



Confessions of a Slightly Neurotic Hitwoman

J.B. Lynn

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Maggie Lee is not your average hitwoman. For one thing, she's never killed anyone. For another, after hitting her head in the car accident that killed her sister, her new best friend is a talking lizard—a picky eater, obsessed with Wheel of Fortune, that only Maggie can hear.

Maggie, who can barely take care of herself, is desperate to help her injured and orphaned niece get the best medical care possible, so she reluctantly accepts a mobster's lucrative job offer: major cash to kill his monstrous son-in-law.

Paired with Patrick Mulligan, a charming murder mentor (who happens to moonlight as a police detective), Maggie stumbles down her new career path, contending with self-doubt, three meddling aunts, a semi-psychic friend predicting her doom, and a day job she hates. Oh, and let's not forget about Paul Kowalski, the sexy beat cop who could throw her ass in jail if he finds out what she's up to.

Training has never been so complicated! And, this time, Maggie has to get the job done. Because if she doesn't ... she's the mob's next target.

Confessions of a Slightly Neurotic Hitwoman Details

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From Reader Review Confessions of a Slightly Neurotic Hitwoman for online ebook

Amber says

This book was an absolute riot!! Loved every minute. Great characters and laugh out loud fun! Of course there were also many intense, nerve-racking moments that had me on the edge of my seat. I could not stop reading until I hit the end. Now I must dive into the next book and see what Maggie and the gang get themselves into!

Stephanie Plum fans will love this series.

P.S. I think Maggie is more kick-ass! ;) Can't forget Godzilla - that hysterical gecko *ahem* Anole!

Misty says

A twisted plot and a twisted but lovable main character, dark humor, a talking lizard and an edgy but flaky psychic...put it all together and you get a fun romp into the dark side with a woman forced to kill for money. (Note: The bad guys are truly bad and deserve what they get.)

The family situation between Maggie and her aunts was a well-written subplot (don't we all have family members who make us crazy?), and Armani, the screwed up psychic, made me laugh out loud. I'd love to have friends like Armani and Maggie, although I'll skip the talking lizard unless I can watch Wheel and Jeopardy with him!

Jacob Proffitt says

I had low expectations for this book but it *did* manage to exceed them. On the surface, the book could be taken for a cheap attempt to cash in on Janet Evanovich's raging success with her Stephanie Plum series. And there are certainly a lot of similarities. You have a single woman, mildly klutzy, with family issues, living in New Jersey taking on a job generally reserved for gung-ho bad-asses being romantically pursued by two guys who are actual gung-ho bad-asses. Oh, and who sometimes talks to her pet in a terrarium.

That's a lot, right? Well yeah, but...

J.B. Lynn's main character, Margaret (Maggie to her friends) Lee, is a deeper character with a better reason for entering her profession and more motivation to succeed. Let's face it, when the novels start, Stephanie Plum is little more than a pastiche—a jilted housewife taking a job on a lark and sticking with it for no reason beyond not wanting to work retail. Pretty thin pickings, really. Janet Evanovich's stories work mainly by using humor to encourage the reader to continue suspending disbelief. This is no small accomplishment and something I applaud in her, mind.

Maggie, on the other hand, comes to us with a deep backstory that gives us a rich understanding of her choices and actions. We know exactly why she makes the decisions she does, including why she couldn't

possibly turn down the invitation to become a hitwoman—not because the author orchestrated events to that outcome but because the author crafted a character who would choose to do so (more about the offer itself below, however). Yeah, it's a fine distinction but a fundamental difference in approach. A more difficult one to pull off, I might add, but one Lynn succeeds with. Also, Maggie is *actually* well-suited for her job, though in subtle and surprising ways, and is relatively good at it, even if she is only just starting out.

And I liked the characters surrounding Maggie, too. Again, they may have passing similarity to Evanovich's cast, but it'd be a strain to think they were derivative. Like Maggie, many of the side characters have a depth and complexity that support their actions and gives their involvement in the story a richness they wouldn't otherwise have. My favorite of these, though with the least depth or reason, is God. Godzilla (God for short) is Maggie's niece, Katie's, anole (it's a lizard, kind of like a chameleon. Yeah, I didn't know that before looking it up). After the car accident that starts the book, it turns out that Maggie can understand God. She figures she's probably going a little crazy, like her mom, so Maggie mostly just rolls with it—but carefully so as not to end up in the nuthouse, like her mom. God becomes her confidant and councilor when she can't really confide in anyone else (hitperson rule #1 Don't Get Caught).

In the end, I liked the book more than I do Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series.

So why just three stars, you might legitimately ask? The book has two weaknesses that drag it down some. First, the writing is a little choppy, particularly at the start. Nothing egregious, it's just mildly awkward. It takes a while to get fully into stride with Maggie and doing so is crucial to enjoying the story. I'm not writer enough to pick out exactly what could be improved. I *think* that exposition and description were sacrificed a little too expediently (to hurry the story and/or dialogue?). Because so much depends on getting the characters right, it wouldn't have hurt to slow down a little and paint the scenery a little better. Also, naming the two love interests Patrick and Paul is a mistake. There's little-enough to distinguish them and having their names be phonemically similar made it a chore to keep them apart on initial reference.

Second, some core elements of the story are more or less blatant manipulation. Katie is in a coma mostly so Maggie will need the money for her care. Tony/Anthony Delveccio offers Maggie her first hit job with *very* slim justification. And giving her a job-skills trainer makes little sense from Delveccio's point of view, either. Yeah, there's a little hand-waving but it doesn't really withstand scrutiny very well. And let us not forget the stupid industry-standard love triangle. I am getting *so very tired* of those. Given the depth of the other characters, this cursory treatment stands out and detracts from the otherwise solid characterizations.

So take those caveats into account, if you will. Personally, I liked the book and look forward to the next. I hope J.B. Lynn doesn't make us wait long...

The Serendipity Aegis ~ ?Misericordia? ?????? ✿*♥? says

Q:

She ignored that as she started rummaging in her purse. “What you need is to channel your inner Chiquita.” “You want me to channel my inner banana?” I knew what she meant, but I liked teasing her. For as long as I’ve known Armani, she’s been trying to get me to set my “true self” free. I was too bottled up for her taste. I didn’t tell her that my reserve was something I’d carefully constructed over the years. The ability to control my emotions, to lock them up and refuse to express them, was a conscious choice. It was what separated me from my crazy mother. I wasn’t about to let loose any time soon . . . or ever, if I could help it.

(c)

Q:

This stuff was too much for me on a good day, forget about it when I'm hung over. Apparently there's some whole sexual fetish thing concerning people who are disabled or disfigured. I don't get it, and quite frankly, since it's not my thing, I don't particularly want to get it. I feel the same way about math, fashion, and white bread.

(c)

Q:

I wanted to tell her that it was okay. I wished I could tell her to just spit it out. I wasn't going to collapse, or cry, or freak out. I've heard it all before: Your father's been arrested for murder. Your mother needs help. Darlene's body has been found. Marlene's left a note, she's run away. There's been an accident. Katie's in a coma. I'm as accustomed to receiving bad news as some ridiculously lucky people are to yell "BINGO!" on a weekly basis. I couldn't tell her all that, though. I would have sounded crazy. So instead I just waited, watching as she adjusted her glasses. She and Katie were currently in a dead heat when it came to scintillating conversation.

(c)

Q:

She wasn't teary, or sniffing, or crying. No, she was sobbing. Body-shaking, gut-wrenching, soul-cleansing sobs.

For a brief moment I envied her liberal expression of pain.

...

I yearned to slap some sense into her like they used to do to hysterical women in black-and-white movies, but that was socially unacceptable.

(c)

Q:

I took a step back so that I could see her properly. Besides being ridiculously good-looking, my dear friend Alice was an amazing humanitarian who traveled to exotic spots all over the world to teach English . . . or is it irrigation? Either way, she enriches lives, while I, on the other hand, ask people if the police had given them a ticket when they crashed their vehicle.

(c)

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Evoking shades of Wonderfalls and Stephanie Plum, **CONFESSIONS OF A SLIGHTLY NEUROTIC HITWOMAN** could just as easily been titled "No Good Deed Goes Unpunished". This book bears more resemblance to a wacky, caper of a contemporary romance than urban fantasy, but the addition of talking animals gives it one foot in the paranormal camp... or perhaps, as the main character worries, the mental hospital.

Maggie Lee is the responsible sister in a family with more than its fair share of characters and ne'er-do-wells, and it was no surprise when her overdeveloped sense of responsibility lands Maggie in the world of contract killing. And oh what a world it is. The "professional" parts of Maggie's life were what required the largest suspension of disbelief on my part, but ultimately it was worth the effort. The circumstances that set this plot hurtling forward are the crucible in which Maggie is fired... and cracked. Her careful veneer of distance and control starts to slip as soon as she wakes up from a car accident and hears Alan Rickman's voice emerge from her niece's anole, but hearing animals talk turns out to be the least of her problems. I liked the risks the author took with Maggie and her earnest, bigamist partner, and these two get the most development amongst

the many zany characters that Lynn introduces. While I found Patrick relatable, I'm not sure I can really root for a relationship when he has two wives already. Paul's attractions are skin deep, and his interest in Maggie's father's hidden loot an obvious gambit for a future book. These are just two of the many plots and characters left hanging in **CONFESSIONS OF A SLIGHTLY NEUROTIC HITWOMAN**, and while I can't say I'm burning to continue the series, this introduction certainly piqued my interest.

While all the slapstick and over the top action didn't quite make up for characters that were more quirks than depth, I was very entertained by Maggie's transformation from a tense, controlled ball of anger to a slightly less tense professional killer. Funny, wacky, and violent, **CONFESSION OF A SLIGHTLY NEUROTIC HITWOMAN** was an entertaining way to spend an afternoon. The road ahead doesn't look smooth for Maggie and her partners in crime, but it will certainly be interesting.

Sexual Content: Kissing, references to sex.

Lisarenee says

"I know your name, where you live, where you work, and that you're the legal guardian of that little girl. I also know how much your annual salary is, that you have no criminal record, and what's in you bank account. Most importantly, I know how much this 'premium care' costs. People say I'm a crook, but the medical establishment has got nothing on me. They just know how to bleed you dry legally. And that is why I think you might find yourself amenable to the offer I'm going to make you."

"You've lost me."

"Think of this as a lucrative job opportunity. A change to make some extra cash to care for little Katie."... "I like you. You're a feisty one. That's why I'm offering you \$100,000 to take out Alfonso."

"My mouth went dry as I stared at him. I asked, "You mean like take him out to the ballgame? Or take him out to dinner?"

He tilted his head and raised his eyebrows knowing damn well that I'd understood his offer and was just playing cute and/or stupid with those questions. The man had just offered me a boatload of bucks to kill his son-in-law.

Maggie Lee was living a rather ordinary life three months ago. That was when tragedy struck. She and her sister and her sisters' family had been in a fatal car accident. Maggie survived fairly unscathed, but her sister and brother-in-law did not. Her niece, Katie, was in the hospital in a Coma and Maggie was her legal guardian. The insurance was about to pull the plug on her niece's care and Maggie was not in the financial position to be able to continue Katie's needed care without it. As a "thank you" Anthony Delveccio, Alfonso's father-in-law, had offered her the job that could make all her financial troubles disappear. She'd just stopped Alfonso, the guy whom she'd been offered the hit on, from killing his son who resided in the hospital. The question now is dare she take the job or leave it and walk away.

This is a fun yet somewhat zany tale. You really can't take it seriously or you won't enjoy the ride. In some ways Maggie reminds me of Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum character only Maggie can shoot. Plus, being a hitwoman is different than being a bounty hunter. Additionally, since the car accident that took place three months ago Maggie appears to have picked up some Dr. Doolittle skills--she can talk to animals. At first I didn't know what to think about her ability to speak with animals, but by the end it had me grinning.

Maggie is a likable character who is attempting to hold things together as best she can. Her mother has been institutionalized for her mental state, and her father is in jail for murder. Before the accident her sister had

asked Maggie to take care of her daughter if anything happened to her, and Maggie is doing her best to fulfill that promise. Stuck between a rock and a hard place she is torn between taking the hit so she can properly take care of her niece or backing away and attempting to find some other means of caring for her.

Godzilla is her niece's pet lizard, and is the first animal she realizes she can converse with. He adds some humor to the already fun story especially when he requests she call him God. He delves out advice, loves watching Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy, and has a voice that sounds like Professor Snape from Harry Potter.

Armani is one of Maggie's friends. She was apparently disabled by a "runaway Zamboni that had ruined her leg and chewed up her missing fingers." She claims to hold psychic abilities and at one point warns Maggie, "I had another dream. In it, I kept hearing those three words. Doomsday is coming, Doomsday is coming."

The only thing that sort of bothered me was there seems to be an attraction between Maggie and Patrick. Patrick is the man teaching her to be a hitwoman and is already married to two different woman. I'm hoping the author isn't going to go *there*, but it was making me awful nervous. There is another love interest in the story, but it's complicated because he's a cop and one of the first rules to being a hitwoman is, "Don't get caught." That's kind of hard to do if you end up "sleeping with the enemy", so to speak.

Some of my favorite quotes/lines/moments:

- *'For a split second I thought there was a spark of sexual tension hovering in the air. Yeah, I was so lonely that the mere mention of the word sex in conversation had me misreading signals.'*

- *"I've freed my inner Chiquita, and I'm living dangerously," I said dryly.*

- *"Didn't your mother ever tell you that breakfast is the most important meal of the day?" I thought about it for a second. "Nope." That job had fallen to Aunt Susan. "But she did tell me furlies live behind the couch."*

"What the hell is a furlie?"

I shrugged. She'd imparted that particular bit of mother advice during one of her delusional stages. "I dunno. The way she talked about them I suspected they were some sort of rabid dust bunny."

- *"What the hell is that?"*

Apparently Gary had taken note of the little lizard gesticulating wildly on his countertop. He took a shot at God too.

- *"Did you bring your lizard to a hit?"*

An overall funny book that had me laughing and grinning. I gave this one **4 out of 5 roses**. I will definitely be reading any sequels that the author writes. On the Lisarenee Romance Rating Scale, this one got a *BLUSH* rating--at the beginning stages of romance where something is just starting to be stirred.

If you'd like to read more of my reviews please visit my blog at www.seducedbyabook.com

Donna Huber says

This was a great book. I loved Lynn's *The First Victim*, but *Confessions* is even better. I cried... I laughed... I cried again... laughed again (see a pattern?). Full review: <http://www.girl-who-reads.com/2012/01...>

Andrea Guy says

Move over Stephanie Plum, there is another Jersey Girl on the book scene! Maggie Lee is one of the funniest characters you'll encounter in a long time. The story is full of color characters that you can't help but love. Oh and some really interesting animals!

It is hard to pigeonhole this book into a genre. It is a little bit chicklit but it isn't a real mystery or thriller either. What it is, is a whole lot of fun and a little bit of a roller coaster ride, with Maggie learning to be a hired gun from the sexy cop/assassin, the three witches (aunts), her BFF Alice, crazy co-workers, a hot cop that is more than a little interested in her...and a talking lizard who likes to be called God.

Oh yeah, this is fun times!

Here's why you should read it:

1. Maggie is just so average that you don't expect her to be a killer. She works in a call center for an insurance company. (One of the worst jobs you can have) Oh and she has a slimy boss!
2. Her father is in prison for bank robbery and murder of a teller, her mom is in the loony bin. And most of her siblings are dead..and her niece is in a coma...hence her need for money and how she got messed up with the mob!
3. OMG! God is the most awesome book animal! He's snarky and not quite what you'd expect. Oh and Doomsday the Doberman = awesome, even if she has lousy communication skills!
4. Maggie's love for her niece is so sweet. I mean, how many people would turn hitwoman to keep you alive!
5. The three witches...erm aunts, Susan, Loretta and Leslie...all with their own special breed of crazy.

If you love series such as Evanovich's Plum and Bond's Body Movers, you'll love *Confessions of A Slightly Neurotic Hitwoman*.

Cher says

I opened this book, wondering how a normal woman could become a hit woman. That's the thing, Maggie's not really normal. I was thoroughly entertained with Maggie and God. The side characters added so much to this story that you couldn't help but smile at the drama. Already started the next book .

Lisa says

This is the second book for author JB Lynn. Her books so far are complex. She has so much going on but it's

not confusing. It's laid out nicely in a good pace that you can follow and savor as you go. I didn't know what to expect based on the title and cover and the brand spanking newness of this author. Was it a thriller? Seemed like it might be since the last one was. OK but the blurb mentions a talking lizard so maybe it's funny too??? Ha it's a mix of both. There are some dark sad elements going on in this book and some suspicious characters too but it's God or Godzilla if you want his full name that brings the funny to this book. Every time Maggie talks to the lizard or refers to him as God I want to crack up. The thriller part comes from what Maggie has to do to help her niece get the medical care she needs. Of course getting paid to be a hitwoman and kill someone isn't exactly something Maggie knows how to do. She gets help from a two side guy who is both hot cop and secret hitman for hire. Patrick is supposed to teach her the ropes so she can get the job done and help her niece. There is something going on between them but you can never quite put your finger on it. Things don't well with the hit though and Patrick decides he has to help her out of the mess. This is one of the most interesting books I have read in a while. I hated to see it end but the author leaves it open at the end for the possibility of more books. 5 out of 5 Modokker Book Stars for Confessions of a Neurotic Hitwoman by author JB Lynn.

Shelleyrae at Book'd Out says

Veering from wildly funny to desperately sad, Confessions of a Slightly Neurotic Hitwoman is an entertaining dark comedy caper.

Maggie Lee survives the car accident that kills her sister and brother in law, leaving her niece, Katie, comatose. Maggie's parents are no help, her father is doing time for murder and her mother is in a psychiatric hospital. Maggie hasn't seen her sister in years and her three aunts are their own special type of crazy. A chance encounter with a hitman in the hospital brings Maggie to the attention of a mob boss who makes an unusual proposition. With a little help from God (not THE God), a killer cop and a psychic colleague Maggie just might be able to pay Katie's hospital bills, if she can become a killer.

As bitter and cynical Maggie is, her quick wit and devotion to her niece renders her likeable. Her background is messy and rife with tragedy so it's no wonder Maggie is able to embrace the unconventional. The leap from call center agent to hitwoman is a big one but somehow the author convinces us that her motivation is plausible.

Maggie's mentor, Patrick, is a mysterious figure whose reasons for helping Maggie are murky. I'm not sure I really like him but he is an intriguing character.

The most irresistible character is Godzilla, aka God, Katie's pet lizard now in Maggie's care. Maggie isn't sure if she is going as crazy as her mother or not as the lizard starts talking to her. Smart mouthed, opinionated and endearing, God makes for a hilarious sidekick.

The plot is cohesive even though it requires the reader to suspend belief. Between talking lizards, stoned aunts, hot police officers and a blackmailing hitman the story teeters on the edge of absurdity but is tempered by the darker elements of the story. Combining crazy characters and screwball comedy with a cynical edge, Confessions of a Neurotic Hitwoman is an enjoyable romp and a great start to a new series.

Suzy (ereaderuser) says

Hilarious fun!

Paperback Dolls says

Previously posted at PaperbackDolls.com

If you're looking for a good laugh, you've come to the right place. J.B. Lynn has given us the next Stephanie Plum in the form of Maggie Lee.

What's a girl supposed to do when an accident leaves her sister and brother-in-law dead, her tiny niece Katie in a coma, and the insurance isn't enough to cover the expenses? As a claims representative for Insuring the Future, Maggie doesn't make the kind of money needed ensure her niece has the very best care, so she has to figure out how to cover the costs before the hospital turns Katie over to another facility. She also has to take care of Katie's very small anole lizard named Godzilla....God for short. Oh, yeah, he talks. At least, he talks to Maggie.

After being rudely accosted in the hospital hallway by a sleazy jerk, Maggie decides to give him a piece of her mind and follows him into a patient's room only to discover that he's smothering the patient. She does the only thing she can think of—hits him with a plastic chair—thereby preventing a murder. She later learns the man was Alfonso Cifelli, son-in-law to mob boss Anthony/Tony Delveccio. (Delveccio is a twin. Their not-too-bright mother named them Tony and Anthony and Maggie has no idea which one she's dealing with.) The person she saved turned out to be Anthony/Tony's grandson...Alfonso's son.

Anthony/Tony makes her an offer: Kill Alfonso and he'll pay her one hundred thousand dollars—enough money to keep Katie right where she is. But since Maggie has no skills and only a week to do the job, Anthony/Tony arranges a meeting with someone who will train her. That someone turns out to be police detective/hitman Patrick Mulligan.

The path of the story is never straight, never what you expect, but always darkly funny. Maggie's three weird aunts, incarcerated father, and mother in the loony bin make it seem she's the only sane person around. But after talking to God (the lizard), she begins to doubt her own sanity.

The secondary characters are as bold and quirky as Maggie Lee. You'll fall in love with her co-worker, Armani Vasques, who gives a whole new meaning to the term 'smart ass' and Paul Kowalski, who may or may not be a dirty cop. Fifty-something Aunt Leslie, who's usually higher than a kite, is twin to Aunt Loretta, the sex kitten.

This dark comedy is great entertainment, and I hope Lynn plans to make this into a series, because I can't wait to read more.

Silver James says

Confessions of a Slightly Neurotic Hitwoman arrived on my Kindle as the result of winning a contest. How the heck had I not discovered J.B. Lynn and her wonderfully neurotic heroine, Maggie before now? Ms. Lynn has quickly become a favorite author. Do you know that feeling when you walk into a fun house? When the mirrors get you all discombobulated and the floor starts buckling? And then it starts spinning

around like a tilt-a-whirl? Yeah. That's what reading CONFESSIONS is like. It's a crazy ride with highs, lows, laughter, tears, laughter AND tears, and a real sense of "Damn, I'm sorry that book ended." Ms. Lynn and her Hitwoman series are now definitely on my auto-buy list and keeper shelf.

Linda says

This book is definitely a laugh out loud read. JB Lynn has a great sense of humor and I would love to see this book turn out as a series. I want to read more about Maggie & Patrick.

Maggie is a strong character. I loved her and her smart comments. Maggie is willing to do what ever it takes to make sure her niece Katie gets the best care while she is in a coma. Maggie, Katie & her parents were in a car accident. Katie's parent didn't make it and now Katie is in a coma and Maggie is doing all she can to make sure her niece wakes up and gets the best care she needs.

Maggie has met a guy named Patrick who is a cop but is willing to train her to do the best she can to be a hit woman to get the money she needs to take care of her niece. Maggie is also taking care of her niece's lizard Godzilla who prefers to be called GOD and only will eat live crickets.

Patrick and Maggie has been spending alot of time together while he trains her to do and know all she needs to so she can do her first hit job. It's not fun for Maggie since Patrick has two wives but she is catching feelings for him.

This is an awesome book. Loved the characters, the talking lizard and Maggie's aunts who are known as three witches. This was a fast reading with lots of funny moments on each page. I couldn't stop laughing as I was reading this book and I sure did not want to sleep or take any breaks away from this story.

Does Maggie get to save her niece? Will Patrick and Maggie become lovers? To find out more you must get this book. You won't be disappointed if you get this book trust me.

JB Lynn sure has a great sense of humor and knows how to put it in a story that will have readers wanting more and loving her characters. I hope this book turns to be a series. I want the story to continue with Maggie and the talking lizard. Even hopes of her and Patrick. They are just to cute together.
