



## Redemption

*Will Jordan*

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# Redemption

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## **Redemption** Will Jordan

Ryan Drake is a man who finds people who don't want to be found.

Once a soldier in the British Army, he now works for the CIA, leading an elite investigation team that tracks down missing agents. But his latest mission - to free a prisoner codenamed Maras and bring her back onto US soil within forty-eight hours - is more dangerous than anything his team has attempted before.

Despite the risks, the team successfully completes their mission, but for Drake the real danger has only just begun. Faced with a terrible threat, he is forced to go on the run with Maras - a veteran agent scarred by years of brutal imprisonment.

Hunted by his former comrades and those willing to do anything to protect a deadly secret, Drake is left with no choice but to trust a dangerous woman he barely knows. For he has only one chance to save those he loves and time is running out...

## **Redemption Details**

Date : Published July 21st 2012 by Cornerstone Digital (first published June 21st 2012)

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Author : Will Jordan

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## From Reader Review Redemption for online ebook

### Simon says

3 1/2 stars really, a bit overly long I thought, the pace slackened off during the middle, but no the less pretty good. Will has written book 2 but I notice no more after that !

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### Jacki (Julia Flyte) says

This is a fast moving thriller, the perfect book to make a long plane journey feel shorter. Our hero, Ryan Drake, is ex SAS and now works for a specialist division of the CIA, charged with finding and if necessary rescuing CIA agents who go off grid. He is given the assignment of rescuing a former agent from a high security and very remote Siberian prison. The agent is a woman, codenamed Maras, and she is both startlingly beautiful and a very efficient killer. The first third of the book deals with this assignment and it flows very quickly. Once Maras is back on US soil, Ryan thinks he will have no more to do with her, but a change in circumstances puts them on the run together.

I enjoyed this book. It moves quickly, which allows you to ignore the (many) implausibilities and time compressions. It reminded me of the later Robert Ludlum books like The Prometheus Deception. I liked Ryan Drake's character - he's highly competent but no uber-hero.

A few criticisms. The writing is quite repetitive. Characters eyes frequently "light up". Good looking people inevitably have narrow noses and jaws tapering down to well-defined chins. Different characters use the same words to describe the same events. There is also a section set in Saudi Arabia when Maras (blonde female) moves around the city freely without head covering, uses public transport and then drives a car for several hours. All of these actions are either illegal or extremely unlikely in Saudi Arabia and completely lack plausibility.

I also hated the cover design. Covers in this genre are increasingly conforming to a genre. Solo man with movement behind him. Lee Child is the most successful example, now copied by Vince Flynn, Robert Crais, Nelson DeMille etc. This is trying to mimic those covers but for some unknown reason our protagonist is running in a suit. The running man in the suit is generally the sign of a legal thriller, eg John Grisham or Mark Giminez. Moreover, Ryan Drake barely wears a suit in the entire book! It's a cobbled together, low effort, shoddy cover design, and frankly, this book deserves better.

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### Tom Tischler says

Ryan Drake is a former British Army soldier who now works for the CIA. He is called a shepherd. This is an elite investigation team that finds and brings back missing agents. His latest mission is to free a prisoner codenamed Maras from a Russian prison and he only has forty-eight hours. This is the most dangerous mission he and his team have ever attempted but despite the risks it is successfully completed. But for Drake

the real danger is just beginning. Faced with a terrible threat he must go on the run with Maras a veteran agent who is scarred by years of brutal imprisonment. He is hunted by former comrades and those willing to protect a deadly secret. Drake has no choice but to trust a woman he barely knows. He has only one chance to save the ones he loves and time is running out. I can only say that Goodreads only rates books to a 5. I would have given this one a 10 and it's Will Jordan's first book. This is 500 pages of action packed adventure and if you like thrillers I would not pass this up. He has just completed his second book and I'm already looking for it.

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### **Raven says**

A high-octane and fast paced tale of derring-do set in the world of elite investigation and black-ops that had me hooked throughout. The hero of the piece is Ryan Drake, a wonderful amalgamation of thriller favourites, Geordie Sharp, Nick Stone and 'Spider' Shepherd but with a slightly softer centre as he finds himself at the whim of his immediate superiors and with an additional threat to his nearest and dearest. Tasked with liberating a former CIA agent, Maras, from a harsh prison in the snowy wastes of Siberia, Drake and his team come to realise that this mission is not all that it first appears to be and forces Drake on the run with Maras as the depth of this conspiracy becomes clear.

One of the strongest aspects of this book is Jordan's grasp of characterisation as Drake is a compelling and empathetic protagonist with a strong moral sense but who seeks to retain his professionalism as a soldier. Maras, named after the goddess of war, also proves to be an intriguing and exceptionally well-drawn character and is probably the finest kick-derriere heroine of the thriller genre I have read. She is incredibly driven, consumed with a thirst for revenge and not above using her feminine wiles to manipulate Drake to achieve this. Likewise, the characterisation of members of Drake's disparate team and his oily superiors is equally balanced and I particularly liked Drake's nemesis Dietrich who Drake reluctantly adds to his team and the way their rocky history comes to light.

The plot moves quickly through a series of unforgiving terrains as Drake and Maras go on the run for reasons that I will not reveal as this would totally spoil this read but needless to say Jordan's depiction of these locations is utterly authentic and I particularly enjoyed the Siberian section getting a real sense of the isolated and brutal confines of a frankly despicable place of incarceration. Jordan has said that having undergone a military bootcamp in the past, igniting his passion for military hardware and history, that he has undertaken much research in the US and Europe becoming something of an arms expert and this is self-evident throughout the plot. There is a meticulous attention to weaponry and military procedures throughout, which is not only informative but reveals much of this secret world of military warfare.

Overall a very creditable debut and bodes well for a long running series featuring this new action-hero on the block and perfect for readers looking for something to supplement the works of other established writers in the military thriller genre...

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## **Jeff says**

There was nothing particularly new or different about the characters (ex-Special Forces, some with a history, others with a personal grudge), the dialogue was what you would expect from hardened soldiers, the conspiracy that drives the book has been done before, and the villain at the end was no great surprise.

But having said all of that, the story whipped along, at times at an explosive pace, and some of the set pieces were very exciting. And I liked Ryan Drake.

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## **Jenifer Mohammed says**

An excellent thriller with lots of suspense, double-crosses, and people who are never quite what they seem to be. Drake is a honourable soldier/CIA operative and Maras is a woman/former operative who is a survivor determined to get justice for what has been done to her. This book will keep you up all night to see how it all ends.

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## **Jacob Chinchen says**

Really enjoyed this one. Would have read it quicker if I didn't keep nodding off on the bus to or from work - which is not a reflection on the quality of the book, more a reflection on the stamina of the person reading it.

Immediately scoped out the second book and will be buying it when I've finished typing this review.

So round about now, then.

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## **Wade Parks says**

### **Shepards**

Ryan Clarke, a soldier is tarnished and tormented by his past. Until he meets an angel who elevates his 'game'. She may be an angel of death, but her values resonate with Clarke and renew his confidence. The CIA takes the hits and bad characters abound. Clarke and his angel migrate minefields of danger, deceit and technology. The ending surprises so don't look for forgiveness

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## **Shared Machine says**

The characters are compelling. The situations are tense. The pacing and style are strong. Jordan sets the scenes clearly and deftly moves you from one set-up to the next. Good solid read.

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## **Pat says**

Fast-paced, uncompromising thriller. Secret plots and schemes within the CIA pit operatives against each other in a frantic race against time. This book has all the essential elements of the genre. If you like military-style action thrillers, this book will not disappoint.

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## **Mark Rosenau says**

Wow! A fast paced thriller that caught my attention right from the first page. Stayed up a little too late last night finishing this one! Can't wait to read the rest of the series.

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## **Andy Von Hayn says**

Ein schneller Thriller mit einer sympathischen Hauptfigur, die einiges durchmachen muss. Der Plot nimmt ein paar schöne Wendungen und natürlich ist nichts so, wie es scheint.

Spannend und praktisch das Drehbuch für einen guten Film.

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## **Kara L. says**

I'm not usually a fan of spy thrillers, not even James Bond. However, I enjoyed this one quite a lot. The author did a really nice job setting each scene and shifting between multiple points of view. He kept things moving in a way that made a 550-page book feel not very long at all. I was very impressed with his knowledge of weaponry and maneuvers. I also felt that, for the most part, the characters were very well done. Ryan Drake is a relatable protagonist despite his unusual line of work. But the best character, by far, is "Maras," also known as (spoiler) Anya. That is both the novel's strength and a weakness.

Maras is incredibly well developed, charismatic, and interesting, as shown from her actions in present time and in flashbacks to her mysterious past. Though the series is called Ryan Drake, this novel seems to revolve around Maras, and is at its best when she occupies the center stage. For certain spans of the novel, Drake seems a bit passive, following along with Maras's schemes for reasons known only to her. The final reveals are a bit predictable, but the entire novel flows well, ties together well, and promises more exciting things to come. Now on to the next novel...

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## **Dan Walker says**

Brilliant fast-paced thriller with a sympathetic protagonist (like Jack Reacher but with an actual human personality) and a kickass heroine who more than balances him out. Loved it!

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## **Evelynne says**

I learned about this book because I followed the YouTube book reviews of the author, Will Jordan. Sadly, his reviews are no longer available online, but I had been very impressed with his sharp commentary and his clear understanding of character, plot and pacing. The fact that he was able to present it in a fun and amusing way was an added bonus. Naturally, when he announced he had been awarded his first publishing contract, I was keen to see if his skills as a reviewer would translate into those of an author.

The novel most certainly did not disappoint. It is a riveting roller--coaster ride with interesting, well written characters. Jordan switches easily from viewpoint to viewpoint, with each character having his or her own motivations and voice. Although it is not a world I personally inhabit, the characters were believable and realistic. The plot was well thought out, with one twist after another and kept me turning page after page.

One review I read mentioned that the language was often repetitive and uninspired. I would say that is probably a valid criticism. It's clear Mr. Jordan is no wordsmith. However this is more than balanced by excellent characterisation, plot and pacing. Personally, I would also have welcomed some of the author's natural wit to have come across in the novel.

In any case, I will certainly read the sequel when it is published. I gave *Redemption* (Ryan Drake 1) four stars out of five.

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