



Dead Shift

Richard Phillips

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With the final chapter of the Rho Agenda Inception, all secrets will be revealed. Who is the alien mind haunting Jack “The Ripper” Gregory? What is the purpose of the immensely powerful Sun Staff? And how will the culmination of these events set the stage for the Rho Agenda?

In this page-turning sci-fi adventure, the NSA’s most brilliant hacker is abducted and the world stands on the brink of cyberwar. The Ripper and his ghost team commandos are called to action, battling a host of enemies ranging from a genius tech-billionaire and the Chinese government to an emerging superintelligence capable of bringing the world to its knees. With every threat in play, Jack must confront his alien passenger and regain some semblance of self-control. As the origins of the Rho Agenda come to light, Jack struggles to embrace his destiny. But how can even one such as he prevail against an existential threat to humanity?

Dead Shift Details

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From Reader Review Dead Shift for online ebook

Cathy Ryan says

Jamal Glover is the best of the NSA's elite team of hackers, known as the Dirty Dozen, who work in the War Room at the NSA headquarters, keeping the country safe from cyber attacks and a lot more besides. Nineteen years old and straight out of MIT, Jamal loves his job. He also loves his girlfriend, Jill, and is on his way home to have dinner with her. What awaits him will change his life and if the Chinese government's plans succeeds it will spell disaster and the threat to humanity will be immense and devastating.

Jack, Janet and the NSA's special force, the 'ghost' team, are called in to rescue Jamal and stop the advancement of a powerful artificial intelligence initiated by the Chinese spy, Qiang Chu, and Steve Grange, a multi millionaire pioneer in medicine, more specifically brain surgery. He has an agenda of his own which involves his long dead wife.

With non stop action, teamed with treachery, death and destruction, the ghost team are up against an adversary like no other.

Jack battles against, and slowly gains more and more control over, the demon, Anchanchu. Jack's dreams that aren't really dreams, but more like detailed memories that are not his own, become more vivid and harder to shake off. Eventually he and Anchanchu come to an agreement on a subconscious level. This is the first time Anchanchu has been able to form any kind of communication with his host during the many centuries past.

Dead shift completes Jack Gregory's and Janet Price's back story with an incredibly tense and suspenseful narrative that shows the demon inhabiting Jack's mind is not at all what it first seemed. As the surprising information regarding Anchanchu's true nature increases it's very satisfying to finally know how this, and some events during the preceding books, tie into to Jack and Janet's involvement in the Rho Agenda.

Exploring the concept of artificial intelligence technology is incredible and terrifying and the extremely dangerous belief that software and machines could be created with independent intelligence is taken a step further in this gripping story. Very skilfully written and thought through, with a substantial number of facts to give much credibility. A tight plot plus the addition of convincing and strong characters, make this a terrific action/sci-fi thriller. I love Richard Phillip's writing style, with short chapters alternating between the different perspectives and storylines. MacLeod Andrews' narration is just right and faultless as always, giving the narrative extra impact.

luke dennison says

Flawed but highly entertaining

This is the 6th Richard Phillips book i have read and the end to the Rhoa trilogy and this has served to confirm my thoughts that Richard Phillips struggled with some aspects of writing (a tendency to over describe situations, characters who say and behave in ways that seem false and occasional clunky prose). Despite this, Phillips writes exciting stories, with exciting characters I cared about and this final book in the trilogy is a real page Turner and the sci-fi angle rises this above the usual good guys vs bad guys usually peddled in this type of book. Overall this is a good read and if you like action novels or books about American intelligence, this is definitely with a read.

BridgetT says

What a brilliant conclusion to the brilliant 1st trilogy of the 3 trilogy RHO AGENDA series!

- 1) THE RHO AGENDA: INCEPTION Trilogy
- 2) THE RHO AGENDA Trilogy
- 3) RHO AGENDA: ASSIMILATION Trilogy.

'Dead Shift' left me with a wonderful lead-in to the second trilogy --

Book 4, 'The Second Ship', which I was already half way through, and bookmarked, when I discovered these three amazing books which pave the way to what I can only imagine will be an amazing adventure.

Time will tell.

ERIN M MCCABE says

great thriller action. loved the series

while I thought the 2nd book was the best, all three are super fast paced action ride! great read. can't wait to move on to the main Rho series. read these first!

Mike Nemeth says

Richard Phillips just keeps getting better. "Dead Shift," his third in the spinoff series about Jack "the Ripper" Gregory, may be his most conventional yet, leaning more toward traditional government intrigue thriller than his past novels. But Phillips likes his twists. The book still has the alien who lives in Gregory's head and gives him a kind of supernatural power boost at odd times. But at this point, that's no big deal. Yeah, alien? Whatever. Gregory is back as a part of a special ops team. He's initially not on great terms with the rest. They have to figure out what happened to a kidnapped government computer specialist. He's been set up. It looks like he killed his girlfriend. But it's really the Chinese. They have plans. Real bizarre plans, it turns out. Like they want to copy Jamal Glover's personality and digitize it to weapons-grade artificial intelligence. Weird for sure. But Phillips makes it sound plausible. He's got the sci-fi chops. And we readers get to know more about Gregory's alien friend. He's got a really compelling back story. The book moves with nonstop fury. It's like Phillips was a big comic book fan. He doesn't like downtime. He gets the party started. And I love this stuff. Phillips says this was a trilogy. Right. He can't keep Gregory to himself. He's got to let this guy loose.

Diane Johnson says

This is a better book than the one before it (the Nazi one, whatever its name was), but author definitely seems to be running out of good ideas. In Dead Shift, the plot underlying the whole thing is weak and fairly nonsensical—scientist-guy-who-is-a-billionaire-and-also-owns-a-winery (why??) is trying to reanimate his dead wife, and somehow has recently transferred her twenty-year-dead consciousness to a special hard drive.

Hmm, how exactly would that work? And it is never clear how the Chinese fit into all this, or why they had to murder the girlfriend, rather than simply kidnapping Jamal in the first place. Just complicates the story. That's all in the first chapter or so, so not much of a spoiler for those of you reading this.

Author is still copy-and-pasting entire sections from previous books to fill in backstory. Lazy, lazy, lazy. Guys, this is a trilogy, so if you are reading #3 first, you are probably going to be lost sometimes. Admittedly, the naming of these books and their three trilogies is confusing to say the least, and you have to study the reviews to determine what the "correct" order is, but still, #3 will always come after #1!

The original Rho Agenda trilogy is excellent, all three of those books. The first Rho Agenda Inception book is very good. These last two, he could have skipped writing and we wouldn't be missing much.

And Phillips is still obsessed with baths and showers!

David Dalton says

Another pretty good action thriller featuring Jack Gregory..the Ripper. And Janet who kicks butt as well. I got hooked on these series first then started reading the Rho trilogy. I really like this series because of it's R rated action, while I merely like the Rho Agenda series because it is more YA and I would say PG-13.

The Ripper is one tough guy.....movie please!

Jason Heath says

Richard Phillips is delicious pulp for me. By the end of the second book in this trilogy I was starting to falter a bit. Definitely faltered during this one and almost went three stars. However, still enjoyed it and I'm looking forward to starting the Rho Agenda Assimilation trilogy in a few months after the third book comes out so I can 1, 2, 3 those three novels as I have Phillips other work.

Robert Keefer says

Jack 'The Ripper' Gregory is cajoled into helping the NSA (thus setting up his reunion with Janet) save the world, again. But, again, from a very different threat. The Rho Agenda Inception is different than the Rho Agenda that it is prequel to, in that it's more spy thriller and a bit less SF (although that's still here, especially in this third volume).

Bruno Neves Pires Silva says

Richard Phillips é o melhor de todos !!

Joanne Garbato says

Dead Shift is the final chapter of the Rho Agenda. Former CIA operative Jack Gregory is once again partnered with Janet Price and also an NSA ghost team. Their mission is to find and rescue Jamal Glover, NSA's #1 hacker, who has been kidnapped by the Chinese government in a secret operation to create artificial intelligence. In this final chapter the truth about Anchanchu, Jack's "rider" is revealed. This sci fi thriller is action packed, imaginative, moves quickly and has a great storyline.

Saugat Roy says

Overall an enjoyable thriller series but far short of the Rho Agenda

Rho Agenda was the best, this is a pale third and the last series is in between. Overall was still an enjoyable listen, hence the 4 stars.

Maria says

The last book in this particular series about Jack Gregory and Janet Price tied up a lot of the loose ends and answered many of my questions and definitely turned this series into a sci-fi series, but the end provides no closure, I guess because another series is going to continue where this one ended. More questions were raised. I am beginning to realize that Mr. Phillips is doing it on purpose. The endings are not cliff-hangers, thank goodness, but there are enough unresolved issues to keep the reader going to the next book. Not a bad idea. It has gotten me to purchase six of his books so far and I know there will be more in my future unless, like so many TV shows these days, the writing takes a dive.

Trish R. says

This was about a computer genius who was kidnapped by a mad scientist, Steve Grange, who connected Jamal's brain to electrodes connected to a computer in order to steal his knowledge and speed so Grange could have his dead wife's brain back. A wife who has been frozen for 20 years. AND the Chinese bad guy Qiang Chu who was working to take Jamal's Artificial Intelligence brain back to China. Yeah, that wasn't going to work out for Qiang, if Jack had anything to say about. He'd killed 2 of Jack's team and Jack had already been hired to kill Qiang because he killed the daughter of a billionaire who didn't want Qiang to be captured and to stand trial.

Anchanchu is still hanging around in Jack's brain but we do find out something very interesting about him, AND that his real name is Khal Teth.

I didn't get that it seemed to be left open for another book but this was the last one. It was book 3 of 3 but it left a lot of unanswered questions. Like what was Admiral Riles going to do with the Jamal Artificial Intelligence? What was Jamal going to do after he told Caroline he was quitting NSA because he was tired of protecting America? And who were the people with Jack and Janet that Khal Teth saw in his mind? AND

whatever happens to Jack and Janet? Too many important unanswered questions for me.

There was a little romance between Jack and Janet and sex that was referred to but was fade-to-black. No swearing which made the story kind of more unreal than it already was. I mean, sci-fi and all. There were probably one hundred+ men killed by this elite black-ops team in all three books but they never once used the F-bomb. That's just silly as far as I'm concerned. That was my only real complaint about these 3 books.

As to the narration: MacLeod Andrews was super when it came to voices and emotions.

Staci says

The conclusion of the Rho Agenda Inception trilogy is easily the best book of this trilogy. I started reading Richard Phillips' books back when he was self published on amazon. I've recently taken to trying to read all of his books in the order in which they've been published.

Dead Shift picks up shortly after the last book in the trilogy with Janet avoiding associating with Jack since their last adventure in South America. This time, the stakes center around the NSA's elite hacker group and the best hacker, Jamal, and a nebulous Chinese spy/assassin. Needless to say, this trilogy is what I'd call Bourne movie syndrome--Lots of action but better story than the movies. For the record I actually loved the Bourne books but really feel the movies missed out on a great story. There is continued character development and parts of Jack's demon are now explained in greater detail which I'm assuming will come into play with the final trilogy the follows the original trilogy timeline-wise.

If you enjoyed the first two books in this trilogy, you'll enjoy this one. I thoroughly enjoyed it and recommend it to anyone who likes modern sci-fi thrillers.
