



Life Blood

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In "Life Blood", Thomas Hoover brings together impressive storytelling skills with fascinating, authentic medical detail and more than enough suspense to keep readers poised on the edge of their seats. Like Tess Gerritsen's *In Their Footsteps*, Michael Palmer's *The Patient*, and Nelson DeMille's *Plum Island*, this thriller from an exciting new voice promises to shoot straight up the bestseller lists. It lies hidden deep in the mist-shrouded rain forest of Central America. A place where a brilliant doctor fulfills dreams for some -- and creates chilling nightmares for others. Now, filmmaker Morgan James is about to journey straight into the heart of a dark conspiracy...where a bizarre human experiment comes at a terrible price. And where she may be the next to pay with her life.

Life Blood Details

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Author : Thomas Hoover

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From Reader Review Life Blood for online ebook

Neil says

Got this free for my amazon kindle. It started well and drew my in with the storyline and mix of characters. It seemed to fall away for me around three quarters of the way through. Whilst I appreciate it's fiction it just started to get silly in terms of our heroine seemingly being able to do anything despite what odds were against her. I found myself reading the last few chapters quick to try and finish the book and move on. Shame. Cant complain for free though.

more says

I decided to read this book because I like medical thrillers. While, I enjoyed the book a bit, a lots of the events in the book are just impossible. Morgy also kept making such stupid decisions.

Like really??? Ya'll don't know how 3rd world countries work? You're going to be Rambo and go by yourself without really informing anyone in the states about your "mission" to Guatemala?

Who invites their SO to a place surrounded by military forces. This book was so unrealistic. If you can get past that, it's an okay book.

You know I kept asking myself if a normal human being would make the silly choices Morgy made. I was like sure, I know how reporters are or whatnot. They always want to get the story that'll place them on the map. Still though! so unrealistic.

Sara says

Summary: Pinnacle 2000 New York filmmaker Morgan James is about to journey straight into the heart of a dark conspiracy, hidden deep in the mist-shrouded Maya rain forest of Central America, where a bizarre human experiment (including a baby factory) comes at a terrible price. In Vitro, Independent Film, Adoption, Fertility, Human Eggs, Guatemala, Peten, Maya, Mayan Pyramid, Vision Serp

Review: I found this book outstanding. It's very long but so good. Morgan, I adored her, and she went through hell and back in this story. It has action, love, etc. I'd recommend this book to anyone.

Lon Casler Bixby says

Ok, I loved the author's other books "The Moghul" and "Caribbee" - Fantastic! And I could not wait to love "Life Blood" as well... But I was greatly disappointed - Greatly! It was certainly not a page-turner - more like a page-skipper. I could not even finish this book and actually had to force myself to read a full quarter of it

before deleting it. It seemed like the whole book (well, what I read, anyway) was nothing but long, blah blah blah drawn out pointless and tedious descriptions that i'm sure if i had finished the book would have nothing to do with anything about what the story should have been about. Not Recommended!

Karen says

I read this on my Kindle. It's not the easiest to read as SO many words are hyphenated in error and I found this so infuriating. Also the Chapter number was at the bottom of some pages with the chapter beginning on next page, whole book badly edited for e-reading.

I love medical thrillers. But... This wasn't the best by a long shot.

Morgy a film producer wants to get pregnant and hears about Children of Light, where a woman looking to adopt can have a baby within a couple of months for the sum of \$60k. She meets two new adoptive mums & realises their babies are related, yet how can they be, with only months between them. She films the 2 ladies for a documentary she's making and decides to find out more about Dr Alex Goddard who runs Children of Light. This brings her into deepest Guatemala. To search for her cousin Sarah had already gone missing but had turned up, to be re-kidnapped by Guatemalan army and transported back to Children of Light compound. Morgy somehow survives all that is thrown at her (all very unrealistic).

Very long drawn out book, with too much padding. I didn't give up because I wanted to know what happens at the end as she may/may not have survived. At the very end Morgy is pregnant by Steve, her boyfriend, who features on and off throughout the story. But is she.....

Kristie Scarle says

Hmm...not sure what to say about this book. I guessed what was happening early on, didn't really like the story, but actually had to keep reading until I finished it late last night.

There was a lot of 'as if' moments, which I wouldn't expect so much unless I was reading chick lit.

Apart from that it still left my pretty uneasy - which is normally the sign of a good book. But maybe it was the subject matter I was uneasy about, rather than the book itself.

Howard says

In a word awful. I only managed to get around 20% through this book which is pretty poor. It was incredibly annoying to read. Thomas Hoover I can only assume is a man yet he has chosen to write a female character for his lead and do it in the first person. excellent if you can get into the psyche of the character and make the reader believe she is a real person. Unfortunately 'she' just comes across as a man writing a female character by the numbers, not only that but the way she speaks and thinks is like a 1940's film noir private detective. I couldn't stand it.

Now this next part may be considered a spoiler but as I have only read 20% of the book I don't think it really is.

The lead is written as incredibly stupid she constantly poses the most obvious questions to herself yet doesn't know the answers.

Q. "How could they get a perfect caucasian child for adoption in only a matter of months?"

Okay long shot this one but A. Clone.

Q. "How can two different women have children that look related but are only six months apart in age?"

Okay not so much a long shot anymore. A. Clone! Clone! Clone!

Nope our heroine hasn't got a clue the world she inhabits has clearly sheltered her from such things.

I'm not saying that this is the big reveal of the story as I couldn't stand to read anymore but surely any reasonable person would think hang on..... could these identical looking children adopted by two different women, who look the same but are six months apart in age making it impossible for them to be siblings possibly have been cloned? Apparently not.

Dale Ibitz says

Morgan Smyth James is a 38 year-old movie-maker who wants one thing: a baby. The problem is, she's invested years, time and money into the baby-making process, yet the cries she hears in the nursery are only in her dreams. So she sets off to make a movie about adoption, whereby she falls into a spiraling whirlpool of deceit, betrayal, and conspiracy involving smarmy doctors and foreign military thugs.

I liked the character, Morgan, and though he doesn't play a largely active role in the book, I liked her boyfriend, Steve. The characters have depth, a down-to-earth real relationship, fraught with conflict and happiness.

But for me the book was long. Too long. The author could have cut a 1/3 from this book and had a smoother, better-paced read. Much of the first 1/4 of the book is filled with back-story and info dumps (this is where I would have taken out my axe and started chopping). Nothing slows down a story more than info dumps. To be honest, I just wasn't interested. I didn't care. The author even prefaced some of these info dumps by stating it was coming..."A little history here..." Beep, beep, beep! Take cover, the garbage truck is a'coming and it's unloading.

Also, and this may just have been to show off the author's technical prowess, but pages of movie-lingo was thrown about, complete with staff members' jobs and names...which would have been great if they had any bearing on the story. Most of them didn't. It just kept me flipping back pages to figure out who was being referenced. Most of these people disappeared before the mid-way point, so really, what was the point? None.

Even when the author hit stride and the story moved along at a rabbit's pace, little birdies would come along and peck at us, dropping little backstory tidbits that weren't necessary and interrupted pacing. And the constant internal questioning by Morgan had me hearing voices in my head. I wanted her to shut up and let me think for a minute. I can think for myself. I can ask questions while I'm reading. Don't feed them to me and please don't tell me what to think. I'd rather think something and be wrong. Red herrings, people, are what makes stories go round.

Speaking of surprises, this story was a little weak in that regard. 2 things struck me as being very transparent. The first was a betrayal. There was NO SURPRISE regarding this betrayal. The author peppered the betrayal with broad hints. He may as well have just told us outright. This story would have been better served if the betrayal came as a complete and utter surprise. A face-palm to the forehead, I-never-saw-that-coming kind of surprise. I *want*, *long*, *wish* to be blindsided when reading. I would have loved that. Instead, I was more like, "Yeah, yeah, yeah. No surprise there."

Second, I'd solved the whole medical mystery before the mid-way point. It was fairly transparent, so I wasn't nearly as surprised at the end as Morgan was. I guess when you're living the reality, things just aren't as in-your-face as they are to the reader. I guess most readers are not so easily fooled. I guess when writing you should keep that in mind.

Overall, the book wasn't a bad read, but it wasn't a great read either.

Adrienne Campbell says

A great freebie for my Nook!

Thomas Hoover's novel about the difficulties of pregnancy leading to desperate procedures. Enter the alternative medicine pregnancy guru who claims he can perform a miracle if you will only participate in his "program" located in the jungles of Guatemala. Otherwise he will provide you with a beautiful baby to adopt (nevermind they all look alike) for a mere 60K.

Something about this sounds fishy to a film maker desperate to be a mother and dealing with her own personal and family issues as well. She is part investigator, part victim, and definitely not what the doctor ordered.

Fast read and easy to understand. I would recommend!

Desley (Cat fosterer) says

This is about a woman who desperately wants a baby, and is shooting a documentary about adoption. She then stumbles upon a mystery.

In principle, I liked the idea of this story, which is why I persevered, but there are a lot of issues that wouldn't take much to fix (a lot of words like th-is), that really take you away from the story, and did drop it from a 3 star to a 2 star. It also seemed to be very slow in places, with people doing rather odd things.

I would like to give this author another go, as other reviews said this is a weak book, but the other one I have downloaded has the same issues with words, so not sure I would until these were fixed.

Kristin says

I read another of Hoover's ebooks, 'Syndrome', a while ago and really liked it, so when I saw this one available, I was eager to check it out. Unfortunately, it didn't hold my interest like 'Syndrome' and as I worked towards finishing it the last couple days, I realized I really didn't care how it ended.

In the story, Morgan is a filmmaker trying to balance work on what may be her feature film debut with the heartbreak of being unable to conceive with her longtime boyfriend, who consequently decides to follow his own career path to Central America. Morgan's film involves research into adoption both because the stories of adoptive parents make for a good story and as an option she and Steve may wish to pursue when he returns to the U.S. She meets 2 mothers who have adopted children from a place called Children of Light, which seems too good to be true, as both moms received Caucasian babies within months of applying, for a relatively low cost of adoption. While Morgan has this odd feeling about the place when she realizes how similar the two children look, she decides to pay the organization a visit, and the shadiness keeps building as the director only vaguely answers her questions but is eager to enroll her in his program.

The details Hoover provides as he describes Children of Light and exactly what goes on behind its walls seem to be based more in the spiritual and less in the medical until late in the story (past the point at which I didn't care), and too much about the main story and other subplots intertwined to be anything close to realistic. Certainly less medical than the other book.

The description provided for this book did sound slightly less appealing than that of 'Syndrome', so I feel if I'm going to read more by Hoover, I will have to screen it first to make sure it's actually something that would interest me.

Dina says

As other reviews have mentioned the book started out pretty slow & didn't get interesting till Chapter 20 or so, but when things got down to it it became fairly fast paced & kept my attention till the last page. It wasn't overly thrilling, but it worked well and was uncomplicated and easy to follow. I got this book as a NOOK freebie so I would say that if you can make it through the slow section & can live with the minor formatting & spelling errors it's a decent read. I did consider giving it 3 stars because of the slow start, but decided nah, 4 is good.

J.D. Hughes says

I rather enjoyed this novel. The central character was believable and the references to documentary filmmaking accurate (I was a doc maker). Secondary characters were less well dealt with, but the mad doctor antagonist was sufficiently greedy and insane, without being a stereotype, to maintain interest in the conflict. Dialogue was good. The premise - without spoiling the plot - was topical, interesting and well defined: I was left in no doubt what was happening although the twists were fairly easy to guess. I think the novel would have benefitted from a sub-plot or two apart from the obvious one. All in all a nicely paced thriller with some small plot holes, but enjoyable to read. So, if you like well-written thrillers and don't mind a lack of sub-plots, then I can recommend this read.

Patricia Wedertz says**Multifaceted**

Goes in more than one direction... You think you are following one person, then a new person is added. Then you find out the plot includes both of them

Nicole says

This started out extremely slow for me because I found the author was trying to provide you with too much plot background. And at the sametime introduce you to too many characters; many of whom really didn't have a main purpose to the storyline. Once you get through the first third of the book the story picks up very quickly. And I could see why this was toted as a "terrifying medical thriller in the bestselling tradition of Michael Crichton and Robin Cook".
