating. Hokey dialogue and jilted narration can sometimes make reading the series more of a headache than is worth the reader's time, even when the subject at hand is highly intriguing. That said, I have a guilty pleasure like for the stories, the characters, and even the less than mature dialogue. Still, I would not rank it as some of my favourite material.

Decent work, Mr. Bell, though I would have hoped you could bridge your novellas into the larger story lines

of your full novels. That said, having yet to read Warriors, I cannot be sure you haven't done so.

Greer Andjanetta says

A shorter story than usual in this series but just as well written, readable and enjoyable as the rest. "An enjoyable snack for fans".

Michelle says

This was my first taste of reading anything written by Ted Bell and it was definitely a short and sweet adventure.

Obviously now knowing the character Alex Hawke from any of his previous novels, I was pleasantly surprised at how similar he seemed to be to a James Bond type character but with a bit more grit and less of the suave appeal that Bond has.

As this is only a very short novella, the storyline and action starts pretty much straight away and doesn't really stop until the end. There isn't much room for any 'filler' material and the reader gets a good taste of what is to come in the next instalment in the series.

What I liked about Hawke is that he is a very confident character, but also not without his flaws and Bell doesn't make him the perfect 'think of everything' hero like some others.

After reading What Comes Around I'm definitely interested in going back to the beginning and seeing how these stories begin and how Hawke's character develops along the way.

J Minninger says

Another Waste of Time and Money

Of the 190 pages only 92 are used for this short story. The remainder are dedicated to providing a preview of another of the author's books. It has no value to the Hawke series, you won't miss it if you skip it.
