



A for Argonaut

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Mack Maran, the most skilled op his nation ever had, stands outside the courthouse at Ft. Bragg, home of his "non-existent" unit. America's unsung hero has been betrayed, ambushed, and disgraced in a mission to rescue young American idealists held by African terrorists. His enemies, led by a major illegal arms dealer in league with Islamist terrorists, are cunning and treacherous. But they don't count on Maran's tenacity. He plans to hunt down the enemies who butchered his men, hobbled his health, and defiled his honor-and then kill them. He sets up his own spy firm and finds he's not a lone victim. The strong and independent diamond courier, Amber Chu, leads Mack on a race to free her kidnapped son and destroy their common enemy. Together they plunge through a maze of danger and intrigue to unravel a massive diamond scam that takes them from the U.S. Diamond Board, to the gemstone cutting tables of Antwerp, to the Congo-and back to the nation's capital. Maran's probe exposes the dark side of unbridled idealism at the highest levels, where the thirst for wealth and power meet.

A for Argonaut Details

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From Reader Review A for Argonaut for online ebook

Jenna says

Absorbing novel full of action, and thrill all the way. Brilliantly written, and it's hard to let go especially when the book was so entertaining.

Mack Maran a disgraced Army, and now an Ex-Army Lieutenant Colonel was after a revenge against his dead men in betrayal by the institution that had become corrupt.....that it would sacrificed of its loyal men for profit, and power.

Mack has to find the cancer in Pentagon exposed, and eradicate them. To pay for double-crossing his ops rescue towards the American hostage in Cabinda.

Lourdes says

I literally could not put this book down. It was heavier and bulkier than my ereader, but I brought it with me while I was attending a recently concluded convention. I sacrificed the small space in my bag for this book because although it was a little more than 350 pages, it was so action-packed that I didn't notice the page numbers anymore! Details especially about the diamond industry were very informative and showed how well it was researched. Friends, you will become a fan too!

Doug Meyn says

I normally stick with a book to the end; didn't make it to the end of the first chapter. The action descriptions and cliché lines were reminiscent of pulp fiction novels. Melodramatic.

Vicki L. Howell says

Couldn't get into it. It didn't grab me at the start. Usually when this happens, I just can't continue to read.

Couldn't get into. Didn't grab me at beginning. I usually can't continue to try and read when this happens. Thanks

Joshua Pruitt says

loving it amazing cover to cover like a old school john grisham meets micheal crichton

Carrie Kilgore says

Tons of well-researched detail; never really grabbed me. Competent writing and obviously well-researched, I was frustrated over the explaining (often and at length) and the continuing time jumps. Frustrating because I really wanted to get into the characters and the story but never really did. There's some good writing in here and the topic is interesting; I would try again if the author reworked the basic construction, perhaps allowing us to move in a more linear fashion and finding ways to fill us in without jerking us out of the ongoing story by explaining histories (we could take a certain amount of this more easily if presented as a briefing, for example, where we're sticking with the central character and seeing/hearing along with him).

That said, there are readers who won't mind these flaws. My frustration stems from the knowledge that if the author reworked this to keep us solidly with one central character's experiences as they happen, this could be dynamite.

Edmond Porter says

I was not able to connect with or care for any of the characters in this book. Even though the plot could have been interesting it just never developed in a coherent manner.

Michele says

A for Argonaut is a book about an American soldier, Mack Maran, who is set up and disgraced while trying to executing a rescue mission. Problem for those that set him up, he's not going to just lay down and take it. He is determined to find the truth and clear his name. If you like books by Vince Flynn the Mitch Rapp series, C. G. Cooper the Corps Justice series or Lee Child the Jack Reacher series (I haven't started this one but I understand it fits into the theme) then you should enjoy *A for Argonaut*. Unlike the books by Mr. Flynn and Mr. Cooper though there is a lot of military jargon ie. acronyms, but considering Mr. Stedman's background in the military this isn't surprising it's what he is use to. Though it is part of the reason for my rating, it would probably have been easier to listen to this book. I first read this book back in 2014 and have just finished rereading it. Both times took me some time to read just because there are so many people and so much information and details to remember. Having my new Kindle Paperwhite with it's x-ray feature really helped this time around. Despite the rating I gave if Mr. Stedman ever released a sequel (which was implied he was thinking of doing back in 2012) I would purchase and read it.

Terrorism, money, treason, arms dealing and blood diamonds that is basically what's going on in this book. Mack Maran was thrown under the bus in order to cover up what was really going on. Problem, like in most stories they should have made sure to kill him, but we wouldn't have a story then would we. During his time in the Army he was lucky to make friends with some people that came in handy to help him find the truth and clear his name. With the help of those friends he starts an investigation business BANG! and using everything he was trained for in the Army he sets out on his mission. His goal find out who set him up and stop one of the worst terrorists leaders in Africa, Grigol Rakhmonov Boyko a.k.a. The Animal and his goon Slang Vangaler. Along the way he meets a woman, Amber Cu, who's son is being held by Grigol in order to make her help him with the smuggling of his diamonds. These are most of the main characters, unfortunately

there are many more almost too many to keep up with but most actually play an important role in the storytelling and a few give an opening to sequels. Don't worry though everything gets tied up by the end of the book so your not left hanging.

Be warned the book can get a bit graphic at times with blood, sexual acts or speaking of rapes and mutilation. So if these are topics that are sensitive for you then you might want to rethink reading it.

It did take me two readings to fully understand and appreciate this story. But a second reading didn't change my rating just my review. I can't give this story more than three stars because I don't think it's a book for the everyday casual reader. If you have been in the military or have a better understanding of it then it will make it easier. There is just too much information at times that makes this book a difficult read. Though there are only small parts that don't really eventually lead to a better understanding down the road. If you're going to need to be ready to dedicate some time. What I mean is it's not a book to read while reading something else. Nor is it a book so say I'll read a little bit here and there. To keep everything fresh you need to be able to read it quickly, unless that just isn't a problem for you. If you have a Kindle that has the x-ray feature that will help otherwise it might not hurt to take notes along the way.

Breanne says

FIRST READS!!!

I was a lucky winner of this book and I was ecstatic that it came signed and everything! If you love action and revenge and stuff like that, try this one out =) I honestly have to say though, I am still trying to finish this book. I appreciate winning it, but I personally cannot get into it. There are so many words and situations that I am not familiar with. I tried, I reaaally tried and I honestly wish I could love it. I will continue to keep trying too =)

From what I did read, I realized that this author put a lot of work into researching and writing this novel. He really loves his work and I think that if you think you'd be interested in this book, GO FOR IT!!!

Jack Shaw says

I'm still reading the book because I am intrigued with the unusual locales and characters; however, too much happens by coincidence. The descriptions of the locales make this book most interesting as well as the variety of characters. I don't think I've ever read a book where most of the action takes place in West Africa. The author obviously knows his subject. The hero seems to have friends in all the right places who'll do anything for him and just happen to be retired. It's a good read, but if you're looking for a roller coaster ride of action, this isn't it. Had the book been leaner, maybe. I would read something else from from this author. My first impression was that he was definitely worth the trouble but I lost interest as more and more became coincidental. The book seemed to go on forever.

Bruce says

This had a very slow start that I almost put it down twice. Finally got to a point where it gained traction. It

was okay, but not great. Not sure i will read another from him.

Toby says

disclaimer I won this book through the Goodreads First Reads Giveaway, but my review is 100% honest.

Bob Allen says

One has to totally suspend belief. Not an enjoyable book. Simple errors ? up the river on one page, down the river on the next. Protagonists in gun fight more than once but neither seriously injured or killed - REALLY? Unnecessary sexual elements. Only good was flawed attempt to explain blood diamond trade. Complex relationships between US President, traitor in government, Angolan government, one of the bad guys, diamond trade, development aid ??just all tangled and mangled together.

Jim says

"A For Argonaut" reads like a non-fiction.

Absolutely makes one think this is or has happened. And for once the main character "Mack Maran" seems to be a real everyday Joe and not the usual super human hero.

Great job Mr. Stedman. This is a book to put on your to read list and then put it on your to re-read list.

Sarah says

I received a personalized autographed copy through a goodreads giveaway. Thank you.

The plot of this book was well thought out but I found the delivery very clinical. There were a lot of acronyms and although they were explained it made the book difficult to get into. It deals with blood diamonds, abuse of woman and children in Africa. Also deals with treason and betrayal in the military. All of these things make a great plot but I just couldn't get into the characters enough to care what happened to them.

It may be that all of the military terms made this book too far above my comprehension but I just didn't enjoy it. This is only my opinion and others may really enjoy it.

Thank you for the opportunity to read this book.
