



Reign in Hell

William Diehl

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William Diehl stunned readers with *Primal Fear* and *Show of Evil*, the national bestsellers featuring Chicago lawyer Martin Vail. Now, in his gripping new novel of suspense, Diehl enters uncharted territory, pushing Vail and the legal system he represents to the brink of destruction.

After an ultra-right-wing militia seizes truckloads of highly volatile weapons, the president turns to Illinois attorney general Martin Vail. His job: nail the terrorists in their tracks. Vail plunges into his new, near-impossible mission, one that soon explodes into a personal nightmare as his most chilling adversary, Aaron Stampler, returns--seemingly from the dead--to exact a vengeance that could bring Vail to his knees. . . .

Reign in Hell Details

Date : Published July 29th 1998 by Ballantine Books (first published 1997)

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Author : William Diehl

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Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Mystery, Crime, Suspense, Mystery Thriller, Horror, Law, Psychology, Psychological Thriller

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From Reader Review Reign in Hell for online ebook

Lyndel Gayle says

boring the first time reader and yes i got bored and i know angering those who had read his works before because of the previous compliments that he had for his books..

ahm Overall a good effort..good enough, effort that I cannot recommend in good faith.

Eve Kay says

I read some of the reviews on Goodreads before embarking on *Reign in Hell*. I actually read quite a few of them, at least in my standards, because I tend not to read too many reviews before reading the book so as not to spoil it.

So, I knew pretty much the idea in the story and that there would be a lot of stuff Diehl wanted to really write about - like war, different equipment used in war and tactics and such - so it really wasn't the Stamper vs. Vail experience I've grown to love.

But most importantly, I just didn't seem to get a grip on the story or the story just didn't hold my attention enough to really get into it and the whole reading experience really became tedious.

Ashley says

DAMN IT!!!

I really wanted this to be as good as the others, I just could not get the story it was WAY OVER THE TOP. (I enjoy comic books, and this was to over the top. Lol) well this was the end of the Martian Vail series. And I'm not happy but glad it's over I don't think I'd be too thrilled to read 1 more after that mess...

Kellylynn says

Written in a similar way to Patterson, I think I like this better than Patterson. It is a good thriller. I rather liked the lawyer Martin Vail, I could understand him and his motives throughout the story. And this one seems to bring back a surprise, evil character from another in this series. So it is almost like there are 2 story lines converging into one. Definitely liked this and would potentially look for another in this series, if I ever make it through the stack in my library.

Rae says

The third and last thriller involving the juvenile delinquent prosecuted in *Primal Fear*. This was not as fun as the first two, but it has lots of insight into fanatic religious-right groups who stockpile weapons.

Cheryl Hall says

I wasn't sure whether to rate this one star or two stars, so I'll just say it warrants a 1.5.

I wanted to enjoy this as I loved Primal Fear and wanted to see how the story ended but for the most part this book was boring.

Eriictseo says

Literary equivalent of cheesy knuckles. Cheesy and hard to put down with no nutritional value.

Super lawyer fights christian militia groups to explosive finale. Good enough to not put down, but I would have preferred to not pick it up.

Celina says

it was a disappointment after reading the first two books. it doesn't show off martin Vail's awesomeness, really. stupid president.

even Aaron Stampler's end wasn't exciting! uggh disappointed fan here. unfortunately Diehl is dead.

Andie says

Disappointing after the other 2.

Seth says

A novel that was memorable and unique enough that I have elected to read it for a second time almost four years later.

The main reason that I'm reading this book over again is because this book is not a "stand alone" story but rather the conclusion of a trilogy based around the characters of Martin Vail and Aaron Stampler first introduced in what is usually regarded as Diehl's best novel "Primal Fear"

This was the first book that I read in that series and it catapulted me to go back and read the first two novels. Now I'm re-reading this book for new perspective.

You don't need to read the first two books to appreciate the quality of this novel but you probably would do best to read the novels in order particularly because the 1st one is the best in a series where none of the books

qualify as being "bad"

This book takes on the issues of domestic terrorism and hate in the 1990's. William Diehl was not a young man when he wrote this story, but he seemed to have some good information about the most important technologies that would shape the next decade.

Loie says

As a political intrigue, I found this book easy to follow and understand. It involves religious fanatics in Montana and RICO lawyer made assistant AG to bring them to justice. Before this can happen "war" is declared and another WACO occurs.

Paul Weiss says

Poor sequel but a solid political thriller!

No doubt in my mind at all! **Primal Fear** and **Show of Evil** hold down two places in the pantheon of the finest, most frightening thrillers ever written. William Diehl should be proud that, as a starring villain, Aaron Stampler can hold his evil head high in a terrifying literary rogue's gallery that would include the likes of Hannibal Lecter, Voldemort, Lord Sauron, Count Fosco, Bill Sikes and Moriarty. But, as a sequel trying to stand up to that kind of advance billing, **Reign in Hell** falls flat on its face.

Reign in Hell is actually a very competently written political thriller but, for some reason, presumably some added suspense and chills, Diehl felt compelled to shoehorn a resurrected Aaron Stampler into the plot. And, sadly, it just doesn't fly! Stampler's appearance is artificial, clumsy, forced, predictable and entirely lacking in the kind of knee-knocking, teeth-chattering, bone-deep shivers that readers of the first two novels will have been looking for.

So if we set this rather pitiful effort around Aaron Stampler aside, what are we left with?

Martin Vail, former Chicago prosecuting attorney, has been appointed by the president to a pro tem posting as Assistant Attorney General. His near impossible mission under an unbelievably tight deadline is to put together a racketeering case under the RICO statutes against a number of ultra-right wing militia groups. Far from your run-of-the-mill collection of loudmouth skinheads, these groups with adherents now numbering well into the thousands, have recently stolen several truckloads of high-powered weapons, robbed banks to finance their efforts and clearly ratcheted their mobilization efforts into high gear towards an ultimate declaration of war against the US government. President Pennington is determined to bring these militia groups to heel through the courts and, at all costs, wants to avoid a face to face encounter such as the one that embarrassed the government in Waco, Texas, with David Koresh and the Branch Davidians.

Reign in Hell has got a lot to say for itself - plenty of great political discussion; some fairly heavy characterization and criticism of the US political and religious right-wing agendas; some truly exciting slam-bam military action in the final confrontation as the army and marines confront the militia group, completely boxed in inside their Montana mountain enclave; and, a satisfying climax that leaves a hint of suspense to

come together with a predictably sour taste about the overall politics of the event.

Too bad, Diehl decided to clutter it up with Aaron Stampler. At least, Stampler lives on ... so perhaps his next appearance will be back up to the standard of terror that we didn't get here!

Paul Weiss

LJ says

REIGN IN HELL (Susp-Martin Vail-Cont- Ex
Diehl, William - 3rd in series

From Fantastic Fiction: A top secret military convoy is hijacked in the Rocky Mountains. Thousands of innocent lives are threatened and the President of the USA must act. So he calls on the one man who has the bravado to stop the terrorists, Attorney General Martin Vail.

John Grisham meets Alister Maclaine. Excellent after Chapter 1.

Jamie says

I actually read this book twice. The first time more than a decade ago. I absolutely enjoyed it the first time. The second time I read it, I had only just found out it was part three of the Vail/Stampler series. After reading it again, I stand by my initial opinion that it was a good book. However, many reviews have stated that it felt forced and out of place in the series. I agree. As a stand alone book it is fantastic. As the conclusion of the Vail/Stampler series it is disappointing.

Shraddha says

Not impressed... not enough fear, not enough Martin and definitely not enough Aron.
