



Kill Switch

Steve N. Lee

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“Nikita meets Dirty Harry” “A female Jack Reacher”

Lurking in the shadows of a medieval city, vicious thugs stalk their next victim. A gift for bloodshed ensures they always get whatever they want.

Across the city, a mother's dying wish is to spend her last days with her daughter visiting their ancestral home. It's a loving way to say goodbye.

When these two worlds collide, Elena Petrescu and her daughter Catalina plummet into a nightmare of greed-fueled brutality.

Luckily, they don't face this deadly gang alone.

Tess Williams looks like just another tourist doing what tourists do – drinking in bars, visiting tourist hotspots, reveling in European culture... However, Tess has a secret, a secret so dark that most who discover it are sent to their grave long before they're due.

Armed with the deadliest of fighting skills, Tess unleashes her fury upon the city's shadowy underworld, claiming vengeance for the mother and daughter.

But Tess is only one woman. With time running out and the odds against her, what price is she prepared to pay to put these savage thugs down for good?

Angel of Darkness Suspense Thriller Series

In an action thriller series packed with vigilante justice, vengeance and suspense, a rogue female assassin hunts deadly criminals to avenge their innocent victims.

Is she a courageous hero, or a psycho serial killer? Only you can decide.

Kill Switch Details

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Author : Steve N. Lee

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Genre : Mystery, Action, Thriller

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From Reader Review Kill Switch for online ebook

Martin Pingree says

This was an amazing read. I thoroughly enjoyed every page. Great characters, great plot and lots of action. An avenging angel read if you will.

Cat says

this book was going alright until the thoroughly unsatisfying ending.

Star Shining Forever says

Her daughter kidnapped by human traffickers, elderly Elena has lost all hope, until she spies a petite, athletic young woman demolishing 2 bullies who'd been harassing a tourist couple in a park. Her attentiveness, capability, and effectiveness convince Elena that this is the woman who can help her find and rescue her daughter. Approaching her, she finds Tess is indeed a justice warrior, a private vigilante as it were, and more than willing to help. Tess is indomitable, planning and improvising as needed. Scouring the streets of Poland, asking questions, hunting a hunter of young ladies, setting traps, turning tables, beating up baddies. Nothing's too big of a challenge for Tess and her sleek hidden body armor, thin metal strips worn along her knuckles, forearms, legs, and ribs.

"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." Declares James 4:17. Tess has definitely taken that to heart. Armed with the mental acuity and fighting skills of professional training, and assisted by her body armor, she knows she's able to help those whom the law can't, or won't. Awareness and preparedness are big parts of her technique; she doesn't rush into things half-cocked. She calls it a "kill switch," the way she's able to snap into lethal mode when it's called for, only against evil people and only to protect the innocent. It's a conscious sacrifice she's made, this nomadic vigilante life. The world is better for it, and they don't even know it.

What do you do when you come up against evil in the world, and know you can do something? There's a tugging of the conscience that, often, is ignored, walked by, or brushed off with a quick half-hearted prayer or measly charitable donation. While we may not possess honed instincts and professional combat skills, we can do other things: fervent prayer, substantial meaningful giving, political or charitable action, and answering the Holy Spirit's nudging to help out that needy person you noticed. Lives are changed for the better, often anonymously, and the blessing on recipient and giver is real.

There's quite a lot of violence, some language, and a rape scene in the first chapter which I would've preferred be left out. Once Cat is kidnapped just skip to the next chapter. The rest is a satisfying quest for justice from a dedicated, sacrificial woman.

Rita Sheppard says

Tess is living with the demons from her past amid extreme violence, rape, murder, and a host of criminals

while trying to recover her memory.

Sean Peters says

My first novel by this author.

The best way of explaining this book, and this is meant in the best way.

You know when you sit down and watch a film that you know is not going to be a Academy Award winning film, but it will be action packed, with an easy going story, no brilliant acting.

This is the book version. Easy story to follow, easy characters to follow, get's right into the action.

A good leading character in Tess, an easy short book to read.

No amazing twists, shocks, cliff hangers, just easy action book.

Seven in the series.

Enjoyed enough to be keen to read more, maybe in between some more challenging books.

Lynn J says

This is my first book by Steve N. Lee. The first 2-3 chapters got my attention,& I could not wait to see what happened.

I'm hooked!!!

Totally recommend this book!!!

Julie Powell says

I was asked to read this story for review and found it a well written, gritty tale of bad v evil in a very real sense. Not warriors against dragons as in fantasy, and yet it did have that feel.

The heroine has secrets and a past yet to be revealed, one that appears to have given her 'gifts' and a strong motive for justice.

Hence this first book in the series where she is asked to...I don't give spoilers. Set against time, the hunt is on, giving this story a fast pace and air of mystery.

Jane Stewart says

I liked the concept and ideas, but it wasn't developed well. But I was curious enough to read the whole thing.

Not enough character development. No details about why Tess became a tough guy. It just says she spent 10 years learning to fight. No development of the bad guys. It reminds me of something for an action film - investigate, ask questions, and fight scenes.

I was annoyed with an overused cliché for the victim. In the beginning of the story, Cat is down on her luck looking for work. She doesn't speak the language, so about all she can do is cleaning or dish washing. Her car was stolen which had her clothes and things. She has no money. That is a good enough reason for me. But the author added "Cat needs to earn money to get medical treatment for her sick mother." That was overdone. The story didn't need that. It would have been better to open the story with theft of her car and her things. I wanted to know more about that and maybe more about why she was in Poland - more story about her. I also wanted to know what happened with Cat later in the story.

I was annoyed with stupidity in a fight scene. I was disappointed with the ending - unfinished and unsatisfying - both of these are in Spoiler below.

(view spoiler)

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Story length: 157 pages. Swearing language: strong including religious swear words. Sexual content: one violent rape. Setting: current day mostly Poland with a little New York. Copyright: 2015. Genre: mystery suspense.

Sheryl Painter says

Simply wow! The first chapter will draw you in, make you care, and quickly grab you and pull you along on an action filled trip. The author writes so descriptively you can hear, feel, smell and almost taste what is happening in the story. The main character, Tess, is such a strong woman, yet she is written in a very realistic fashion. Strong, yes, but also very vulnerable and while she can kill in a blink, she cares enough to step in and stop the evil happening to good people. Mr. Lee has the talent to make the reader care not only about the people Tess tries to help, but you end up caring a lot about Tess. There is so much happening in the book, yet I could at all times follow the path Mr. Lee took me on. There was no teasing the reader or throwing obstacles into the story to confuse the reader. It was straight forward action, clearly and skillfully written, that make it simply impossible to put down, and by the end I HAVE to get the next book to find out more about Tess. Do I wish to be Tess - no way. Do I want Tess on my side in a fight - you bet!

Jackie says

What an outstanding book. Tess is not your average citizen. Cat and her Mom are on vacation when she gets kidnaped. Poland is not the ideal country for this, especially when you're alone. Tess does her best to find her. Definitely have to read more of this fantastic series.

Jim Nolt says

"Kill Switch" is a fast-paced and exciting tale from Steve N. Lee. The story opens in Krakow, Poland where we find Catatina, who was recently robbed, anxiously seeking employment in order to earn some money so she and her ailing mother can continue their trip to England. Instead, Cat is stolen off the street to be shipped out of the country and used. When she fails to return, her mother gets worried. As she walks the streets of Krakow late that night she witnesses a young woman, Tess Williams, fight off several attackers. Appealing to Tess for help, the search for Cat begins.

In the promotional material for this novel, Tess is described as "a female Jack Reacher." Indeed, she has some of his traits, but whereas Reacher has no defined goals, Tess seems to be driven for some as yet unknown reason. For several years she's been trained mentally and physically in the East for a serious task she hopes to complete in the United States. But here, in Krakow, her training is tested.

"Kill Switch" is not a pleasant story. But the world, unfortunately, is not always pleasant. And sometimes we need to have our awareness raised. There are evil people to whom the life of another has no more worth than the few dollars they can get for trading it.

This is the first in a series from Lee, and I have already started the second as I'm anxious to see what Tess does when she finally reaches the United States.

Dee Arr says

"Kill Switch" by Steve N Lee is a quick read. It definitely fulfills the promises on the jacket: Action-Packed Revenge and Gripping Vigilante Justice. This book is all about action, and the author takes advantage of every possibility to throw heroine Tess into another battle.

I did like that the fight scenes came off as realistic. While a smaller woman may have a challenge taking down multiple attackers who are larger than her, the descriptions are close enough to reality that I wasn't shutting the book in disgust or rolling on the floor laughing. The same could be said for the basic police work Tess follows in her search for a missing woman. Basic in-the-trenches-type procedures were used, and there weren't any incredible moments where the author had to insert an impossibility in order to save the plot. If there was anything that bothered me, it was Tess examining her motives on a regular basis. While I understand why the author did it, the numerous soul-searching didn't ring true to me and these instances were probably the most unrealistic parts of the book.

Bottom line, if you like the adrenaline boost from a book loaded with action scenes, "Kill Switch" should be added to your list of To-Reads. I am giving this book three-and-a-half stars and rounding it up to four because, as I stated above, the author fulfilled the jacket promises and never promised anything else.

Chanta Rand says

Tess Williams knows how to fight, and she's not afraid to pull out a can of Whoop-a-zz on the sleazy degenerates who prey on innocent victims.

While in Poland, she's approached by a sick, elderly mother who begs Tess to find her missing daughter, Cat. It doesn't take Tess long to realize Cat has been abducted and forced into a human trafficking ring. Tess makes it her mission to find the girl, vowing she won't quit until the thugs get what they deserve. Filled with battered bodies, crushed bones, blood, and bullets, this book is certainly action-packed.

There were a few loose ends I would have liked to have seen wrapped up. Also, I wanted more insight into Tess's past, and what drove her to become such a skilled fighter. I'm definitely going to have to read book 2 to see if these questions get answered.

Marissa Pedroza says

I just finished reading **Kill Switch** by Steve N. Lee, and all I can say is that this novel grabs you, throws you around, kicks you in your teeth and then dares you to get back up and continue reading. I laugh as I write this, but it's not far from the truth.

When I first began reading Kill Switch, I actually groaned with disgust. I hate rape scenes. I really do. It's just a "me" thing, one of my little quirks. But I made myself read past the scene and I promised myself that if the book glorified violence, then I was through. The first sign that the author had made me read something I hate for no reason, and I was going to stop right then and there. I can happily report, that time never came.

The bad guys do not get fleshed out in this novel. They are one dimensional, but that initial rape scene makes you hate them and makes you want them to pay for their crimes against humanity. Enter stage left is Tess Williams. A woman who trained to kill for vengeance, except we're not told her backstory. She won't think about it or talk about it. Tess' back story is like Peter Pan's shadow. It follows her around and every once in a while takes center stage, but is never fully conceptualized within the novel, Kill Switch.

Tess is a bad ass. There really are no better four words to describe the protagonist. Kill Switch is the first novel in the series and it is the catalyst for the books that come after. I would definitely recommend this book. It has some graphic violence, but I already gave the warning of the rape scene. If you can read past that, the rest of the violence in this novel isn't anywhere near as repulsive. If you like thrillers, then you should give this one a go. The pacing is quick, Tess is easy to root for and the plot will pull you through to the next novel.

[Please note: I was provided a copy of this novel for review. The opinions expressed are completely my own.]

My favorite quote from Kill Switch by Steve N. Lee:

"During her training, Tess had been pummeled by kickboxers, slammed into the ground by jiu jitsu experts, and battered senseless by kung fu masters, but that shove... That shove hurt more than any beating she'd taken anywhere."

Gail Baugniet says

Kill Switch is the first in a series of thrillers by author Steve N Lee. While reading the opening chapters, I was reminded of Stieg Larsson's dragon girl, Lisbeth Salander; and Uma Thurman's character in Quentin Tarantino's Kill Bill movies. The author displays an active knowledge of martial arts techniques, which his

protagonist, Tess, skillfully demonstrates at strategic intervals throughout the novel, Kill Switch.

Two things that most interest me about the author's writing is the planning he put into the through line, or continuing story line, of his series; and the marketing process he developed to bring his work to the attention of interested readers.

The Angel of Darkness series consists of seven novels. In Kill Switch, Tess is introduced as an expert martial artist who, after many years of exiled training in the far East, is returning to her homeland to exact vengeance for an unrevealed wrong. She is sidetracked in Poland when a 70-something Romanian woman approaches her with a story about her missing daughter, Catalina, who may be in grave danger. Tess immerses herself in the task of finding Catalina. In the process of learning what happened to the woman's missing daughter, Tess lays inoperable many an antagonist's henchman who crosses her path.

Along the way, Tess formulates her true lifetime goals, the basis for the Angel of Darkness series.
