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The big brains behind the business usually have many pots boiling on their stove, or running their think engines as the case may be. But when the business motto of the Brewster forum, "Pursuing Research Into Original Thought," leads them to some eccentric affairs that throw them far enough off track, Remo Williams enlists the help of his Master Chiun to solve a harrowing crime.

Death Check Details

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Author : Warren Murphy , Richard Sapir

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John E Bailor says

My favorite of the first few books in The Destroyer series.

Eccentric supporting characters who are described in a fun and quite politically incorrect way. Great descriptions bring this very violent thriller to life.

The authors were still feeling their way around the series. We do get a glimpse of eastern mysticism, but very little Chiun in this one. Remo is in the very early stages of learning to harness the extraordinary powers he eventually develops.

Unless you are easily offended, this action adventure comes with my highest recommendation.

Elizabeth Rebecca Shaw says

An okay action book about Remo Williams. He is definitely not woman friendly in this one. He infiltrates a think tank and takes on an ex-Nazi and his depraved daughter. Of course everything works out in the end.

Jeff J. says

Fun read. Remo takes on a nazi cell in the US that is continuing their “research” using government grants.

Purple says

Another mildly entertaining tale of Remo Williams, super assassin guy. In this, book #2 out of a hundred+, Remo infiltrates a think tank and beats the hell out of people and plays some chess. Pretty lightweight entertainment despite the sometimes serious content-Nazis show up and a man makes love to a giraffe. Seriously.

Michael Rudzki says

Although these are quick reads, and reflective of some of the social problems of the time, these never fail to entertain.

In this book, eight years have passed since Remo ended one life and began his training to become the Destroyer. This is perhaps a bit of retconning to make JFK the president who instigated the program known as CURE. It's a bit ironic that when LBJ tells Nixon about it, Dick is uncomfortable with an extralegal organization. Of course, this was before Watergate and the revelation that Dick was responsible for the

deaths of thousands of US troops in Vietnam just so he could win the presidency.

The main conflict in Death Check, apart from the mystery of who is subverting the think tank, is an internal one: Remo has been forced to stay at peak readiness too long. This has led to his skills deteriorating over the course of the book, until he is barely more than he was when he was a cop. As will become evident as the series progresses, it is the training and the relationship between Remo and Chiun which is the heart of the Destroyer novels.

One of the highlights is a scene in which Remo and a fellow agent discover they have a common friend in their past: Conn Macleary, who recruited Remo, and who was his first assignment to kill. Like many of those written by Murphy and Sapir, this could easily play extremely well on screen. It has much the same feel as the drunk storytelling scene in Jaws.

Tom Fredricks says

In the 2nd book of this series Remo (our protagonist) puts various smug academics in their place using moxy and mystical martial arts training. Enjoy it for the ride, the plot in this one turns out to be a bit thin.

D. says

Not as strong as the first novel, but still an entertaining adventure novel. It's a time capsule from another era -- basically a "grindhouse" thriller in paperback form. If that sounds like something you'd like, you'll definitely dig it. If not, stay far away.

Rob says

What I lovingly call my chiun books. A fun series to read. Thanks to the guys at Bobos Arcade for turning me on to this series.

Bryan457 says

Remo infiltrates a think tank that seems to be working on a plan to conquer the world. Some of the greatest brains in the country are working together but some of them start turning up dead. Remo has to find out which of the brains is behind the killing and the possible plot for world conquest.

Quite an improvement over #1. Remo is doing more advanced training. Chiun is still not an active player which does take away from the overall feel of the book. Very little humor. Remo is getting to be more sarcastic but has not developed the Remo attitude yet. Remo loses much of his ability when he is at peak too long.

Favorite tidbits: Remo and Smitty have a meeting in a club where women dance on tables for tips. Remo gets

Smitty to put a bill in the woman's bra and Remo causes the bra to come off in Smitty's hands. Great scene when Remo takes out a gang of bikers.

Warning, sex and graphic gory violence.

Christopher Rush says

Though the cover price indicates this is a twelve-and-one-half dime novel, I did in fact pay one dime for it (in 2017 dimes, that was basically a cover-price ha-penny) to support the Habitat for Humanity. There's not much else to say about this. It's pretty raw at times. Gritty, if you will. Sort of like a Westerosi James Bond, perhaps. But I bought it for a good cause, so it's okay.

Pablo Snazzy says

good pulp, fun.

Paul Baumeister says

Old classic revisited

I used to read a lot of the action books that were coming out back in the 70's, most notably The Destroyer & Don Pendleton's The Executioner. It was great to go back to check up on Remo, & find that not only were these good action reads, but actually damn good, well written action reads. Looking forward to working my way through the series, to catch all the books I missed back then.

Balkron says

My Rating Scale:

- 1 Star - Horrible book, It was so bad I stopped reading it. I have not read the whole book and wont
- 2 Star - Bad book, I forced myself to finish it and do NOT recommend. I can't believe I read it once
- 3 Star - Average book, Was entertaining but nothing special. No plans to ever re-read
- 4 Star - Good Book, Was a really good book and I would recommend. I am Likely to re-read this book
- 5 Star - GREAT book, A great story and well written. I can't wait for the next book. I Will Re-Read this one or more times.

Times Read: 1

One of the first series I read consistently. This series and the Executioner series are responsible for my love of reading and stories.

Characters - Looking back to my younger reading days, I loved Remo Williams and thought he was one of the coolest characters in history. I still think Remo is a good character. Unique in a number of ways even

today.

Story - The stories are average and fairly typical. Bad guys going to kill or hurt, Remo is going to kill them first (no way he is going to die not with Chiun as his teacher). Not much in creativity but it really worked for me as a male teenager. I started learning Judo and Karate partly because of Remo.

Overall - I started reading these when I was 16. I enjoyed them up until about age 19. My tastes changed from Military intrigue to Fantasy / SciFi. I would recommend reading these especially for younger males.

NOTE: I am going to rate all the books in this series the same. Some of the stories are a bit better or a bit worse but I can't find one that I would rate a 2 or 4.

Michael Fortenberry says

I loved the series when I first read it many years ago. I re-read the first 12 in February. I still enjoyed the, especially #1 and #3. I am looking forward to Mr. Gordon's and Nuic's return.

Damon Henrichs says

I read this because I'm curious how "The Destroyer" develops from the first book (which is dark and takes itself seriously) to the fun, silly, crazy series it becomes.

Sadly, this one is a pretty crappy transitional book that was hard to follow, featured almost no interaction between Remo and Chiun, AND was taking itself seriously, despite being fairly lame.

There was a preview of book 3 at the end . . . which has some of the trademark interaction that becomes the trademark of the series. Honestly, it was the best thing about book 2.

Thank God publishers saw past this one and allowed the series to continue.

Two stars might be generous. I'm giving it two since I know what it will become. Only read this if, like me, you REALLY want to see how the series evolves.
