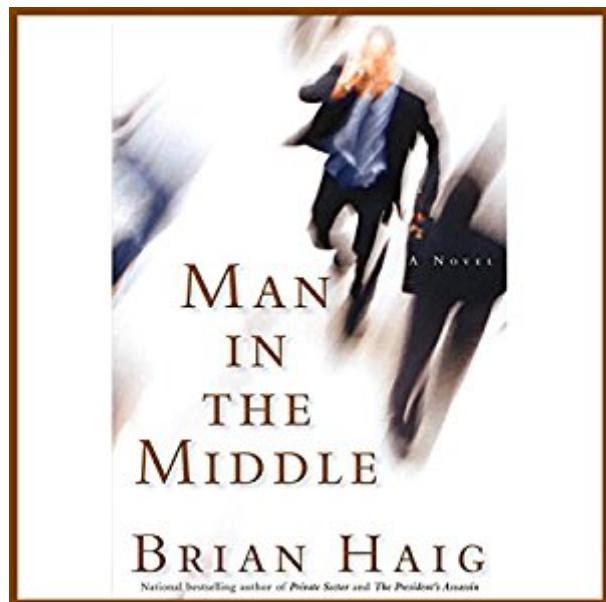


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Man In The Middle



Synopsis

For newly promoted Army lieutenant colonel Sean Drummond, his latest assignment starts off simply enough: find out if the death of one of D.C.'s most influential defense officials was murder or suicide. Most investigators would call it a cut-and-dried case, but nothing is ever that simple. Teamed with Bian Tran, the attractive Army Military Police officer investigating the case, Drummond is about to embark on a journey that takes him from the labyrinthine channels of American intelligence to the killing rooms of Iraq. None of it will be more difficult than navigating the shadowy minds and motivations of his enemies and so-called colleagues. What Drummond uncovers will make him question everything he believes in. Because the more he digs, the more he learns about the key players-American and Middle Eastern-in a war that rages bloodier every day. A war where betrayal is a daily occurrence and makes him ask: Are my loyalties to my superiors or to the American soldiers battling for their lives? --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Good News: Like all of Haig's Sean Drummond books, "The Man in the Middle" is an excellent read, especially if one enjoys reading about the bureaucratic struggles that manifest themselves within our government. Brian Haig is wonderful writer, who keeps you involved with the story. He fills his books with a lot of interesting information about the armed services, the spying agencies, and the legal profession. His characters are vivid and very colorful as he weaves them into an ever-moving plot of deceit, corruption, and misinformation. Moreover, there are plenty of humorous

exchanges and wisecracking that gives the book a sense of realism. His endings are usually pleasantly surprising.

The Bad News: Sean Drummond is a lawyer with a Special Forces background. Unfortunately, he couldn't be mistaken for a "Jack Reacher or a Bobby Lee Swagger." Drummond has an unmanly inclination towards submissive behavior when dealing with the opposite sex, which makes him appear somewhat uninteresting and exceedingly lame. He appears to be more interested in cracking jokes and embarrassing his bosses, than with cutting through the bureaucratic nonsense. Also, he doesn't appear to be the brightest star in the sky, when it comes to figuring out what or who he is up against. Brian Haig spends way too much time and space on meaningless dialogues and unrealistic situations that can drive a reader into a deep sleep.

The Big Picture: Much like Haig's attitude towards our involvement in Vietnam, the idea that our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan could have been instigated by the Iranian intelligence agencies by feeding us bogus information about the WMD in Iraq is completely inaccurate and misleading. Obviously, the Bush administration with the help of the corporate media had every intention of riding the public's hysterical wave over 9/11 into those countries. Furthermore, Haig doesn't appear to understand the economic and political nature of these wars that made it impossible for us to have achieved any degree of success. I guess he never read President Eisenhower's farewell speech to the nation, because the Military/Industrial/Media Complex is alive and well. These wars were never about spreading democracy, our national defense, or even "they tried to kill my daddy." But rather, they were about corporate profits, plain and simple. Off the record, I believe the Bush administration, which was filled with Reagan's war hawks, used the tragedy of 9/11 as an excuse to invade Iraq and Afghanistan for the sole purpose of eventually invading Iran. The Pentagon and the right-wing establishment in Washington have always dreamed of replacing Iran's Muslin government with a pro-western dictator in an effort to possess their oil reserves. Unfortunately though, these Republican war hawks ignorantly assumed that we would be viewed as liberators. But instead, they found themselves bogged down in the middle of two civil wars that destroyed any idea of them going into Iran. How else can one explain the absurdity of attacking two foreign countries which had nothing to do with 9/11? It was an ambitious and faulty plan based upon their total lack of ignorance Middle Eastern history and the religious and political turmoil that has always tormented the region.

As a retired Vietnam veteran and an historian, I did enjoy Brian Haig's, *The Man in the Middle*, along with his other books. I hope that he continues to write.

This is my 5th Drummond spy/thriller by Brian Haig, admittedly my favorite! I immensely enjoy Haig's style: Drummond, his JAG hero, is smart, resourceful, gutsy and full of humor. But the best part of Haig's hero is his mild, chauvinistic, conservative humor, which Haig shares with the reader mostly throughout each book. Mostly, I mean, probably 60-70% of each book is an extensive description of Drummond's humorous thoughts. As in all other Drummond series, Sean is forced to team up with a beautiful, but uncommonly conniving female partner, with whom he has to share trust and more than often mistrust. In *Man in the Middle*, the scene is the post-war days in Iraq, the messy circumstances facing the US Army with terrorists attacks and fumbled US politic as portrayed by Phyllis his CIA boss and her superiors.

Once again, Haig writes a page turner that is a spy novel, political thriller and whodunnit with the brilliant sarcasm his protagonist, Sean Drummond, does like no other. I've read this one twice and was awestruck twice by the shocking truth revealed at the climax.

I am a fan of Nelson DeMille's John Corey books. After having read them all several times, I was ready to move on to a new author. Looking around the internet, I found several sites that recommended Brian Haig, suggesting that he was witty and sarcastic (much like DeMille's character). What I found was nothing short of amazing. Haig's writing is more exciting, better paced, and sometimes even more witty and clever than DeMille's. I ate up all of Haig's books in a matter of days, and will be hard-pressed to find an author I like more. This book (part murder mystery, part political intrigue, part legal thriller) involves the main character's (Lt. Col. Sean Drummond) investigation into a murder in Washington, D.C. that might have political ramifications. As he investigates, he becomes embroiled in a politically charged intrigue that takes him from D.C. deep into the heart of the war in Iraq. Having read my share of mystery's from Poe, Agatha Christie and Conan Doyle all the way to other modern writers like DeMille and Michael Connelly, I am often disappointed when authors give too much away or depend too much on cliché's. I often take bets with myself about who did it or why, and sadly I'm often right. This book, however, has some completely unexpected twists and turns before finding out who did it and why. I highly recommend it.

Would have given it 4 1/2 stars but that is not possible. Have always enjoyed this writer and look forward to his next book(s).

I pride myself on being able to solve most mysteries on my own as the plot develops. However, plot

twist at the end really tricked me. Great read written by a writer that really understands the military and politicians. I believe this story is probably very close to the truth except for the murders that underlay the plot. Not that the government is not capable of murder to cover incredible bad decisions.

I loved the previous books in this series and would give them all five stars. This book had a more serious tone, and I felt like I was being lectured by Sean Drummond through much of it. Unfortunately, most of what was divulged was information I already knew about Iraq. The setup was quite long--real action didn't take place until 1/3 of the way into the book. I recommend all the previous books with Sean Drummond by Brian Haig. I love the voice, the characters, the settings, the plots, the witty dialogue.

Sean Drummond character is excellent. Brian Haig does a wonderful job of story telling. I have read all the Sean Drummond books and I hope he continues the series. Thanks, Carl Clause

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