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Steven F. Freeman

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Former Army Captain Alton Blackwell never thought he'd return to Afghanistan. Now he has no choice.

While on their honeymoon, cryptologist Alton Blackwell and FBI Agent Mallory Wilson receive a frantic plea for help. Resourceful Afghani teenager Mastana Meer, once instrumental in rescuing a mutual friend from Afghanistan terrorists, finds herself coerced into a nefarious plot by her Al-Qaeda uncle.

Having escaped the clutches of her terrorist uncle, the teen is days away from leaving Kabul for a better life when Alton and Mallory lose all contact with her.

As the former soldiers race to Afghanistan to search for Mastana, they battle Al-Qaeda terrorists, a resurgent cult of evil, and a web of political intrigue in which the label of friend and foe is not easily assigned. The duo must summon all their investigatory powers and combat skills in a desperate bid to track down their young friend and rescue her before her captors' malevolent designs can be set in motion.

The Devil's Due Details

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Author : Steven F. Freeman

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From Reader Review The Devil's Due for online ebook

Devi Nair says

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The Devil's Due is #5 in the BlackWell Series of books. Cryptologist Alton Blackwell is the lead character in these series. The current book has a terrorism background and the story has turns related to terrorism and Anti-God Cult activities. Although it is #5 in the series, it can be read as a stand alone as well. The characters in the story are so placed that the reader do not necessarily require the background. The story can be picked up from anywhere in the series and read as a whole.

The story is intense and starts with a running pace. The story line starts from the very first page and background is given wherever required throughout the story. I have always liked this way of narration as needless time is not wasted in giving unnecessary background first and then having to wait long for the story to begin. The characters are, as said earlier, properly developed. The development of the mystery is steady and nice. This is also a perfect book for fast reading. You can really read fast through the chapters and still understand everything.

Overall, it was an interesting read.

Evelyn Launderville says

Well written plot

I enjoyed the action parts of the book but the beginning of the book with the conversation was long and boring.

Marcia says

I can't get enough of these books

This is the 5th book in his series, and just when I finish one and think it can be any better, it shows how wrong I am. The story line keeps the main characters in each of the books and finds a way to enlist characters from earlier ones in the series. The problem is each one is hard to put down,p. They should come with a warning label!

John says

WOW!! All I can say is that is was a great fast paced thriller with great characters. Every one of the Five Star Ratings on GoodReads and Amazon are all SPOT ON! I am now off to make sure I get the other 4 books. Thanks for a great book Mr. Freeman. I won this great book on GoodReads and like I do with most my wins

I will be paying it forward by giving my win either to a friend or library to enjoy.

Tracey Lampley says

Who wouldn't want to be rescued by this hero? Alton Blackwell is a man's man. The author's characterization is spot on, and the plot is terrific. This is a five-star read.

Mary says

Former Army Captain Alton Blackwell never thought he'd return to Afghanistan. Now he has no choice. While on their honeymoon, cryptologist Alton Blackwell and FBI Agent Mallory Wilson receive a frantic plea for help. Resourceful Afghani teenager Mastana Meer, once instrumental in rescuing a mutual friend from Afghanistan terrorists, finds herself coerced into a nefarious plot by her Al-Qaeda uncle. Having escaped the clutches of her terrorist uncle, the teen is days away from leaving Kabul for a better life when Alton and Mallory lose all contact with her. As the former soldiers race to Afghanistan to search for Mastana, they battle Al-Qaeda terrorists, a resurgent cult of evil, and a web of political intrigue in which the label of friend and foe is not easily assigned. The duo must summon all their investigatory powers and combat skills in a desper

ate bid to track down their young friend and rescue her before her captors malevolent designs can be set in motion.

Marla Josephs says

Wow! What a nail biter!

Mr. Freeman drops you right into a world of, suspense, shady characters, danger and mystery when Alton and Co. come together to save one of their own. I was so glad to see Mastana again. She was a character from the first book in the series. And, what a thrilling re-introduction. This book was much different from the rest. It was more suspense than mystery, but still very well done. Alton and the gang end up returning to Afghanistan where it all began to save one of the original characters. The story moved at a fast clip and kept me hanging on the edge of my seat.

Though the book is suspenseful, there is still some mystery. When you are dropped into the action almost from the beginning, you are always wondering who can be trusted, who is part of the mysterious brotherhood, and if each new person is friend or foe.

Mr. Blackwell has outdone himself with this suspense thriller. The Devil's Due is definitely one that will keep you up reading.

Andrew says

Steven F. Freeman's "The Devil's Due" explores the intertwining fates of Alton Blackwell, Mastana, and Divband, the three characters on whom we are focused in Book 5 of the "Blackwell Series".

We begin our literary journey with Divband and his right-hand man Gyohee—who are reminiscent of Megaton and StarScream respectively—as they are "honoring" a kidnapped female teenage concubine within an eerie occult confine. A sacrificial lamb to a demonic presence that will usher in a New Age and era of darkness across the globe: an evil called "Iblis" who is brought about by way of the black jinnd. Divband stays the course as he looks forward to aiding Iblis in coming to Earth as the harbinger of destruction.

Mastana is a young Kabul teenage girl which tends to her cancer stricken mother who has days to live. Mastana grudgingly bends to the will of her Al-Qaeda following Uncle Dani who seeks to use his dear niece as a pawn in a suicide mission at an US base: Camp Eggers. Mastana loves her mother dearly, and despite needing to make tough decisions and choices, she must choose the path that is best for herself.

Alton Blackwell and his new bride Mallory are 2 military specialists who were joined by the hip during war are, on this particular day, getting ready to walk the matrimonial aisle as their friendship tempered their feelings for one another. They are deeply in love with one another, and have each other's backs. However, an email received by Alton during their honeymoon causes them to spring into action once more in Kabul.

The story at this point certainly had a lot happening during the first four books of the series, and it is apparent that the climax is being reached in this one.

Real life situations are apparent here:

War ravaged Kabul with Al-Qaeda and lesser desirables,
Suicide missions,
Occult and demonic deity worship, and
Love discovered and surpassed.

"The Devil's Due" is quite engaging with a story that is not only feasible, it is legitimately plausible. The situations that are explored are indeed going on as we speak in some way, shape, and/or form. This read gives me the impression that either Mr. Freeman experienced this firsthand, or he did some great homework.

As far as structure, the story starts off as individuals, and ultimately integrate pretty smoothly as the story progressed. I did not see anything in the way of bad spelling or grammar. Mr. Freeman constructed a read of great intrigue.

222 pages are sufficient pages to tell a story from 3 points of view, delivering on action and page turning curiosity. "The Devil's Due" is a book that'll have me and many others looking to read the first four books to understand the whole picture, as we look forward to more of this picture that I am confident will develop.

Book Junky Girls says

Alton and Mallory are finally getting married and everything goes off without a hitch...until the honeymoon.

When they get an email from their young friend Mastana in Afganastan they must find a way to help her, but how much can they do from thousands of miles away?

This was another great adventure in the Blackwell files where we see Alton and his friends helping others using their skills and smarts.

We see Alton and Mallory happy is their life together and when trouble comes they do what they do best and help out working together.

Alton has some troubles returning to Afganastan, but as always he works through them this time with Mallory there to him him as well.

Although this story is told mostly from Altons POV we see how happy Mallory is through him and how happy they are together. We also see the POVs of Mastana and the evil leader so we get a better understanding of how things are going from all sides making the story all the more interesting to unravel.

Chris says

The Devil's Due is my favorite, so far! Alton and Mallory just keep getting better and better, both as a sleuthing duo and a couple! Mr. Freeman's excellent descriptions of locales and action almost gives the feeling of watching a movie.

Charissa Wilkinson says

I received this book for a fair and honest review.

Overview: While on their honeymoon, Alton and Mallory get contacted by an old friend from Afghanistan. Mastana, the girl Alton pulled from the bazaar explosion, needs help. Along with David and Fahima, they mount a rescue operation.

Likes: This one is true to the other books in the Blackwell Files. We get to meet the former detective Nur Hanif. And Alton has shown his abilities as a 'grey hat' hacker.

Dislikes: Both Divband and his followers were sick individuals. And poor Hanif. He didn't deserve his fate.

Conclusion: This is a great book. Perfect for both fans of thrillers, and those of the Blackwell Files.

Nicole Mastrogiovanni says

Another great book. I really enjoyed this story and how it went back to where they all met. I hope there's another book because I want to continue to follow the characters.

Ruth says

Ah! The Blackwell Files. I have anxiously awaited this book in the series. Alton and Mallory have teased us with the prospect of marriage...and it has happened. This book is staged around the story of cryptologist Alton Blackwell and FBI agent Mallory Wilson-Blackwell. On their honeymoon, their job is escalated when they receive a short message from young character they know from the past. This message slingshots them into the middle of an Al-Qaeda plot. This book is riviting. It deals with heavy content, but keeps it readable. The authenticity of subject matter makes for a believable read. I was not disappointed.

Michael Mardel says

The Devil's Due by Freeman is another rollicking adventure with the pair from Afghanistan. The thoughts of Alton about Mallory were tedious but probably necessary as back story for those who haven't met them before. The pace picked up during their honeymoon and escalated when they returned to Afghanistan to find a missing teen from Alton's sojourn in a hospital there. Little did they know that there was a greater evil afoot, though being a suicide bomber is bad enough. Will they be in time to rescue Mastana? Who will die as they pursue her?

Jean says

I was given this book by the author to read in exchange for an honest review.

Former Army Captain Alton Blackwell and FBI Agent Mallory Wilson finally tie the knot, and a few days into their fairytale honeymoon, Alton receives a desperate message from Mastana, a teenager he met while recovering from his injuries in Afghanistan. Unable to contact her directly, he enlists the assistance of an Afghani acquaintance, an interpreter named Kamaal. Soon Blackwell is hooked up with Mastana and learns that her Al-Qaeda uncle has pegged her for a suicide-bombing mission. Blackwell puts the wheels in motion to bring Mastana exiled to the US as soon as possible. Unbeknownst to any of them, Mastana faces another danger. She is kidnapped soon afterward, which brings the honeymooners and their friends, David and Fahima, back to Afghanistan to rescue their young friend.

This book, the fifth in the Blackwell Files series, showcases Alton Blackwell at his best. First and foremost, he is like the quintessential Boy Scout: trustworthy, loyal, friendly, kind, brave...He is also a strong leader; he maps out a new plan each time a new discovery is made about the possible kidnappers and he uses his cryptology and other military skills to the group's advantage throughout the book.

His bride Mallory takes on more of a supportive role in this book, although she is certainly one of the team and is essential as Alton's right-hand woman. She senses something is off when he begins having flashbacks and is able to steady him and bring him back to the present when it is most crucial. It is their strong bond that enables them to go out on a limb for a young girl halfway around the world and still maintain their center, their love for each other. Other characters – David, Fahima, Kamaal, and a former policeman named Nur Hanif – are all vital pieces of the search and rescue team. Mastana herself proves to be a brave, resourceful young lady, and I suspect that we may see more of her in future Blackwell works.

Unlike the previous four Blackwell books, The Devil's Due has very little mystery to it. Rather, its chapters,

which alternate between Mastana's misadventures and the Blackwells' experiences, are filled with plenty of tension and action. I also felt some revulsion, as the men who've kidnapped Mastana have nefarious plans for her. I greatly enjoyed the pace of this novel, and I felt that it was just the right mix of character and plot. Although there were no big surprises, I was engaged from start to finish, and I highly recommend this book to Freeman fans and action thriller readers. Thanks again to Steven Freeman for allowing me to read his very entertaining, well-written novel.

5 of 5 stars
