



Cally's War

John Ringo , Julie Cochrane

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Cally O'Neal was trained from childhood as a premier killer. Officially listed as dead, for the past forty years she has lived a life of aliases, random lovers and targeted assassinations. This has led her to become the top in her profession, undefeatable, invulnerable. And in the process, she has lost her soul. Now she, and the man she loves, must battle to reclaim it. But Cally will find that leaving her dark world of shadow identities, murder-for-hire, and deadly secrets will be more difficult than any of the many lethal operations she carried out in the past. Her employers think she knows too much to live, and the scores of enemies she has made still have her at the top of their hit lists. The real question is, will she win her soul only to lose her life?

Cally's War Details

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From Reader Review Cally's War for online ebook

Dr. Jim says

This is an espionage story set in a Sci-Fi world. It moved slow. I struggled to get through it. It was so not Sci-Fi that it turned me off to the rest of the series

Chuck says

It is very obvious that this book was written by Julie Cochrane, not John Ringo. Compared to the rest of the Posleen War series this is a real disappointment, and made me not want to read the rest of the series.

Chris Perrin says

As with all John Ringo books, I feel like I've just left a really smutty bar. I know I had a good time, but I feel like I need to go shower.

Cally's War has all the hallmarks of a John Ringo novel: a protagonist that cannot be defeated, only slowed down, bad guys who are bad on the thinnest of excuses, cool action scenes, women who are impossibly attractive (apparently in the future everyone is gorgeous), etc. etc. etc.

Still, as much as I grouse about John Ringo books, I still read them and guiltily enjoy them. In some ways, though, Cally's War is a bit of a head scratcher. She is one of my favorite Ringo characters (better than Iron Mike and Herzer Herrick) because she has an emotional depth that makes her more interesting. On the other hand, I didn't really understand what the point of Cally's War was until I figured out it was part of a larger series since the book ends long before the series does.

Overall, I gave the book 3 stars in the hopes that the series will conclude satisfactorily in the next book(s).

Dan says

05/28/17 3rd re-read. Very good, and different in scope and focus from the original series.

Dan M. says

-BEWARE-BEWARE-BEWARE-BEWARE-BEWARE-BEWARE-BEWARE-BEWARE-BEWARE-
To all the lovers of Posleen books

The previose books were fantastic. Reading this book was hours of waiting for that fantasim. This should not be called "Cally's War" (the bad ass story of cally [raised in war to be a ultimate assasin:]) but "Cally's trip to the mall" or perhaps " Cally's Cross Country Adventure". This book tricks us in to thinking it is Ringo by its

first chapter (which is dark and badass) and then it sinks down and down and down from there.

Buyers beware this was not written by John Ringo!

This was written by a lassie who knowes nothing of the Posleen story or military SciFi.

DO NOT BUY OR READ!!!

Neil says

I was disappointed with this book the first time I read it, and it was still disappointing in some respects this time around as well. Granted, I think it is mildly better than *Hero* (from what I remember of that book; I think I have only read it once, it was such a stinker). I felt it was one of the weaker books of the series, especially in light of the "Sidestories" that would come out after this and the next two books. I would say that I liked a little more than half of it, and the rest of it I could have done without. It felt like it was a mix of short stories that were sewed together with some extraneous stuff to "fill in the gaps" and make it a full-fledged novel. It has zero Posleen in it, and it has zero appearances of Mike O'Neal, Junior. It focuses on Cally, Mike O'Neal, Senior, and Tommy, with a cameo of Wendy and Shari.

From the dust jacket and comments made in the early portions of the book, one could say it might be a "character study" of Cally after fighting for well-nigh forty years, thirtysome of those years being some kind of "secret war" that we really do not know much about. I suppose it would be more what might a person be like after fighting for so long and being focused on nothing other than killing those deemed to be traitors to humanity. Cally has become callous, cold, calculating, and having multiple personalities with whom she identifies and lives each day of her life as opposed to being able to "just be herself" when she is no at work. So I suppose it could, somehow, be about a woman who finally discovers there is more to live than just killing targets, that she might actually "have a reason to live" and consider life beyond being an assassin, and how she "blossoms" inside? I do not know; it was not an impressive book.

So what did I not like about the book? There is not really a lot of "action" (in the sense of "military action") in the book. Based on the cover, I did not anticipate there being much, to be honest, but it was still a little disappointing. I was wanting to read more about the ACS and Mike O'Neal, Junior, as opposed to what was in this book. (view spoiler)

So, having vented about what I did not like about the book, was there anything I did like? Actually, there was plenty I did like about the book.(view spoiler)

I do not know how to describe it, really. It starts off with a bit of a bang, and the it is very slow (almost abysmally slow), action-wise, before it starts picking up the pace, again. I did not really mind most of the slow parts, but some did get intolerably slow, and I wanted them to be over with. Still, though, I did enjoy the book (for some bizarre reason I cannot articulate). I would say a high 2.8 - 2.9 stars, rounded up to 3 stars, I suppose. It was not what I expected it to be the first time I read it, and it was still a disappointment to me even after this reading. I am glad that I reread it, though, despite its failings.

Michael McGill says

My least favorite of this series. It is interesting but very different. More of a spy thriller novel from a woman's perspective and lots of sex. Not to say it is a bad read. It is just very different. I suspect that the co-author did the bulk of the writing with Ringo overseeing it for story approval. It has a decidedly female feeling to the writing. There is a lot of focus on what the character decides to wear and she is more emotional by her internal dialogue than she is described in the book by other characters or even herself. The main thing that I didn't like is that she is just not a very likable character. All hitmen (and, by analogy, assassins) are by definition sociopathic. It is hard to sympathize with that and there isn't enough of the specifics of the cause to make me want to excuse her actions aside from the very first scenario with some real scumbags. She is certainly a very damaged person but not particularly endearing, relate-able or ethical.

Anyway, I would still recommend it for the purpose of filling in the story on this side of the war if you are so inclined. I would recommend doing so before reading Eye of the Storm.

Craig Russo says

Really tough keeping the characters straight.

Chip Hunter says

I wanted to (and expected to) like this book. After the disappointing side trip into the future with THE HERO, I was looking forward to getting back to the present day post-invasion world with the great characters we had come to love in the original 4-book saga. Here we are reintroduced to Cally O'Neal, a fine-tuned and multi-talented assassin working for the Bane Sidhe. Sexy, strong, and smart, Cally seems like an excellent character, but early on in the book you find that your expectations are way too high. Predictable, cynical, sardonic, and depressed, you find that the potentially great character of Cally O'Neal has been thoroughly ruined. A raging sex fiend and a binge-shopper, Cally is nothing like the professional and purpose-driven

hero I expected. This is one protagonist that I came to like less and less as the story progressed. Her completely unhealthy and unemotional approach to sex is truly bizarre. I'm not typically one to complain about books being too graphic, but this one takes it over the top with mind-numbing, pointless, and violent sex. I mean, come on, Cally really doesn't even mind being gang-raped?? Just ridiculous and off-putting.

Also, the book does very little to further the story as a whole. You get a little detail about the way of the world post-invasion, and about intergalactic relations, but to a very limited degree. The plot of this book is of a very personal nature and doesn't have any major implications for the universe or the various peoples inhabiting it. Actually, while the book cover promises this to be "Cally's most important mission", she and the other characters are little changed by the end, and in essentially the same positions they were in at the beginning of the book.

A very disappointing read, hopefully Ringo can get some life back into this series... Certainly NOT recommended.

Andreas says

This book is part of Ringo's Legacy of the Aldenata universe. Set about fifty years after the Posleen War, its main character is Cally O'Neal, daughter of Mike O'Neal. Her father believes her dead, but in fact she is an assassin and intelligence operative for a secret organization known as the Bane Sidhe. The purpose of the organization is to resist the autocratic rule of the Darhel. But that's just the backstory. This novel deals with how Cally has to assassinate a counterintelligence officer. And how she falls in love with a rival agent. It's complicated.

There is much to like about this book. Cally herself is deeply flawed mentally and she wears different identities like personae. She is probably over 70, but with rejuvenation the body is young, and she lives like a twenty year old. The bad part is the very long introduction. Before we get to the main action, half the book is spent on what is basically a tangent. While it neatly sets up Cally's character and backstory, I still felt that it could have been trimmed. To add insult to injury, the conclusion feels hurried, with some characters barely getting a personality before playing important parts.

If you have read the other books in the series, you may like this one. But note that there are no Posleen to fight and it's not really about combat.

<http://www.books.rosboch.net/?p=1195>

PCress says

Well done, .. maybe this framework is wearing out for me. I did like the characters and this is a character study in a way.

Jim says

Product Description

Cally O'Neal was trained from childhood as a premier killer. Officially listed as dead, for the past forty years she has lived a life of aliases, random lovers and targeted assassinations. This has led her to become the top in her profession, undefeatable, invulnerable. And in the process, she has lost her soul. Now she, and the man she loves, must battle to reclaim it. But Cally will find that leaving her dark world of shadow identities, murder-for-hire, and deadly secrets will be more difficult than any of the many lethal operations she carried out in the past. Her employers think she knows too much to live, and the scores of enemies she has made still have her at the top of their hit lists. The real question is, will she win her soul only to lose her life?

About the Author

John Ringo is author of the New York Times best-selling series so far comprising *A Hymn Before Battle*, *Gust Front*, *When the Devil Dances*, and *Hell's Faire*, and co-author with David Weber of *March Upcountry* and *March to the Sea*, the first three books in the popular *Prince Roger* series. He had visited 23 countries by the time he graduated high school. A veteran of the 82nd Airborne, he brings first-hand knowledge of military operations to his fiction. His latest solo novel is *Emerald Sea*, the sequel to *There will be Dragons*.

Julie Cochrane was born in Ohio and made her first attempts at novels in junior high and high school. Initially studying Chemistry at Georgia Tech, she got her bachelors in psychology and promptly decided that computer science was a better way to earn a living. She lives in the Atlanta Metro area with her husband, their daughter, one very enthusiastic German Shepherd, and the gerbil custodian of the secrets of the universe. Her hobbies include pistol marksmanship, history, criminology, Irish language, and folk music.

Xan says

Podría ser un gran libro para cerrar una serie que me encanta pero se queda en un spin-off que apenas aporta nada a la trama. El personaje de Cally era la opción más lógica para desarrollar la historia detrás de la invasión de los Posleen. Lamentablemente el cambio de autor, porque aunque lo firman a medias el texto es al cien por cien de Julie Cochrane, ha dejado esta parte de la historia en una simple aventura de espías. Con mucha paja, muchos traumas y algo de política, pero sin ningún avance significativo.

Para pasar el rato.

Stephen says

I work at a library. The cover intrigued me. So I picked it up. I'm a sucker for hot cover chicks. =x

Anyway, this review is different from the others because I am *NOT* a John Ringo reader. Never picked up anything of his before. When all the other reviews compare it to Ringo's solo books about the Posleen War, I've got no frame of reference.

And overall I mostly thought it was okay, except for a few things, one of which was the lack of a frame of reference. There were a lot of things the book talked about that I didn't understand, and as a result during the interludes where Cally was not the perspective character, I didn't know if I was talking to friend or foe.

The second and petty thing is that apparently future Earth is almost exactly like Earth in the 90's, except for in the ways that it's not. I wouldn't expect there to be hippies and skater chicks and all the same exact culturally stereotypical characters and icons there are today. Plus, everyone (or at least Cally) is very well-versed in things my high school students know jack about.

And the pacing is odd. Cally goes on two missions, an official and an unofficial mission. During the unofficial mission, she gets revenge against some dude who screwed her dad and her military buddies forty years ago. (This, by the way, creates a firestorm within her organization that is not the least bit explained, but talked about at length.) Then the real mission takes place, spans 50% of the book, and is VERY rapidly resolved during the one time in the book where Cally is finally in a position where she doesn't hold all the cards. The conclusion seems like it's destined for a happy ending, and then suddenly a sad one instead, and then it gets left hanging and open-ended. I hate ambiguous endings.

If you can get past that, the story's decent. The writing's good when Cochrane isn't force-feeding bits of 20th Century culture into it. As a superbabe, Cally's pretty awesome; completely impervious to everything, it seems, except people spilling cups of coffee. (There's lots of coffee-spilling in this book...almost as much as their is incidental sex.) But she's not indestructible, and she's definitely got some emotional demons that keep her interesting. As a supreme covert operative, she is constantly playing at being someone else, which makes her headspace interesting. Plus, she literally has a magic medical device that can reshape her body to give her huge boobs. =p

If you aren't familiar with it, I recommend you listen to Evanescence's Fallen album, or at least Bring Me to Life, before you hit the very end of the novel. Cochrane certainly gives some nudging to say that it was an important motif in her writing, and I'm inclined to agree.

I'll check out the sequel if the library has it, but I won't cry if they don't. It's not worth ordering through interlibrary loan.

Tasula says

I tried to read this, but gave up after a few chapters. The heroine spent a lot of time talking about the kinds of clothes her different personas liked, how they did their nails, what kind of music they liked, we followed her to beauty salons and shopping, and a delightful romp on a dangerous beach with her girlfriends and their kids and dog. I did like the dog, but not much else. There are two authors, and I am guessing the male author wrote the brutal parts (the torture, for instance, and the weaponry) and the female half treated us to fashion, hair and girly girly stuff. I just couldn't go on.
