



The Black Bullet

Tom Lowe

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Glenda Lawson believes her husband was the only U.S. serviceman shot and killed on American soil during World War II. But in 1945, investigators ruled that Billy Lawson died in a “mugging turned ugly.”

Sean O’Brien, learning the ropes of commercial fishing, gets his anchor caught on something underwater. He discovers a German U-boat partially buried in sand, and inside is a frightening cargo. The media pick up the story, and a 35-year-old woman who has a haunting tale, visits O’Brien. Her grandfather, Billy Lawson, was fishing one night on a Florida beach when he saw something very disturbing.

THE BLACK BULLET is a thriller that combines an unsolved murder from 1945 to a modern-day discovery connected to America’s entry into nuclear weapons, the Manhattan Project.

The last thing Sean O’Brien wants is to investigate a sixty-seven-year-old murder. But Billy Lawson’s granddaughter and his cancer-stricken widow are desperate for closure. For O’Brien to bring it to them he has to pry the lid off a secret buried with the Manhattan Project. It’s information that got Billy Lawson killed, and O’Brien soon learns the old murder and his new discovery at the bottom of the sea are inextricably knotted. O’Brien is thrust into a world where nothing is as it appears, and everything is riding on a secret Billy Lawson took to his grave.

The Black Bullet Details

Date : Published (first published December 18th 2012)

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From Reader Review The Black Bullet for online ebook

Daniel Deitch says

Decent Read

I almost put this one down after a few chapters but all of a sudden it became interesting. Don't skip the beginning it's important to the story and then enjoy meeting the FBI, CIA, atomic weapons and terrorists

Susan says

The Black Bullet is the fourth book in the Seam O'Brien series. While this is part of a series, you can read this as a standalone. There is violence. This book wasn't my favorite in the series and the plot stretches the imagination a bit. There are so many directions the author could have taken with this story and this one didn't work for me.

Bobirley Adams says

Written So Well Felt Like Characters Were Real

I enjoy a story that is so well written that the dialogue felt as if I was listening to real conversation.

The action scenes were well written and made my pulse quicken more and more as the action increased more and more.

I highly recommend this book!

Renee says

Intriguing mystery. Action-packed thriller. WW II tie-in. As a former special forces sniper, who's still grieving his dead wife, and is also a guy trying to be an ordinary, everyday man but one who--once he attracts danger--never backs down, sacrifices reputation & goes against the status quo to save lives & of course, is irresistible to women---Sean O'Brien's a main character to root for with a fun, Greek-accented sidekick, unusual dog & wise mentor. A talented narrator brings the characters to life. Entertaining. (Strong language)

Kindle Unlimited

Penny Post says

The 4th in the Sean O'Brien series and a bit far fetched. But, it is a great mystery while Sean tries to find the kidnapped son of an old flame. Adventure, intrigue and of course humor and Sean's beloved Max. In this

book, Nick is teaching Sean to become a charter fisherman. However, it isn't fish they catch ... another wild chase to an unbelievable ending.

Becki Lewis says

Excellent novel

Lots of excitement, twists and intrigue. Loved every minute of it. Characters development was fleshed out pretty well. Main character has backstory the makes you want to know more.

Philip says

A great read! These just keep getting better and better. This is much the best of the Sean O'Brien series which, I guess, is to be expected as Tom has developed the recurring characters into much more fully rounded and, perhaps, more real and believable people. It is great to finally learn about Dave's past thus explaining his present expertise! Nick is sure something else - possibly my favorite character in the series except, of course, for the real hero - Max!

This story has a bit of everything and even the ending is not too bad as the ending is often quite weak in many crime and mystery thrillers.

The only thing possibly wrong with the ending, here, is the final shot. It's kind of hard to accept the accuracy of a handgun at any distance beyond a few feet but through a window of a Learjet approaching takeoff speed and hitting only the intended target is stretching my imagination just a tad!!!! I don't care what kind of a handgun or what kind of a bullet it was!

That small quibble aside it's a great book. To me this would make a helluva action movie!

Only hope Tom can get the next one published a lot quicker than it took with this one.

bonnie kirchner says

The Black Bullet

There isn't much to say because I've already said it for the last three books . This is a great series . The suspense is all the way till the very end . These are books you can't put down . I highly recommend this book and series.

Elaine Donadio says

Really enjoyed this book. It kept my interest throughout. Some weak writing ex. two or three repetitions of the same conversations and facts within pages of each other and some misuses of words like as "taught as a tightrope" to paraphrase. Putting these elements aside, the plot was realistic and I couldn't guess the identity of the mole because of the red herrings that were thrown in. It shows how situations can be manipulated when people at the top have their own agendas.

wally says

2nd from lowe for me. the 1st another sean o'brien story, The Butterfly Forest...i think the 3rd sean o'brien story...and since these aren't labelled w/a number, i don't believe they need be read first to last...i haven't read the 1st two.

i'm at the 63%-mark on the kindle...and i read a preview of this story in *the butterfly forest*

the black bullet, 2012...december

an acknowledgments 1st-off...about german u-boats that patrolled america's shores...two came ashore, one in new york the other in florida...the author thanks a number of people, including the reader.

a dedication: *for my father, thomas m. lowe, a world war ii verteran who served america well.*

a quote: *"there are children playing in the streets who could solve some of my top problems in physics, because they have modes of sensory perception that i lost long ago."*

--robert oppenheimer ("*father of the atomic bomb*")

story begins:

may 19, 1945

billy lawson smelled it before he saw it. something was out there. beyond the breakers and hidden in the veil of night. when the silhouette appeared, he wasn't sure it was really there. clouds smothered a three-quarter moon over the ocean, and the image, a hundred yards off shore, faded to black. the breeze let billy know it was near. the odor of diesel fumes, salt and baitfish blew across the surface of the ocean--a ghost wind delivering something felt but obscured in the dark.

typing that out now, after having read a scene in the story about remote viewing, i'm intrigued by what else might be coming in the story, after reading the quote and this first paragraph.

like *the butterfly forest*, *the black bullet*...which i'm wondering if it is a reference to a submarine...*they're fast and they're black and they never come back*...as has been said in today's modern navy...or, i assume they're still saying it, maybe all that has changed, too.

...where was i? anyway, like the other story i read, this one is coupled w/an event from the past--in this case, a german submarine that billy saw while fishing in florida. billy witnesses events but he is killed at the phone booth where he speaks to his wife, an older woman now, one seeking closure after the discovery of a sunken submarine by sean o'brien, retired miami cop, out w/his friend and fishing mentor nick cronus and recently hired help, jason canfield.

the anchor of the *jupiter*, o'brien's boat, is caught on an obstruction below and after several dives, one by nick who discovers the broken sub...and skeletons...and another dive by sean and nick to free the anchor, a dive that reveals that the sub was carrying history-changing contents...circumstance and coincidence happen and the story takes off.

time place scene settings

*may 19, 1945, matanzas inlet, between flagler beach and st. augustine, florida

*the 250-yr-old fort matanzas, an old spanish fort (i've actually been there...thick thick walls...cold and damp, even for florida)

*a1a bait n' tackle shop/ phone booth

*rattlesnake island...part of the geography of above, south of the fort

- *florida, present day
- *the tiki bar
- *the marine office
- *ponce marina...where o'brien's *jupiter* is moored
- *an old house on the banks of the st. john's river, o'brien's
- *u-236...the german submarine (there's a sub, u-505 at chicago's science and industry museum, you're ever out and about)

update, finished, 2 feb 13, saturday afternoon, 12:09 p.m. e.s.t.

a thriller, emphasis on the thrill, a real page-turner the further the story progressed. and no, the black bullet is not a submarine...the reader can discover the answer to that mystery, one of many herein.

fans of travis mcgee would probably like this. i thought i read more than the one john d macdonald story in my "books"...i know i read several stories from Matthew Bracken, whose stories are very-much influenced by the travis mcgee stories from macdonald, as i suspect lowe is/was influenced by same...one i read recently, *The Deep Blue Good-by: A Travis McGee Novel*, w/some of the same kind of elements in this story...florida...a boat...etc...minor similarities.

what i wish i saw more of in sean o'brien is the kind of character present in travis mcgee in the aforementioned story. while travis is opinionated, his thoughts on the page throughout, sean o'brien holds his cards close to his chest...he is very level-headed, not easily perturbed...all fine qualities...but i wanted to see more emotion from him...that, emotion...that came to the front toward story's end, evident with the words he used...a few cuss words, may it do ya fine...but i wanted to see what o'brien would bleed for...what he is passionate about.

true, his wife died of cancer awhile back...i think perhaps one of the first two stories that i did not read may shed more light on why he is no longer miami-dade homicide...and...i think had he shown his self, as travis mcgee does in the deep blue good-by, if he exposed those things that make him tick...i'd have given this 5-stars...easy...i had it marked 5-stars initially, but these thoughts about o'brien were present in my other lowe read...they are present in this one...so...

the indexes below are not complete, as yet...dunno if i return to finish them...or to make them more complete, or not.

characters

- *billy lawson/1945, wounded soldier in the states from europe...in florida...witnesses events that are reopened in present day
- *glenda, his pregnant wife
- *four germans...two others, asian
- *someone hiding behind dunes & palmettos approached the men
- *sean o'brien, 6'2", mid-40s, former miami homicide detective, starting a charter fishing business
- *sherri, his deceased wife
- *max...female dachshund w/sean, named maxine by sherri, believes she's a labrador
- *ol' joe...marina tom cat
- *maggie canfield, early 40s
- *jason canfield, her son, only ten when the father was killed on the uss cole, one of seventeen, a sophomore at florida state university, gets a job working on *jupiter*
- *nick cronus, a greek w/a mop of curly black hair, showing o'brien the ropes of fishing
- *dave collins, buddy of o'brien, ex-spook i think, ex some service, anyway, or maybe still active...has connections at any rate
- *an elderly couple, neighbors of o'brien's

mugginsuknow says

this author is very good with words. His descriptions color my thoughts and feelings as the story unfolds. I was immediately drawn into the book. Its action, adventure, family and friends all wrapped together. His female friend may have been a tad whiny/pathetic, but the other characters where very good. I love a story that doesn't copy everything I've read before. The scene with the shark was very interesting.

Will Decker says

Tom Lowe is getting his act together; in some respects...

The editing has improved dramatically, no longer being the distraction that it was. However, as much as I love his style and manner of writing, I found a tad too much of this latest story stretching beyond the point of believable. Face it, if a WWII sub were discovered off the coast of Florida containing nuclear material, a civilian would not be involved in the retrieval, storage, or any other aspect once reported. Period. But that aside, it is fiction and it is well written. The story moves along at a good clip keeping you right on the edge of your seat right up til the ending. I am looking forward to reading his next novel in the series, Blood of Cain. Good work!

Stacy says

Sean. Dude. It's pretty simple. You find a foreign submarine along the American coastline, you call someone and tell them about it.

You don't hide the GPS. You don't bring up U235. You don't mislead the government. You don't fall in love (in a completely non-romantic, role model sort of way) with an old, old friend's son. You don't evade spies and other non-US groups. You google the number for whatever acronym strikes your fancy (FBI, CIA, NSA, USN), call them, tell them what you found, then go back to work and maybe enjoy 15 minutes of fame on the local news. That's it.

William Outland says

I really enjoyed this one. There is a little historical background that made it easy to believe and not made of "whole cloth". It could have happened the way it's written. The action is fast and you won't figure this one out in advance.

David Johnson says

Thrill ride

This might have been the best e-book I've read this year.
Loved the way everything tied together. Strong characters and heart story. Can't wait to read more Tom
Lowe offerings.
