



## Night of the Bonfire

*Kevin Scott Olson*

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Ex-Navy SEAL Michael Quinn is called in by the CIA to investigate a key undercover operative's brutal murder. From the peaceful seaside town of Laguna Beach, the trail leads him across the globe, and into a world beyond anything he imagined.

Amidst violent twists and turns, Quinn's journey takes him from the crowded streets of Rome to a quiet cove off the Mexican coast. Along the way he crosses paths with an oligarch obsessed with vengeance...with a woman of unforgettable beauty...and with a man on the verge of adding the crowning touch to his criminal empire.

Interwoven with memorable characters, Night of the Bonfire is a riveting novel that takes the reader to an exceptional level of intrigue.

## **Night of the Bonfire Details**

Date : Published August 1st 2015 by Roseblood Publications

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Author : Kevin Scott Olson

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## From Reader Review Night of the Bonfire for online ebook

### Lorene says

I received this book free from the author. I read the prologue before reading this one. Half of the prologue tied into this story, but the other half didn't make sense with this book. I enjoyed the book, it was a quick read. A lot like a Bond book but without all the cool gadgets. I enjoyed it and would recommend it to someone that wants an easy, fun, and fast read.

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### Sara says

Just FYI I won a free copy of this book.

I liked the author's writing style/description of scenes/action. I felt like I could easily picture his story in my head. That being said, that is probably the only reason I gave it the stars I did. I'm usually not that harsh but I felt like the story lacked a level of development and I was left expecting much more from the book. The main character was fairly developed, but that the background of some of the support characters felt a little forced/added in as an afterthought (sienna in particular). Also, overall it ended very predictably and kind of boringly (sorry!). The ending was a generic "boy gives up spy life to run away with girl and everyone is happy." The book had a lot of underlying stories that could have been used to avoid this kind of ending but it felt like the author maybe sold out a little for the popular ending (again so sorry I'm just being honest!). Two other things:

1). The blood feud between the two mafia gangs was a cool setup but then it just abruptly ended and never spoke of again. I mean wouldn't the Russian's family ultimately come after Marco? A lot of this storyline seems underdeveloped or just kind of forgotten about. I felt like this storyline in particular would have made the overall book much more interesting if it had been fully developed. With the abrupt end of the feud and no further mention it felt like the author himself wasn't sure if he wanted it in the book or not and it ultimately left me confused as to the point of having that storyline in the book in the first place. I guess it allowed for some pretty cool action scenes but it ultimately felt pretty random.

2). Really all his fuss about a painting and then it's just accepted as lost at sea? This is kind of odd and at conflict with the rest of the book. The entire rest of the book won't stop talking about how people are willing to die for this painting, it's so important & beautiful, no one can control themselves around it, etc. and then the way that is resolved is whoops lost at sea, GPS stopped working and we can't find it sorry! When just a half hearted paragraph about "they tried to dive and look for it but couldn't find anything" would've been a better resolution to this storyline. I found this resolution to be VERY discordant with the entire book. The rest of this book is basically all about this painting, the ending is very, very odd.

So ultimately I liked his writing style and would be willing to try a different book of his because of this. But the several undeveloped side stories and the whole "they lived happily ever after" ending wasn't my jam, and I truly expected much much more from this book. Great book idea but ultimately an undeveloped story. Many ideas were never fully carried through or were abruptly resolved as if the author no longer wanted to include those parts. I think if this book was perhaps twice as long (to allow for the development of those storylines) I would've absolutely loved the book. Oh well.

That being said if all you're looking for a quick read that has some great action scenes and maybe a few sexy side themes this is perfect. As such, the book comes across as being written more for men to be honest. The women are all the same and come off as beautiful but boring, and willing to put out. The choice to have a stereotypical romantic ending made me feel like it was chosen in order to make it seem slightly less misogynistic in its portrayal of women characters.

Anyway the overall story was fairly good if you don't pay too close attention and the author's fantastic writing style and scene descriptions make up for a lot of what the story lacks. It is very easy to picture the scenes the author has set up and this makes it a quick read. To be honest: Ultimately I received a free copy of the book, so I can't complain too much, but I felt like there was a lot left to be desired from the storyline.

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## **John Purvis says**

“Night of the Bonfire” eBook was published in 2015 (Dec) and was written by Kevin Scott Olson (<http://kevinscottolson.com>). Mr. Olson has published 4 novels.

I obtained a galley of this novel for review through <https://www.netgalley.com>. I would categorize this novel as ‘R’ as there are instances of Violence. This Thriller novel is set mostly in California, USA, but it also touches on Rome, Italy and the Mexican coast.

The primary character is former Navy SEAL Michael Quinn. Quinn is now working for the CIA as a contractor, taking on special projects. Quinn is at first assigned to track down a missing painting that is being used as currency between drug dealers. The painting was thought to have been destroyed during the Bonfire of the Vanities (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonfire...>). If it exists, it will be worth millions.

His mission focus soon changes from finding the painting to stopping a new drug from finding its way into the US West coast distributions system. There is quite a bit of action and intrigue as Quinn infiltrates the criminal organization thought to have the painting and works to halt the spread of the new drug. He must confront Marco Leone, leader of the criminal group and fanatic art collector, who turns into a powerful adversary.

This was a novel written much in the flavor of Ian Flemming’s original ‘James Bond’ novels. This was a relatively quick read (only 3.5 hours) but I did enjoy it. I give this novel a 4 out of 5.

Further book reviews I have written can be accessed at <http://johnpurvis.wordpress.com/blog/>.

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## **Alaina Maxam says**

THIS IS A VERY GOOD MYSTERY THAT HAS A LOT OF TWISTS AND TURNS. I ENJOYED READING ABOUT THE EX SEAL AND HIS ANTICS AGAINST THE BAD GUYS

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## **Betty Yoder says**

A thrilling adventure with a lot of action! A spy novel that caught and kept my attention. Mr. Quinn moves from one assignment to another with flare. He is a former Navy Seal working for the CIA. Some of the story

is quite predictable, but the part that is not is a surprise that is totally not predictable. The thrilling fast-paced adventure is about Michael Quinn finding and stealing back on old painting from an unscrupulous thug who will do anything to keep that piece of art. A hookup with Sienna is something I kept hoping for in the novel. I just kept reading and reading as it was difficult to put down. Let's have more full novels from this new writer. I recommend it to all who enjoy reading spy novels.

I received a free copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Stephen says**

A signed copy of an ARC giveaway in exchange for an honest review.

This is a helluva fast-paced action thriller!

Michael Quinn is a former Navy Seal who is now an independent contractor for the CIA.

After completing his last mission, Quinn is summoned to a meeting with the Director.

There he is assigned a new mission to find out who killed an agent. The man had been deep undercover in the art world, specifically stolen art treasures. He was undercover as a gallery owner.

What's involved is a priceless painting of rare beauty that has been long missing and possibly a myth.

This mission leads Quinn to Laguna Beach, Rome, Mexico and back.

Along the way he encounters Viktor Orlov, a ruthless Russian mafia leader and Marco Leone, a brutal and heartless Italian "businessman".

He also meets the stunningly alluring Sienna Santorelli, one of Marco's mistresses who, it seems, would rather be anywhere else.

Skillfully-plotted and at a dynamic clip, "Night of the Bonfire" is so full of action you'll need to stop every once in a while just to catch your breath.

The final chase and confrontation are a RUSH!

With the right nurturing and promotion Olson's Michael Quinn could be right up there with Lee Child's Reacher and Nick Petrie's Peter Ash!

Well done. I hope there's a #2.

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### **Donna says**

I couldn't put the book down. It's intriguing. It's not just a murder mystery. It's about murder, mafia and theft. You have spies on the case, not the police. Also a touch of romance. I look forward to reading more of Michael Quinn books

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### **Alan says**

Good action and suspense. Mike Quinn is an operator on par with the best. I look forward to seeing more of him in the future.

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### **Darren says**

I got this book from the author in exchange for a honest review. I enjoyed reading this book. It is a well written book. I hope that in the future that the author makes more novels about the Micheal Quinn character

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in this book.

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## **Alice says**

**I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.**

It's the second time I read something about Michael Quinn.

The first time it was when I read Breakout and boy, I said it back then that a full novel would have been a total rollercoaster.

And it was.

It didn't take me much to read this book, even with work and personal life in between.

It's fast-paced and it's like you can't even breathe because you're literally living with Michael Quinn - you're with him every move he makes.

You can't wait to see what's ahead of you in the next chapter.

What I like the most about Michael is that he's human.

He's not this kind of superhero, he's a man who has to think about moves and actions and consequences no matter his training.

He's human and so he can be hurt. I like that he's not bulletproof like you can see other characters elsewhere being.

I feel also personally involved because I'm Italian and there's a bit of my nation in here.

Italian words used in the novel were pretty accurate, just a few minor slips here and there - nothing major.

It's not a critic at all because I know what's like writing in a language that is not yours to begin with.

So if anyone's curious about it, just ask me!

I'm honored and thankful for the opportunity given to me to review this book and I hope to read more about Michael Quinn soon!

Like I said before, English is not my first language so feel free to correct me if I made mistakes along the way.

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## **Cezara Corbu says**

A good first novel by Kevin Scott Olson. If you enjoyed his short stories, you will most certainly like this book.

*Pros:* fast-paced thriller, with growing suspense. The storyline is very exciting and there is a lot of action involved. The story is usually unpredictable, things sometimes go wrong, but Quinn's wit and perspicacity always pay off. Also, Olson's writing style makes it very easy to picture the setting, although there aren't many descriptive passages involved.

*Cons:* all female characters are placed in the same category - women Michael Quinn wants to bang. The characters are very simple-minded, none of them is built in a complexity that should be worthy of a novel. Each of them has a single personality trait that defines them (e.g. Quinn=brilliant hero, Marco=evil thief, Sienna=gorgeous woman Quinn lusts for) and there's not much more to be told about them.

Overall, I thought this was a good book, perfect for those who enjoy a fast-paced adventure.

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## Catherine says

Night of the Bonfire is the first novel in the Michael Quinn series by Kevin Scott Olson. Prior to this, I have also read one short story entitled "Breakout" by the same author, which also features Michael Quinn. I'll begin by explaining Michael a bit. He's an American special operative, formerly Navy SEAL and now doing various tasks for the CIA. In regards to his work, he's very smart; he doesn't take unnecessary risks and does his best to keep any operation professional. Night of the Bonfire, we begin in the middle of an exciting operation in Mexico that he's been working on. From one assignment to another, we soon find ourselves following him to a new mission to find an old painting, thought to be destroyed by the artist. In present time, Marco Leone and Victor Orlov are two art collectors. They're both willing to do anything in order to get this piece. It's Michael's job to secure the artwork.

The main thing I like about Michael, the same in my experience with Breakout, is that he does his best to make the smart decisions in any given situation. Nor does he do things for any needless violence or adrenaline fix. In the beginning of the book, we can see this best; he has his part to play in the plan and then he takes a step back for others to do their own bit. It's something that's quite obviously missing in many movies and television shows; that in those cases, the characters just don't know when to take a break. Michael, however, doesn't do it for glory or attention. He does his part and knows better than to put himself in a dangerous situation unnecessarily. The other characters each have their part to play as well. Marco Leone and Victor Orlov were fitting foes for our main character. Both seemed intelligent and took reasonable risks to ensure that their operations remained functioning. Marco in particular; his security is fairly tight he tries to keep himself, his belongings and his party, safe at all times. Sienna is a great character as well. I appreciated that she's something more than just a brainless arm attachment to Marco. She has genuine intelligence; she was very cautious, she speaks well, she's multilingual and a former art student. I also like her history and felt that her past seemed somewhat interesting.

The plot is very well developed and the author has created a very structured book, with a mix of varying things for many audiences to enjoy. There are aspects of espionage, action scenes with explosions, a car chase and a few fights, a priceless painting thought to be lost for many years, plus a little bit of romance to bind it all together. The CIA operations are very functional. Though we only meet a few of the people involved in these plans, it's obvious that there must be heaps of other people involved. The same with the actual set up; there's obviously a lot of work and research gone in to the operation. I think that works well because we know that it's a huge operation, but the author doesn't clutter the story with needless scenes, research or people that we might simply forget in five minutes. I don't actually have any complaints that I can think of in regards to plot or writing. The only thing I'm really confused about is that Michael uses his own name during the operation. It just seems silly to me because, in theory, one might simply trace his name back to some aspect of his past. For example, pretty much anyone can discuss you at any given time. All it takes is for one, newly unemployed henchman to go to a new job, only to find Mr Quinn in a new operation which involves some sort of new cover identity. Of course, I'm sure any henchman would likely be swept up into custody of whatever agency is fitting, but it could be other people connected to the first operation that could be a problem; cleaners, lovers, anyone who met him at a restaurant or party. Having made that point, however, I can see why the author chose to keep Michael's name as is and simply edit his past. I'm sure it's difficult for a character to take on a new identity and that might only serve to confuse the book. Another thing that bothers me is that Sienna gives Michael a tour of Marco's home during a visit. Personally, if I were Marco, I wouldn't allow that to happen as anybody could use that information to do violate his privacy. Even if it weren't Michael to use the information, he might have still shared it with someone else who might use it.

Overall, I'm thoroughly impressed with the book, the characters most of all. They're smart and feel natural; many with past lives that we get to learn little bits about. The plot is thrilling and takes the idea of an art theft, mixed with a little espionage and action. The author writes well and develops both plot and characters without clutter. All of these aspects create a novel that is both original and exciting. I definitely would love to read more of Michael Quinn's life and eagerly await his next adventure.

I received a free copy of this story in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Serafina says**

This easy-to-read spy novel features Michael Quinn, a little bit of an uptight, former NAVY SEAL who is now a CIA operative. He has the military mindset but is trying to get by in the laid-back beach community of Laguna Beach. His mission is to find and regain a stolen painting and investigate an undercover operative's murder.

As anyone familiar with The Maltese Falcon story knows, people will do anything to obtain and keep a fabulous piece of art! Quinn must find the art but also keep it from the two unscrupulous people who have it who will do anything to make sure they keep it.

As a spy novel, we expect some action scenes and Olson delivers those with a car chase, fights and a few explosions. Like any good James Bond film there must be a little romance and we get that too with a beautiful but smart woman named Sienna. Olson quickly moves the scene from one mission in one country to the next mission in another country, from Rome to California to Mexico, so you can't just read and not pay attention. I have read a lot of classic old mystery detective novels and Quinn is one of the old-fashioned sorts of gumshoes who keeps his head when everyone else seems to start getting desperate. I didn't realize when I started reading this that Quinn is also a character in a series of short stories, so by the time the author brings us to this novel, Quinn already has a history and is a well-developed character.

The plot has a lot of twists and turns and the characters seem real. The Night of the Bonfire actually refers to a real event: The Bonfire of the Vanities. This happened in Italy in the late 15th century when any objects that were deemed to contribute to sin were publicly burned. This included mirrors, artwork and books. Of course, the plot expands to involve cross-border intrigue involving drugs and criminal leaders. Overall, this is a book full of intrigue and the author did a heck of a job on his first book. I received a free copy of this story in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Joan Kundra says**

A great first novel by Kevin Olson!!

This book is about Michael Quinn, a former Navy Seal now doing special work for the CIA. Quinn is sent on a mission to find a piece of stolen artwork. There are two possible suspects. Quinn is very intelligent and carefully plans each step of his mission. This mission finds him going from Mexico...California...and Rome. Of course there is a beautiful woman involved and Quinn learns from her where he could possibly find the stolen art. Every step of the way there is danger and excitement involved...along with careful planning for the best way to get to the place where the painting is without getting caught. Following Quinn on his mission leaves the reader wanting to know what happens next.

The night of the bonfire, Quinn gets his chance. The excitement that follows keeps the reader turning to the next page and the next chapter to find out what happens next.

I did not give this book all five stars as it was difficult to keep track of where the action was happening. Each chapter started with the name of the city where the chapter was taking place. At times I would have to look back to see what city the chapter was in. Other than that, I would say that this is an extremely well written book that kept me on the edge of my seat waiting to find out what was going to happen next. Mr. Olson wrote so well that I was sucked in from the very first page. Looking forward to reading more of the life and adventures of Michael Quinn.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **John Johnstone says**

Ian Flemings Bond style is easy to replicate however you must have a good storyline to make it work. With Michael Quinn, Kevin Scott Olson has produced an excellent facsimile including gadgets, the beautiful girls and an outstanding story. Entertaining from start to finish he sends his private contractor into the art world to uncover and bring down a major drug player. The author has delivered everything you would expect of the genre, action, thrills, suspense, violence and of course moderate sex. This has been a great book to read after my last two selections have failed to deliver. Recommended.

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