



The Persona Protocol

Andy McDermott

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The latest thriller from bestselling author, Andy McDermott. For fans of Tom Clancy and Matthew Reilly.

Adam Gray is the ultimate spy.

As the lead agent of the US government's top-secret Persona project, he is its most valuable weapon in the War on Terror. Experimental technology enables him to take on the personality - and memories - of anyone; be it a Russian arms dealer, a high-stakes gambler or a nuclear scientist. Whatever secrets they know, he knows.

But the most dangerous secrets of all... are his own.

When Adam hunts a terrorist plotting to murder millions, he begins to realize that, although he can delve into the minds of others, his own memories are a mystery. Hidden in his past is the key to a deadly conspiracy - and its masterminds will stop at nothing to conceal their crimes...

The Persona Protocol Details

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Author : Andy McDermott

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From Reader Review The Persona Protocol for online ebook

Claire says

A swift, easy to read thriller with some genuinely intriguing, and human, characters.

Sean Goh says

Interesting premise that I think would have been worth a sequel. The silent rebellion towards the end was especially hilarious, as they get busted one by one.

Kenneth says

Black Ops agent with a missing memory. A machine which can implant memories.

Claire Robinson says

4 Stars.

I am a great fan of Andy McDermott, and have to say that the Wilde/Chase series of books would definitely figure on the list of books I would want to take with me if I was stranded on a desert island. That-said the last couple of books in the series left me feeling that a little something was lacking, they were still great reads, but just weren't as thrilling as their predecessors.

The Shadow Protocol/Persona Project (depending on what country you are reading it in) is a step away from the Wilde/Chase series and has bought Andy's high octane, edge of your seat, thrill a minute writing back to its peak. I couldn't put this book down, and it kept me up well past my bedtime because I was dying to know what was coming next.

Adam Gray is the ultimate spy, and being able to transform himself into anyone through their personality and memories aids him in his mission to prevent a terrorist plot that could if realized kill millions. So the adventure begins and it is one that you won't want to miss.

This book is written a little differently to the Chase/Wilde series and although it did get a little overly "techy" in parts, I on the whole really enjoyed it. I hope that this will be a continuing series, as I am interested to see where Andy will take Adam Gray next.

ARC provided through Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

Iain says

Nice to see McDermott having a bash at some new characters after following the Wilde and Chase series from the beginning. All the action sequences are there, and the character interaction and humour are also present.

He really should branch out more often - a refreshing change.

George says

I KNOW BUT YOU DON'T KNOW IT. I have read all of Andy's previous works and found them both engaging and extremely entertaining, especially since they were action-filled, Indiana Jones-like adventures of protagonists seeking mythical treasures under extreme and dangerous conditions. Does that imply that I am a fan? Better believe it! The Shadow Protocol once again exhibits his innate ability to create strong, believable characters and place them in fast-paced, believable situations. You know all will be well, it has to be; but you can never be entirely certain. This offering adds current day elements, specifically terrorists and intelligence operations to stop the worst-of-the-worst and bring down their infrastructure. Imagine the damage you could do to him and his organization if you could share the mind of the leader of al-Qaida without his knowledge. The Shadow Protocol. You will love it as much as I did.

David Devine says

Andy McDermott knows how to keep you in suspense with his Shadow Protocol. A great read for those who like spy thrillers.

Travis Starnes says

The book jacket compares this to Robert Ludlum's Bourne series and there are definite parallels, although the character and the writing are both less interesting than what you find in Ludlum's original books. The actual writing of the book, the dialogue, characterizations, etc. are all pretty much on par with the average of this genre so that isn't a big knock on McDermott's work. Ludlum does stand as the gold standard of the spy thriller genre so it isn't fair to hold McDermott to that level.

The added tech/sci-fi twist of being able to copy the memory and personality of a subject into Adam Grey, the book's protagonist, is a pretty interesting idea. While I have seen it before in pure sci-fi it is a nice crossing over of genres making The Shadow Protocol stand out from the pack a little bit. The actual execution of the idea could have been done better but that doesn't keep it from helping give the story other places to go beyond "chase the terrorist, capture the terrorist".

As is expected from a thriller novel the story is fast paced with a strong focus on the action. There are lots of good chases and fire fights, enough to keep fans of the genre engaged. There are portions that get bogged down in techno-babble as McDermott walks the reader through how the memory transfer takes place and

trying to ground those elements for the reader.

Full Review at: <http://homeofreading.com/the-shadow-protocol/>

Marc says

I so enjoyed 'Shadow Protocol', that when I discovered another of his books from a UK dealer called "Persona Protocol" I ordered it right away. I thought it might carry on the interesting storyline. Lo and behold it turned out to be the very same book. Buyer beware, I guess. But it stinks that they re-title books like this and don't say something on the cover like 'Previously published as Shadow Protocol'.

James W. Stewart says

Suspenseful futuristic story

Very suspenseful , lots of twists and turns. Somewhat futuristic but very exciting. This would make an excellent movie great

Lisa B. says

My Thoughts

I have always been a fan of under cover, spy type novels and The Shadow Protocol really filled the bill. Adam Gray is part of a government team whose activities are supposed to fly under the radar. A neuro-scientist has developed the ability to transfer one persons thoughts and memories to another person. Adam is the only person surgically enhanced to receive the transfer information. The good guys use this information against the bad guys/terrorist to find out about future attack plans.

Wow - talk about action packed - this story was relentless. At a little over 600 pages, I was pleasantly surprised out how quickly I got to the end. I thought the basis for the story was an interesting idea. There were some good plot twist along the way the helped to keep the this moving along. This was my first Andy McDermott novel but won't be my last.

I'd like to thank Random House-Bantam Dell, via Netgalley, for allowing me to read this in exchange for an unbiased review.

Luke Conoultys says

Brilliant concept, not at all difficult to imagine the technology being available to imprint an enemies personality & memories into an agent! !!! a vital weapon in the fight against terror. clever politically motivated twist. some cool gadgets ie: an umbrella that performs like a parachute to jump off a rooftop

Tulay says

Very disappointed.

Love reading political and medical thrillers, but this story with lots of action scenes went on and on. Even after just skimming twenty pages it was still going on. Adam don't have any past memories, erased by the PERSONA project, to cover up the real reason. Half of the book could be edited out.

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Tim The Enchanter says

A Fast Paced Thriller - 3.5 Stars

A fast pace, plenty of action, international espionage and some futuristic technology make this an exciting read. While it stumbles from time to time as the story progresses, the unrelenting pace will keep you turning the pages.

Plot summary

A British Scientist, in the midst of ground-breaking research into Alzheimer's pharmaceuticals is called upon to the US government to assist in some classified work. Due to her specific skill set, she find herself paired with a group of Black OPS agents for a Program called PERSONA. The Lead Agent, Adam Gray, through a combination of technology and drugs is able to have the personality and memories of any person "uploaded" into his own mind. In doing so, he is able to speak and think as any person from which their personality can be downloaded. The story follows several plotlines that included mission using the PERSONA technology and a search into the past and for the memories of Adam Gray.

The Good

Action, Science and Technology!

The action in the story is its greatest strength. The author has a wonderful sense of pacing and never fails to keep the reader from turning pages. In particular, there is an excellent car chase at the end of the book which is very vivid and cinematic. I wouldn't be surprised if the author wrote the story with a film script in mind.

The PERSONA concept was quite intriguing. While the technology was cumbersome and difficult to execute (the characters had to carry around heavy equipment, kidnap and subdue the subject, inject the agent and subject with a precise cocktail of drugs, wait a period of time to for the persona to download, then inject the

subject with drugs to wipe their short term memory while setting up the scene to make the subject think he an accident) the result was original and intruding. The idea that a person's memories and essentially their personality can be taken from their mind, stored and transferred to another person was novel and filled with possibility. In order to take new personality, the main character had to have his own memories and personalities wiped, essentially leaving a blank slate for the imprinting of other personas. This allowed for some excellent espionage and plotlines where the bad guys are hunted for their minds.

The Bad

I Know You want me to Suspend my Disbelief, But...

While the action was wonderful and the pacing superb, the supporting cast left much to be desired. I have always wondered why authors don't "stick to the stuff they know". Here we have a British author who begins the story in a British location with a British character. He then takes that character, flies her to the US where she is inserted into a group of US Black Op agents. The entire setup for this absurd beginning was weak and poorly executed. As a result, the main female character never seems to fit within the story. She is a catalyst for drama in the second half of the book but her inclusion and influence on the characters was never justified. I simply don't understand why the author went out of his way to set the story in the US. It would have been more believable had the story involved Americans or British only. Throughout the story, I had the distinct impression that the story was not written by an American as the phrasing and terms often felt "British" and the "Americanisms" felt stereotypical and occasionally obnoxious. For example, one character CONSTANTLY referred to others as "Brah" which made me wish my kindle had a feature to block obnoxious words.

Final Thoughts

While I enjoyed the novel, I couldn't help but feel a little disappointed. The idea was excellent and the technology was interesting. The book description was accurate in portraying the story as Jason "Bourn-esque". Unfortunately, the character development was weak the main female character was completely out of place and unbelievable. In the end, the book was saved by the excellent action, an interesting main character in Adam Gray and some novel technology.

Content Advisories

It is difficult to find commentary on the sex/violence/language content of the book if you are interested. I make an effort to give you the information so you can make an informed decision before reading. *Disclaimer* I do not take note or count the occurrences of adult language as I read. I am simply giving approximations.

Scale 1 - Lowest 5 - Highest

Sex - 1.5

There were one or two comments where sexual content was implied. Outside of this, the sexual content was very low and suitable for all ages.

Language - 2.5

I may be erring on the low side in this instance. I was forced to put this book down for a week and lost a sense of the overall occurrences of adult language. There is some use of mild obscenities and there may be a couple of f-words but the overall impression was that content would be acceptable for network TV.

Violence - 3

While there are many occurrences of violence throughout the book, it seemed as if the author wanted the book to be appropriate to younger readers as well as more mature readers. The descriptions of the violence were not graphic and I think they would be acceptable for a young adult reader.

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