



The Silent Assassin

Lori Andrews

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When a John Doe with a bayonet wound in his chest is discovered in a Washington, D.C. alley, geneticist Dr. Alexandra Blake of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology is pulled away from her bioterrorism work to aid in the investigation. Just a little digging reveals a corpse that's not at all that of the homeless robbery victim it was set up to resemble---and Alex and her colleagues find themselves wrapped up in a complicated mystery of high-stakes international financial intrigue.

The homicide investigation is just heating up when a political firestorm erupts over the AFIP's possession of human skulls brought back from Vietnam thirty years earlier by American servicemen. Alex is handed the delicate task of managing the restoration and return of these grisly souvenirs. Even the President of the United States has become involved, with the actual exchange scheduled to take place at a White House ceremony. Alex knows it's an important job---her father was a soldier killed in Vietnam, so she of all people is sensitive to the issues surrounding the war---but to her it still seems like an outsized uproar over something that happened long ago. But the skulls take on much more urgent significance when she uncovers evidence of a much bigger crime, and suddenly Alex discovers she's a target and the White House itself is under fire.

The Silent Assassin is a tour-de-force thriller combining the intricate details of forensic science with the dark side of Washington politics and one of the freshest and most original characters in crime fiction today.

The Silent Assassin Details

Date : Published May 15th 2007 by St. Martin's Press

ISBN : 9780312352714

Author : Lori Andrews

Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Silent Assassin for online ebook

Susan says

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Good plot for those who like thriller and realistic fiction based on obvious good research.

Lindig says

Realized pretty quickly that I'd read it before.

Dan Downing says

How any particular book finds its way onto my shelves is often a mystery. This 2007 offering came from Seattle Mystery Books, and I have noted it was part of a "promo." What that means I have no idea. Still, SMB is one my favorite stores and I have benefited from many of their recommendations over the years. I consider this one of those benefits.

Andrews, according to her bio blurb, is a super over-achiever and in a few ways the model for her heroine, which is fine. Dr. Alexandra Blake, "call me Alex," does gene sequencing/DNA analysis work in Washington, D.C., giving her access to police, military and Federal investigative business---her boundaries are rather fluid. Socially a serially monogamous, high energy, jean wearing, slightly sloven but brilliant trouble seeker and generally good hearted person, adventure finds her and while some of the descriptions are a bit wrought she does manage to fight through. Better than a cozy although written with the touch of a cozy writer, a few hours here are enjoyable, the science good but never overdone, and the story gets better as the pages flip.

Andrews is a well turned out 64 who has written more non-fiction than mysteries, the present volume being her second and apparently last for now. I think if I can find a signed first of her first novel, I'll get it, thereby giving me a complete collection of her fiction, something difficult to do do, with, say, Loren Estleman. Maybe I'll scoop up one of her non-fiction efforts, too. They certainly look interesting and I know she can write strong sentences. Meantime, "The Silent Assassin" is Recommended.

Alaiah says

Good Suspense

Mary says

When a John Doe with a bayonet wound in his chest is discovered in a Washington, D.C. alley, geneticist Dr. Alexandra Blake of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology is pulled away from her bioterrorism work to aid in the investigation. Just a little digging reveals a corpse that's not at all that of the homeless robbery victim it was set up to resemble---and Alex and her colleagues find themselves wrapped up in a complicated mystery of high-stakes international financial intrigue.

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This the 2nd book in the series, I think. Again, lots of it is far-fetched, but an OK read.

Jamie Barringer (Ravenmount) says

The writing in the beginning part of this book put me off, but once I got into it I liked the science and procedural elements in this novel, and the fact that the lead character is female. The author, at least from her bio in the cover flap, seems like a reasonably good source for information about forensic genetics analysis, and I love the idea of books that make modern science more real and accessible to the general public. The writing is a bit awkward at times, with character biographical trivia stuck into the middle of active conversations, and other similar annoying moves that slow the storytelling enough to prevent this book from being a 5, for me at least, but it was still a fun read. It does escalate awfully quickly, and I felt that the writing needed to be better edited to support this otherwise fantastical story, but I've read enough Clive Cussler thrillers to have an idea what the supporting storytelling might look like. This was only Andrews's second novel, so perhaps once she has firmly settled into her own novelist voice, she'll be on par with Cussler. As is, this book certainly stands up to Cussler's early thrillers, only, of course, with more modern science.

Kristy says

In general books in this series are easy, interesting reads. The main character, Alexandra Blake, is an MD-PhD geneticist who works at Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP). This means there's a fair amount of science involved in each mystery, and generally some history as well.

This particular story revolves around "Trophy Skulls" that American soldiers brought back from Vietnam. For the first time we get some backstory about Alex's father who served in Vietnam.

Erth says

now i am hooked. This was such a great, easy and creative book. i was hooked after the first page.

The characters were easy to fall in love with and follow, along with the story. the author made the mental visions so easy and vivid of the surroundings and the characters actions felt so real.

i would highly recommend this author and this book.

Maree says

After a sex scene in the very beginning, the book was quite good. I've never read this author before, and I enjoy a good medical thriller. This was from a different vantage point. Seemed like historical fiction too, all the better. Good mystery, lots of plot twists. Took awhile to get who's who straight though.

Kit Howard says

Reasonable story, though I found it implausible that a geneticist would have been included in that way in police investigations. Some of the science was more than a bit of a stretch as well. But it passed the time.

Corky says

Dr. Alexandra Blake is a geneticist specializing in analyzing minute traces of DNA. She is currently on loan to the government from her much loved teaching position. In this story she is asked to try to identify several skulls from Viet Nam that have surfaced in the US. Because she does not do anything halfway, she finds herself "knee deep" in subterfuge, espionage, treachery, and several layers of cover ups.

Gea says

Ook dit was weer een goed boek van Lori Andrews. Ik wil ook haar nieuwe boek Immun nog lezen maar eerst even Ripper van Isabel Allende.

10 says

This book was very good because the story had a perfect kind of setting I liked-it consisted of suspense and mystery. However, the one thing I did not like was how this book had many cussing words and some parts where it was not really fit for young adults. This book felt like it was for ages 18 or older. These two things just bugged me. Other than these two, the plot was well thought out and made me enjoy throughout the book. How the main character becomes involved in some serious cases and how that leads to a conflict was the interesting of all. Although the beginning may be a little bit boring because of too much conversations, there

are many parts that made me read till the end, such as life experience for every individual character. I was able to feel similar to the main character when she felt sympathetic for Abby. Since I am a kind of person that could easily feel sympathy for others, I was kind of happy that there was someone I could relate to.

Jan says

A young doctor, working for the Government is given a new task. Find out who the skulls are. They have been brought back from the Vietnam war as trophies, and they are going to be returned to the Vietnamese Government, in a ceremony at the White House, and also MIA remains will be exchanged at the same time.

Dr. Alex Blake is linked to Vietnam in many ways, she is a Gold Star Child, her young father died there at the age of 25 during the Vietnam War, many people do not know this about Alex. She keeps this information close. Her mother was a free spirit and Alex raised herself, always, clinging on to her wonderful memories of her young father, who loved her. She meets one of his friends, Mike while she is doing research on the skulls. She travels to Vietnam to obtain DNA samples. Several murders ensue before and after her visit there, with herself almost being one of murders.

On the day of the ceremony at the White House, an attempt to assassinate the present President is made. The V.P.'s wife is very much involved in this plot, as are some of the Secret Service Agents. The V.P. is a puppet in his wife's hands. This women is out to kill a lot of people, including Alex.

Well written and interesting story.

Anne says

Decent mystery but too much sexy inuendo for my taste. Didn't really need to be there to keep the story interesting or to keep me reading.
