



Tears of God

Steven F. Freeman

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A Prophecy...a Promise...a Project

A chance encounter leads FBI agent Mallory Blackwell to investigate the circumstances surrounding the mysterious death of her father, Cutter Wilson, years ago.

Their only informant murdered, Mallory and cryptologist husband Alton lead an NSA team on a round-the-world quest to track down the perpetrator of a mysterious toxicological project.

The sleuths must summon all their investigatory skills in a desperate bid to follow a trail of clues to the hidden truth of Cutter Wilson's death, a discovery exceeding their wildest expectations.

Tears of God Details

Date : Published November 18th 2015 by Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

ISBN : 9781519284303

Author : Steven F. Freeman

Format : Paperback 488 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction

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From Reader Review Tears of God for online ebook

Pamela King says

Mallory and her mother always believed Mallory's father, Cutter Wilson, died fifteen years ago of natural causes.

A mysterious encounter with a former agent and colleague of Cutter's warns Mallory and her husband, Alton, that it was murder.

Very soon after he reveals this information he too is found murdered although on the surface it also appears to be natural causes.

Both Alton and Mallory are employed from time to time by Ernesto Vega, Manager of the NSA; Alton as a cryptologist and Mallory as a forensic accountant. They call on Vega to support their investigation into the deaths of both men.

The story is full of action and never gets bogged down with too much detail yet is written in a way that the reader enjoys a fast paced ride to uncover the truth. There is plenty of suspense and action dotted with humour and tempered with affection.

Their undercover operation takes them to Afghanistan and Australia in search of a company that doesn't seem to exist.

I quickly took a liking to both Mallory and Alton and especially liked the combination of strength, tenderness and youthfulness of Mastana. In fact, all the characters, both good and evil, are well developed.

The title of the book comes from a legend that calls for a violent end to those exposed to the tears of God.

As an Australian, I feel I should comment on the Australian setting in the book. At the time of writing the author had not visited Australia and I congratulate him for not filling his story with extreme characterisation of scenes, lifestyle and slang that are found in so many non-Australian authored works.

Freeman has kept it simple but still conveys the feel of the Australian outback including the high number of venomous animals so suited to the evil Safi's project. What jargon he has included is spot on and some little-known facts outside the country like, yes; we do have camels in the desert. The interesting fact about our camels is they came originally with traders from Afghanistan. The only mistake is our Southern Cross has five stars, not four.

This is the first of the Blackwell Files books I have read and look forward to going back and reading previous stories in the series.

I received this book for the purpose of a fair review.

This review is also on my website www.pam.id.au

Robbie says

Well-written, good storyline, likeable characters. I enjoyed the book; it was fast-paced, but I found the outcome to be a little too simplistic considering the extremity of the danger. Still, I rate it 4.8 stars.

Jerome says

page turner.

Sriram chenojwala says

An action packed thriller that rivets readers' attention irrespective of the setting they're in. The action sequences pack punch from the beginning but intensifies as the story progresses to climax. While one proceeds through halfway, it's easy to fall into the subterfuge illusion of book being a one-sided, predictable narrative. But right then author conjures up twists in the tale that arouse readers' curiosity, heightens suspense and compels to turn pages, in anxiety. A good one!.

James says

Impossible Scenario of survival

I rated this book as fair. No strike team could survive this level of overwhelming odds. As it is a series, a cash cow, it is a foregone conclusion that they would, but there did not seem to be enough credibility in the climactic ending to provide for this.

Jean says

Of all Steven F. Freeman's Blackwell Files books, Tears of God packs the most punch. The author doesn't waste any time getting down to brass tacks. After a stranger hints that FBI Agent Mallory Blackwell's father, who died suddenly years earlier, may have been murdered, the mysterious informant meets a similarly abrupt demise, prompting the Blackwells to embark on a mission to uncover the truth.

The fast pace kept me turning the pages. For me, this was more adventure than mystery, since I detected the biggest unknown factor in the equation quite early on. Still, I felt that the plot flowed well, and it felt good to be reunited with familiar characters. In the past, I have felt that some of the dialog between Alton and Mallory felt unnatural, and it bothered me that Alton had to mentally keep pinching himself over the fact that Mallory indeed chose him to marry. There was none of that in this book; their dialogue flows quite easily, and it seems that they have settled in comfortably together at last.

They choose to reunite with their buddy David and his adopted daughter Mastana as two of their team members for their operation. At sixteen, Mastana has a lot going for her. I loved that Freeman chose to give his female characters strong roles in this book.

The negatives for me were that much of the book read like a military mission, much more so than most of the previous novels. This was okay, to a point, but I wish he had chosen to vary the team's methods somewhat. After all, even though they have military backgrounds, Alton and Mallory specialize in using their brains. Also, a couple of the new team members came across as a bit one-dimensional, and that tipped me off to some of the events that were to occur later in the story.

On the balance, Tears of God held my interest throughout. The reader is privy to information that Blackwell's team is not; we get to see him try to unravel the legend of the "tears of God," and find a killer. Steven Freeman has continued to develop his husband and wife team into two fine, likeable characters, and I'm sure we'll see them grow even more as the series progresses.

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for my honest, unbiased opinion.

4.5 stars

Charissa Wilkinson says

I received this book for the purpose of a fair review.

Overview: Alton and Mallory have just received some bad news. The man who had some information on Cutter Wilson's death, seems to have had some enemies. His death would have silenced the investigation into the Wilson murder, if it wasn't for his last words. Now, it's a race to find the man who would use the 'Tears of God.'

Likes: Alton and Mallory still seem to be devoted to each other. Also, we get to see David and Mastana again.

Dislikes: To put it mildly, it seemed like there was no respect for our Constitution from those who swore to uphold it. Also Mallory was dealing with a conflict of interest.

Conclusion: To be honest, it's really hard to tell the difference between the investigatory team, and the killer's crew. When you have this attitude you lose the heroic side of your protagonists. I didn't care for this one much at all.

Sharron Grodzinsky says

Wow, a real thriller with the Blackwells taking you on a journey of twists and turns that will surprise you and keep you turning the pages! When Alton and Mallory find out there is more to Mallory's father's untimely death than appears on the surface, the thrills begin. Steven is an extremely talented writer who has a real knack for dialog and description. When he sets the scene, you will visualize it with clarity and feel like you are right here. Don't miss this one!

Mimi Davis Hopkins says

Great as a stand alone

This is a very interesting and well written story. Great characters, with a great plot. The story has a nice even flow with unexpected twists and turns that takes the reader totally by surprise. Great Read

Aly says

What a great mystery again. I really like these books. I think they are great. I could see a computer game being created around these books. (I would buy it) They could make several games from this series. Alton and Mallory are a great couple too. I loved it! * I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review*

Bob says

This is a spy novel, more or less, about NSA agents on the trail of an assassin and a pharmaceutical giant that's sidelining as a terrorist poison supplier. It was not very believable and not especially fun, but the plot spun along at a good pace, so i managed to finish the book. I don't regret it, but there are a lot of other things i could have been doing with my time that would have been more rewarding.

Bob Ely says

This wasn't a bad book, once you got into it. A husband and wife start an investigation into the death of the wife's father several years ago. They team up with a group of NSA agents and others to try and track down a chemical plant in the middle east. They go there and find clues that lead them to a plant in Australia. Here their quest to find out what is going on and to take the person responsible for her father's murder to justice. It took me a while to get into it, but once I did, it was good.

Keith Withers says

Rivetting drama

A rapidly more dramatic story of an undercover illicit operation which comes to life when Alton's wife, Mallory, sets out to discover the perplexing mystery of her father's sudden unexplained death by heart attack

Augustine Sam says

An Excellent Thriller

Tears of God is symbolic of death. It is a nearly outdated prophecy, which seems as far-fetched as myths are wont to be. That is, until one obscure fanatic becomes enthralled by it and decides to turn it into a deadly project. For profit, of course. Shielded in secrecy, it ensures that anyone who seeks any information relating to it ends up dead. Everything changes when Mallory, the daughter of the project's first victim, and her husband, learn of its existence. And there the thriller begins...

Tears of God, the seventh in an 8-book series known as The Blackwell Files, takes you on a scary ride from Washington D.C. to Afghanistan where you'll be forced to take a detour that'll land you in the remote northern Australian town of Alice Springs. Rich in detail, it has a simple and efficient narrative voice and a cogent, spellbinding plot. On many occasions during the ride, you'll hesitate to turn the page... but at the end, you'll be glad it's a work of fiction. Still, you'll learn a vital lesson about trust and you'll realize that sometimes a traitor isn't as distant a figure as you might imagine.

An excellent thriller.

Scotts Kindle says

Good story

This was a good read. A good adventure thriller. Unfortunately this was the first book of the series so I came into this behind. The author was good about bringing you up to date. My suggestion is to start at the beginning.
