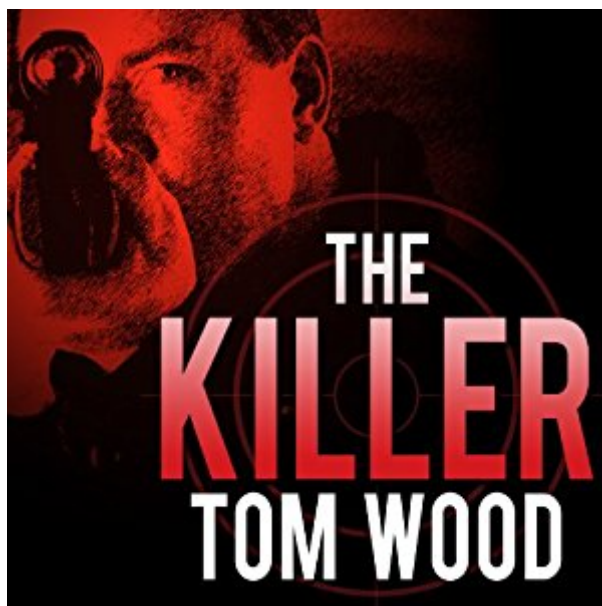


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The Killer: Victor The Assassin Series, Book 1



Synopsis

Forget James Bond. Forget Jason Bourne. Forget Jack Bauer. Meet Victor. He's an assassin - a man with no past and no surname. He lives alone. He operates alone. He's given a job; he takes out the target; he gets paid. He's The Killer. Victor arrives in Paris to perform a standard kill and collect for an anonymous client. He completes it with trademark efficiency - only to find himself in the middle of an ambush and fighting for his life. Pursued by determined enemies, a woman too beautiful to be safe, and intelligence agencies from both sides of the Atlantic, Victor will soon discover there is nowhere left for him to hide...and no one he can trust. But he is every bit as ruthless as those hunting him. And Victor will find out who wants him dead and why - one corpse at a time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was previously released as THE HUNTER. If you bought that you don't need to buy this. I purchased this book and have been well-pleased with the novel. 'Tom Wood' is a fine Thriller genre writer. More than most authors, he uses deductive logic in his plots. Victor can put facts together to find patterns and to reach valid conclusions that keep him ahead of his prey or ahead of other hunters who seek him out. There is nothing 'heavy' about the reasoning here; it just adds interest when we find out WHY Victor does one thing rather than another. The action throughout the novel is 'cat and mouse' with the killer being hunted and at the same time having the tables turned on the hunters. Victor is in a nerve-wracking and fast-paced business. Seeming 'dead end' situations are

deftly and believably resolved by the author, leaving Victor to fight again another day. Along the way, locations are presented in wonderful detail. Venal bureaucrats and scientists are suitably venal; villains are definitely amoral and sadistic. No government's hands are clean. Victor gets paid enough for us to enjoy his fantasy life (a little) but his overhead is high and, in this novel, he learns that no place is safe; no interpersonal connections are possible. Mostly, what Victor earns is the chance to live another day. I got right on ordering and reading the second book in the series. I believe you will want to do the same!

Victor, a hired assassin, is hired to kill someone in Paris. He does, but a nasty surprise awaits him when he returns to his hotel. A team of men are trying to kill him. What follows is a twisted tale of treachery and double-dealing, involving Russian former KGB agents, current and former CIA agents, and British MI6 agents. While Victor flees across the bleak European winter landscape, intriguingly, a mysterious and alluring female CIA agent tries to help him. Their relationship develops in fits and starts, always adding tension to the plot. This is Tom Wood's first novel, and a masterful one. I look forward to reading more books featuring Victor.

This book has become one of my all time favorites! Victor's character and thought process is unprecedented. It starts off at a fast pace and never really slows down. The story begins with Victor killing someone he was hired to and taking the package from the victim. Then he heads back to his hotel only to find a team of paid assassins waiting to ambush him. But Victor is too smart and quick for them. And it continues throughout the book with numerous assassins trying to kill him and Victor staying one step ahead as he runs for his life. I read this in one sitting and loved it so much I read it again. I have read all of Woods' Victor books except for the ones that it appears are only offered in Europe right now. Can't wait for those! If you like action and a lone wolf "hero" you will not be disappointed with Victor! Rivals Jack Reacher and I'm a huge Reacher fan! Great first book by author Woods.

Tom Hinshelwood's first novel is a winner. This is an old-fashioned spy thriller that truly does remind me of early Robert Ludlum, as *Publisher's Weekly* noted, it even has the same short-comings. Ludlum could create a thrill a minute plot and pace it at a dead run start to finish, but other than Jason Bourne, he couldn't create memorable characters. That's the same problem here, and what kept the book from 5*. It also keeps it from the list of Best First Thriller, which is still held by *Rain Fall* by Barry Eisler. (To bad Eisler's taken a detour down soapbox editorial row on his latest

book.)The Killer, set in Europe and Africa, has at its heart the well used plot of turning the hunter into the hunted. Certainly not new or novel, but so well done you can't help getting completely drawn into the race to the death. The Killer, 'Victor at the start then 'Tesseract' about a third of the way into the book. Even at the end you aren't sure if it's his real name or not. It suits the character who has, in many ways, erased himself from life. No connections, no ties, nothing he can't leave and never look back. An assassin for hire, Tesseract usually works through brokers so neither he nor those who hire him ever know each other. The level of tradecraft is good and lends the story a suitably realistic atmosphere, though not quite as compelling as that in the John Rain books. After he does a job in Paris, everything falls apart in no time. A group of killers are waiting for him at his hotel. Eluding them won't be an option, so he must kill them. And so begins the story that sees Tesseract unraveling the trail back to who hired him then tried to have killed, while those responsible hire another assassin to eliminate even remote connections because they know he will come for him. I did like the Maltese Falcon style twist at the end. The cast of characters is large and the most interesting one, other than Tesseract, is the well hidden, utterly amoral, scheming bad guy. The climax of two top notch assassins each trying to kill the other is excellent. This really is a must read for any fan of Ludlum style thrillers with a convoluted plot, but not all that well developed characters.

Tom Wood is a new author to me. This is the first book of his I have read. I love this book. I have enjoyed reading it from the start. Initially, the plot seems like it could be predictable, but I was very mistaken. The suspense starts early on. From the beginning, with what seems like a routine job for the main character Victor things quickly escalate to include an array of people intent on his assassination. The plot has lots of twists and turns, morally questionable characters and a trip round Europe and beyond. The character of Victor develops along with the plot and I like how you get a sense of the person without lots of detail. I have already bought the next book in the series and plan on getting more. A great and enjoyable fast paced read. A real page turner.

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