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Shadow Man

Cody McFadyen

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Cody McFadyen : Shadow Man before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shadow Man:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent but extremely dark serial killer mysteryBy James K. BashkinShadow Man describes FBI agent Smoky Barrett, her recovery from the brutal aftermath of bringing down one serial killer, and her rejoining active duty to work with her team to catch another such killer. The story is graphic but not gratuitous in its use of violence; do not read it if you aren't prepared for this darkness and pain. The major characters are quite three-dimensional and nuanced; the writing is very high quality and rewarding. The plotting is complex without being ridiculous. The identity of the villain wasn't a surprise, he was on my list, but that helped everything seem believable. Recommended with the above reservations- if you can handle it, you will be glad that you read this first novel.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Smoky Barrett, Hunter of the Ultimate PredatorsBy Whitney BrantleyHello Lovelies!While I normally prefer fantasy novels, sometimes you just cant beat a fictional crime thriller. I love crime shows and movies (*cough, cough* Criminal Minds and Silence of the Lambs) because I am fascinated by the motivations, inner workings, and minds of the criminals, especially those of murderers. I like to know what makes them tick. Special Agent Smoky Barrett, the best of the best, makes the choice whether or not to hunt a serial killer, Jack Jr., who is targeting not only herself, but also the rest of her team. The characters are very three-dimensional and quite easy to become attached to as the reader experiences their suffering, and the writing is mature and entertaining. My inner crime-fighter embraces the darkness, gore, and rawness of Shadow Man in a sort of horrified fascination. This book exposes the buried monstrosities not only in the world as a whole, but those within

each of us. Aside from the graphic descriptions of the murders and various other crimes, Shadow Man also includes sexual content and foul language, but it does not detract from the story. *semi-spoiler* Shadow Man has an absolutely fantastic twist! While I enjoy this series, if you have a weak stomach, do NOT read this book or any other of the ones in this series as I find Shadow Man to be the least disturbing of them all. -Whimsical Whit[...] 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The best character-driven thriller I have ever read! By Christine Terrell Five stars vastly underrates this book. I give the brilliant Shadow Man 10 stars. Easily. Cory McFadyens Shadow Man is the best thriller I have read. In my life. Ever. By the time I reached the 5% mark, I knew this book was going to be special. I paused long enough to race over to order the other 3 books in the series. I was instantly transfixed in chapter one, and the book did not lessen its grip on me from that point on. The last 25% of the book was simply unputdownable. Truly. Shadow Man is a masterpiece thriller, in my humble opinion. It ticks off all the boxes important to me. The character development is simply stunning and unlike that I have ever seen in any other thriller. We even learn about the minor characters. Deep stuff. Psychological stuff. The stuff that makes these people who they are and what they do and think. There are whole chapters devoted to where the team members are psychologically. Boring, you say? Far, far from it. This is deep, meaningful, and dare I say, moving storytelling. Agent Smoky Barrett is the female leader of a team of FBI agents. The team members interactions are real, and though certainly not all a bowl of cherries, reflect steadfast loyalty and respect when it counts. Even the less-than-charming guys have integrity. I came to love every member of the team. Smoky has been through horrendous trauma for which she is receiving psychiatric help. These sessions are shown to us and are fascinating, even to me--a survivor of a 3-month rotation in lock up psychiatry during my medical residency. The encounter in chapter 2 is the best written, most powerful and moving patient-psychiatrist encounter I have ever read in a novel. I must extend my praise to the psychological aspects throughout the entire book. If I didn't know otherwise, I would definitely think that the author was a board-certified psychiatrist. Even though this book was written in 2007, I learned a lot about police work. I now know about cognitive interviewing of witnesses, neurolinguistic interviewing of suspects, what a confrontational statement is and when it should be used, how to detect whether or not a package contains a bomb, how latex gloves do not always prevent the leaving of fingerprints, what makes up the psyche of a serial killer, and more. And these techniques and facts, like the psychological aspects of the novel, are shown and not just told to us. I cannot stress what a difference showing, rather than just telling, makes to a story. There is a hint, just a hint of a budding romance, but I have to say chapter 39 holds the most beautiful and emotional sex scene I think I have ever read. I must issue one warning. The thriller aspects to the story are intense, dark and depraved. It takes a lot to scare me off, and I had no major issues tolerating the degree of evil and debasement depicted in Shadow Man, but I do understand it will be too much for some readers. Otherwise, the plot was complex and suspenseful. It was intriguing watching the FBI team go from nearly no leads at all to cracking the case. The clues are there if you are smart enough to follow them, but I was fooled big time in the end. If I have one criticism, it is that the case broke on a clue that I'm not sure was good enough to earn that honor, but that was more than made up for by the very original and touching as well as explosive final scene with the killer. Do I recommend this book? Are you kidding me? I want to go to each and every one of my thriller-loving friends, especially those who love thrillers with strong character development, such as Angela Marsons Kim Stone series, and COMMAND them put this book on the very top of their lists. Do you hear me, people??? In regards to the darkness factor, I do believe if a reader can handle Karin Slaughters works, then he or she can get through Shadow Man. Thriller fans, do not deprive yourself of this most brilliant book.

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