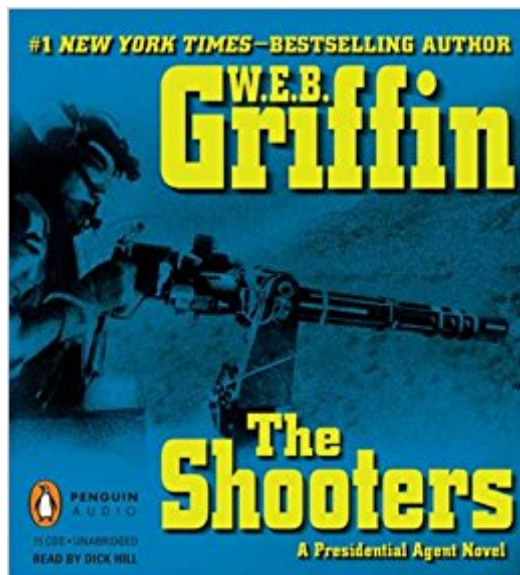




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The Shooters



Synopsis

In a dangerous world, only extraordinary people can keep America secure. The #1 New York Times-bestselling series returns with a story as up-to-date as the headlines.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Penguin Audio; Unabridged edition (January 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143142453

ISBN-13: 978-0143142454

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 2.2 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 224 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,513,649 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \(G \) > Griffin, W. E. B.](#) #2347 in [Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers](#) #2889 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged](#)

Customer Reviews

When DEA Special Agent Byron J. Timmons is kidnapped in Asunción, Paraguay, at the start of bestseller Griffin's rousing fourth presidential agent novel (after *The Hunters*), Timmons's grandfather asks his friend, the mayor of Chicago, for help. The mayor passes the request on to the U.S. president, who assigns his personal in-house expert, Lt. Col. C.G. Castillo, to rescue agent Timmons. Castillo is familiar with the territory, having sorted out various terrorist and drug dealer threats in South America in earlier books in the series. Castillo spends a lot of time in meetings and flying around the globe in the course of setting up the big shoot-out. After the brief, long-awaited climax, everyone pats each other on the back and gets ready for the next adventure, which is sure to pick up the loose threads left untied from the just-completed mission. In less accomplished hands, this would be a recipe for boredom, but Griffin pulls it off, leaving satisfied thriller readers hankering for more. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Punchy prose that connects like a right hook." "A Storyteller in the Grand Tradition." -- Tom Clancy "The prolific, mega-selling Griffin is well on his way to a credible American James Bond franchise. It's slick as hell." --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Forgive me. I like the yarns spun by W.E.B. Griffin, more recently aided by his son. I am re-reading several of the series. The "Charley Castillo" series is a later series, enjoyable to me, with plots that are preposterous, with the books getting weaker and weaker as the series progresses into later books. The best were the Marine series and the Army series and even there the later books were of far less quality than the early books in the series. My biggest gripe with the "By Order of The President" that I call the Charley Castillo series is that the authors can't keep their facts consistent from book to book. There are so many factual contradictions with the earlier story telling in previous books that the mistakes cannot be counted. For instance, it is disturbing that one book ends dramatically when a canine character, Max, who saves Charley on at least two occasions, is rewarded when Charley obtains a female Bourvier d'Flanders as company for Max, and in a later book the female canine's acquisition is ascribed to another character in another place in another time having nothing to do with Max's contributions to Charley's welfare.. However, I still enjoy the fanciful tales and will continue to re-read at least one more series. That is why I subjectively gave the book a higher score that it deserves.

It's entertaining enough, but the entire series has devolved into farce and parody. It's bad enough that the novels are so formulaic, but reading the Presidential Agent series, after the first two, made me realize that I don't need to ever read anything Griffin writes. I already know what I'll see. The rich dude who doesn't need to be in the (Army, Marine Corps, OSS, Philly PD) but does it because he's a warrior. And, he meets the tragic woman/women, before finally meeting up with and ending up with the most unlikely of all his paramours. And, he has a large number of very senior (Generals, Colonels, Police Department Bigwigs, Politicians) who just go along with him because, ya know, charismatic, manliness, do-gooding stuff. And, he flies all over the place, and has a connection who gets him the best hotels with booze and food and he doesn't pay for it. Sound familiar? If you've ever read a Griffin book, that's what you saw.

When a DEA agent is kidnapped in South America by forces unknown, Lt. Col. Charlie Castillo and his team are ordered to find out who's holding him and free him. As usual he has to ford various cross-currents, including Washington bureaucrats who obstruct him and Latin American authorities whose loyalties are uncertain. And he slowly gloms to the fact that the CIA there has been penetrated but he's not sure by whom. The Castillo saga evolves, as Castillo acquires the formidable but entertaining dog Max, who

accompanies him everywhere. Landing at an Alabama air base Castillo was stationed at years before reopens a chapter of his life with startling results. And Castillo's team keeps growing, often because someone who stumbles upon them now knows too much to do anything else but participate. They fly around a lot, there's endless talk about radios and who operates them. Hurricane Katrina hammers the Gulf Coast and people from New Orleans drink a lot of Sazeracs. It's a typical entry in the enjoyable Presidential Agent series.

Good continuation in the series developing the characters on more personal level. W.E.B. Griffin books are always good stories that hold your interest with both interaction between the character and a plot that is easy to understand and follow..

I find the writing to be compelling. Griffin writes of a hero in the James Bond genre, a larger than life Hispanic American spy with a military background, high intelligence and physical prowess. He gives us insight into the thoughts of his characters by using italics to indicate their innermost thoughts as they speak words that may contradict their feelings. The first part of the book is a bit wordy, as the author seems compelled to give us a lot of the back story, but the pace increases as did my interest as I continued reading. After the first few chapters, I found myself intrigued by the plot line and immersed in the characters. If you like this type of spy novel, and make it past the first few chapters, I believe most readers will enjoy this book. After completing the book, I immediately went shopping for more books in the series, featuring the same lead character, known simply as 'Charley.' I am enjoying my 2nd Griffin novel as I write this brief review.

It is ok, but not one of his better novels. This was written at the end of his career and is not very well done. That having been said, it is MUCH better than the horrible stuff that Butterworth is churning out. I read this series (the presidential agents) this summer whilst travelling and worked my way through the first 4 (or perhaps 5) in various airports and train stations. Ok, but not nearly as good as his previous series about the army, about the marines, and about the police in Philadelphia. In the first novel, the President of the USA is annoyed when a US diplomat in Argentina is killed. He sends a major (subsequently promoted) to deal with it. In the series of 4-5 novels I read, the plot gets more and more fantastic and less and less believable. Whereas the previous series were vaguely "reality based", this series is just looney. That having been said, it did pass the time in airports and train stations. I read them on my KINDLE to avoid lugging books around; that is a great solution to the problem of taking reading material with one.

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