



Hungry Ghost

Stephen Leather

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1991 in Hong Kong and the colony is preparing for Chinese rule.

Geoff Howells, a government-trained killing machine, is brought out of retirement and sent there. His brief: to assassinate Chinese Mafia leader, Simon Ng. Howells devises a dangerous and complicated plan to reach his intended victim - only to find himself the next target . . .

Patrick Dugan, a Hong Kong policeman, has been held back in his career because of his family connections - his sister is married to Simon Ng. But when Ng's daughter is kidnapped and Ng himself disappears, Dugan gets caught up in a series of violent events and an international spy ring that has spun out of control . . .

Hungry Ghost Details

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Author : Stephen Leather

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From Reader Review Hungry Ghost for online ebook

Sundeep Supertramp says

This is a pretty old book. First printed (publish, that is) in 1991. And the book I am holding right now is of 1993. I found it in a closer a long back. My father said it was my grand father's. Since it is old and I believe old book suck, I never got to read this. Then one fine day, when I was deciding what to read next. I couldn't get to decide on one. There were so many good books in the shelf. So I decided to read the one, I didn't want to read. So that is how I came to read this one.

And now, after completing reading the book, I am thankful I read it...

When I was reading this book, I knew nothing of the author - Stephen Leather. I didn't even care to know about him. Come on, I am not the kind to check out the authors of yester-generations. The current generation authors' stories are more relatable and I prefer relatable reads.

However, I read the plot on the back of the book. These were the points, I could make out of them...

- *The story of the genre, either, crime or mystery

- It turned out to both and suspense and action and romantic thriller.

- *The story is set in Hong Kong.

- Yes, it was.

And nothing else. That was one reason I hated

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1.1 says

Paperback thrillers are not exactly at the top of my to-read list, but this one was picked up on the cheap during a box of books type sale (a scene every reader and prospective author needs to see... remaindered and damaged books being picked through by the lowest and most desperate readers, the selection surprisingly varied if you bother to really dig), on the strength of the back cover synopsis. I read the first sentence and threw it in the box. I figured this book about a government killing machine would deliver exactly what I expected from a thriller, and maybe a little more.

It did, at that. Stephen Leather's knowledge of Hong Kong and its vices (how much time did he spend with hookers at slum bars?) makes for a richer than usual setting for the genre. The fact that it is a look at late British possessed Hong Kong gives it a little historical heft as well. The main character (roughly speaking), Geoff Howells is more complex than your average killing machine, which is refreshing because I was expecting a sort of terminator-esque Briton with a penchant for dry witticisms. The rest of the cast is acceptably drawn as well. I believe a little extra editing would have helped iron out a few awkward moments, but there was nothing egregious. If you expect a great literary work, look elsewhere. If you want to see some people get dropped, some schemes come to light, and frantic intrigue - settle in for your cross Atlantic flight or week's worth of breaks at work, and enjoy. Saying this novel is merely serviceable is to withhold the full measure of credit it deserves. Though on some level, it is purely serviceable.

Lisa says

not my usual type of book to read - but have been re-reading so many lately that I needed a change :) (and a trip to the library). This was ok - grabbed me but I wouldn't rush to read another by the author.

James says

This was a very enjoyable thriller. Located mainly in Honk Kong pre British handover it involves conspiracy aplenty, with carloads of spies, triads, HK police, murder, treachery and nakedness.

Well paced plot and thoroughly well constructed characters with credible attitudes, plus one nutter. Hong Kong sounds like an interesting place to visit.

Brandon Osborn says

Entertaining, pulp.

Mary Monks says

What a fast-paced ride this book was!!!!

The story is set in Hong Kong among the Chinese Mafia and the law enforcement agencies who are trying to prevent crimes.

Geoff Howells is a killer hired to "remove" the Mafia Leader Simon Ng.

Through a series of violent events, Howells goes from being the hunter to the hunted.... a situation he is not at all familiar with.

Patrick Dugan, whose sister is married to Simon, gets involved after his niece is kidnapped, and is frustrated by how difficult it is to find the young girl. His life is at risk after Howells discovers his involvement.

The story is violent in the extreme, but none-the-less very readable.

It is worrying however to think that there are people out there who enjoy killing.

Frank says

This is my 2nd book by Stephen Leather. The first was "The Chinaman" & this one just absolutely blew it away. I'm going to have to read another one of his. I can't believe I've been missing out on this man's work.
