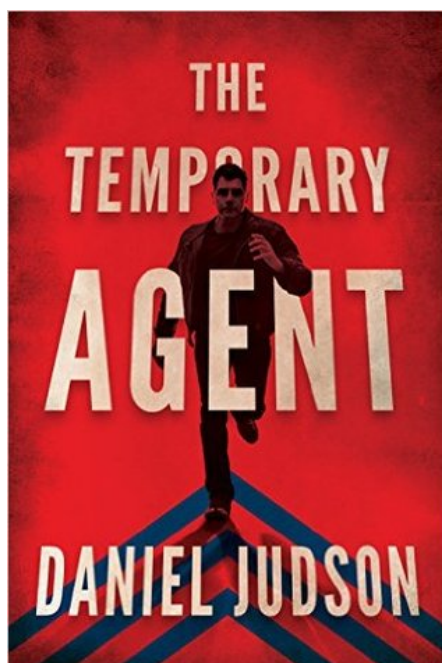




The Temporary Agent

Daniel Judson

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Scarred by war, former Navy Seabee Tom Sexton vows to leave his violent past behind, only to be drawn back into that life when a deadly conspiracy forces him to face an agonizing choice no man should ever have to make.

Five years after his life was saved in Afghanistan by Marine Force Recon Leader Charlie Cahill, Tom lives a bleak, nomadic existence, haunted by the debt he can never repay. Salvation appears in Stella—a woman as damaged, and resourceful, as he. But when a coded distress call from his former CO leads him to a shadowy NSA operative, Tom is recruited for a “black op” to bring back the now-rookie man who saved his life.

As he searches for Cahill, Tom quickly uncovers a much larger web of treason and betrayal that calls his entire world into question—and forces him into the ultimate no-win scenario.

The Temporary Agent Details

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Author : Daniel Judson

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From Reader Review The Temporary Agent for online ebook

Ann says

An action packed, well plotted story with twists and turns and contemporary dangers. I'll read another by this author.

Tom says

This is my second (or third) "Amazon First" novel (an Amazon Prime benefit... you get a free book every month) that smells like an NRA planted book. Call me a conspiracy nut, but it feels like they might have a program to win over "hearts and minds" with a cultural invasion of gun-nuttiness. This book has good action, writing and all that, but several times a chapter, we get a loving, detailed ode to how many rounds a Colt 1911 has in various magazines, or how the slide & chambering works on a SIG p226, or the shoulder-rigging of a Desert Eagle.

Then, we also get an occasional education on the various state laws on gun ownership and how many rounds of ammunition you are allowed to carry. At a couple points in the story, there's some clunky dialogue about whether or not characters are violating state gun laws as they drive about... Huh? They just killed a bunch of swarthy/menacing Eastern European/Islamic dudes with gunshots to the face and now they are worried about GUN PERMITS?

Perhaps most infuriating, there's a description of the bad guy's plan (view spoiler) and how that is made much easier because not every citizen in New York is properly armed.

[sarcasm] RIIIIIGHT.... because that's really the core of the problem! Not enough guns in New York!
[/sarcasm]

Like I said... I smell NRA support. Or maybe the author is a simple gun nut.

Beyond my distaste with that, it's a good read - a bit convoluted on who the bad guys really are and the back and forth between them. When ultimately the real bad guy turns out to be (view spoiler)... Well... it left me with kind of an icky feeling.

Jacqui says

I picked Daniel Judson's The Temporary Agent (Thomas & Mercer 2016) from NetGalley because of the vague similarities between the main character, ex-Seabee Tom Sexton, and Lee Child's Jack Reacher. Tom's a talented ex-military guy who chooses the life of a vagabond rather than use his prodigious warrior skills to build a lucrative career. We meet Tom as a blue-collar factory worker. During the day, he works his grindingly boring job; evenings, he spends with the woman he's known only six months but long enough to fall in love with. Despite facts to the contrary, he seems content, seemingly in possession of everything he needs in life to be happy.

That all changes when he gets a call from an old military friend, one he promised over a decade ago he would answer should it come in. As Tom tries to help his friend, his goal remains what it has always been: to live a sedentary, private life. Dribbled in between Tom almost being killed and risking his life to save a woman he barely knows--certainly not enough to trust--Judson dribbles bits and pieces of Tom's background that tell us much about this quiet, decisive man with an instinctive talent for survival:

"Fear had long since been conditioned out of him."

"Men who mistook violence for adventure. Men who were just a little too eager to use their deadly skills."

"For the first time in Tom's life, he was about to intentionally step outside the law."

The closer Tom gets to finding the man he's hunting, the more the ground shifts beneath his feet, until Tom has no idea who he can trust and if the man who saved his life so long ago is trying to set him up.

Judson is a masterful storyteller, creating colorful descriptions that are as good as any I've read, underlying Tom's emotions with an almost visceral need to stay away from the violent life of war and death. Though a thriller, the story is character-driven in the way the Jack Reacher series is, revolving around a man who is fiercely law-abiding as well as polite to those who deserve it and respectful of authority. Throughout the story, these traits shape his decisions, as he ends up back in a world he ran from, one inhabited by those who embrace violence, and ultimately struggles over whether to break the law or turn in someone he trusts--neither a solution he can live with.

Cissa says

I got this free via, I think, Kindle First.

It is very eventful...so much so I found that it got boring. Good plotting requires pacing- high excitement interspersed with lower-energy elements, and this was close to 100% EXCITING.

And I am not sure that all the changes made sense in terms of character. OK, all the wheels within wheels and betrayals... but in the end, I am not convinced the resolution makes sense, based on the characters etc.

There is not much character development. The characters are mostly stick figures, ruled by the fairly arbitrary plot.

The plot raised a lot of questions, especially as to various people's characters, that were glossed over by the end.

There were lots of intricate details about various kinds of guns and explosives, if that's your thing.

Not really recommended.

Jim A says

I don't often give five stars to a novel but this one deserves them.

A perfect blend of a good plot, good character development, very good writing, and enough Red Herrings to leave the reader wondering who really is the bad guy.

This one had me reading well into the wee hours.

Mariah says

The Temporary Agent

This was a thrilling, wild ride. Exactly what I expect when I pick up a covert ops/spy/agent type of book. There was nonstop action and suspense coupled with plot twists and explosions. One doesn't know who to trust until nearly the final pages. I was never really bored and didn't want to put it down. I loved the characters and how they were given their own backstories.

Fabi says

This was my Kindle First pick for July. Although it is completely out of my general reading lane, I loved it.

It's an expertly written, action packed, suspense thriller that kept me second guessing my conclusions.

The detail in the description of the weapons, how they were used, and the reasons behind each result impressed me page after page.

Every character was expertly developed. The quiet, unassuming, but deadly ex-military heroes, Tom, Carrington, Cahill and others. The devastation the war caused on these and other characters was subtly but poignantly portrayed. Patriotism versus morality is a theme throughout.

I feel like I'm stumbling over my words because I can't quite describe how good this book really is. It's definitely an adult book with themes inappropriate for the under 18 crowd. It will keep you gasping, guessing, praying, and hoping against hope on the edge of your seat the whole time.

Fantastic writing, riveting plot, and flawless delivery. I loved it.

Kimiko says

Great read

I liked this book a lot. A well trained former military man living a free life with a new love gets called back into action. And wow, what action it is!

Rogério Szterling says

I am usually very generous with my ratings and reviews, but this book really got to my nerves. Many others have mentioned the author's "style" of not writing complete sentences, but fragmented phrases. It is not only that. Also, each phrase gets a paragraph of its own. I can't remember a single paragraph with more than one phrase. I know English is not my native language, so this may really be only a matter of style. Personally, I find this style really annoying and even amateurish.

There are other things I didn't like about the book. The author clearly likes his firearms and goes into excruciating detail for several pages about how the characters check and recheck their guns, dismantle them, put them back together, count and recount how many rounds they have, how many mags are still available, how one mag is different than the other, how this gun is similar to that other gun but with a small difference as they were built in different years... nothing that really adds to the story.

Regarding story structure, it is very linear, full of twists which are difficult to follow, so many that you don't really have time to connect with and care for the characters. The good guy becomes the bad guy and you don't really care because he was the good guy for only a few pages. And with similar names like Carrington and Hammerton and Carhill, I often couldn't follow who was associated with whom at any time.

Yes, I finished the book... because I don't like to leave anything unfinished. :-)

MsONEal says

The book was fine. It was more of a political thriller/mystery rather than a military action thriller, and I appreciate both genres. Flawed protagonists are always more relatable, and the whodunnit storyline kept me interested. I also liked the historical notes, though they were a little disjointed within the overall story.

However, there were frequent segues into the minutiae of gun specs, which was like reading a foreign language. And the flag-waving was repetitive to the point of corny. When the story concerns an elite group of military experts, readers well understand their POV.

Still, it's a decent, quick read.

Jeanne says

Great fun. Fast-paced, characters. Writing smooth and even. I thought the twists were fairly obvious, but that didn't distract from the plot. Couple of grammatical errors that I found distracting, given the allegedly high level of education and literacy of the characters. This was the June Amazon free book--which I usually find very mediocre, but this was an exception.

Ed says

Original story of loyalty, treason and betrayal. Veteran Tom Sexton leads a quiet life with his girlfriend Stella working 9 to 5 jobs in western Connecticut until their lives are interrupted by a cryptic message from old comrade Tom knew from his service in Afghanistan. What follows is a journey of double crossed treachery and betrayal by would be terrorists with mysterious identities and motivations. Tom tasks himself with unraveling this Gordian knot of conflicting loyalties and eliminate the terrorist plot while keeping Stella

safe from harm.

Trish R. says

So, this was a free read and free listen and I really enjoyed it. It was about a traitor but no one knew for sure who it was so there was a lot of finger pointing.

I thought the hero was going to be Cahill because he was in the beginning of the book but then he sorta disappeared and Tom was there, with Stella his girlfriend.

Tom was asked to find Cahill because he had gone off the rails and since Tom had saved Cahill's life in the war they thought it would be easier if someone he knew found him.

It was a very exciting story from beginning to the end.

There was no sex and the F-bomb was used 20 times.

As to the narration: *sigh*..... Pete Simonelli (aka Sebastian York) Soooo good and yet soooo bad. His reading voice is just awesome but his women's voices are horrible and he really does read without any feelings whatsoever, no excitement, no threat, no sadness, no anger, no laughter, no love when he says "I love you, Stella," no nothing; unlike Napoleon Ryan or Luke Daniels or Eric Dove, or any number of male narrators who seem to put their 'all' into their reading. Having said all that, I do have another free read and free listen that's also narrated by him and I'll listen to and bitch about it when I'm done. What can I say? I have a love-hate relationship with Simonelli/York.

I will admit that it was really, really nice reading this kind of book and it was NOT written in the first person. Nice to know what others were thinking or doing and not just the MC's.

Yvonne says

Really enjoyed this one.

Danielle says

I got this as a Kindle 1st book ages ago and totally forgot about it. Saw it randomly and decided to give it a go. wasn't the best book I ever read (a bit hard to follow in bits), but I was thoroughly enjoyed it for a fun light read. Now seeing it's part of a series... I enjoyed it enough that I may go look for another from the author. So yeah.
