



Hostile Takeover

Patrick E. McLean

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What happens when a loyal henchman, or better yet, hench-lawyer rebels against his criminal mastermind?

The answer is Hostile Takeover, the sequel to How to Succeed in Evil. Victorious over the forces of good (such as they are) Edwin Windsor is free to do the most evil thing he can imagine: open up an insurance company. Sure, it's a cover for using the Cromoglodon (think, the Hulk) in a protection racket, but when Omdemnity Insurance begins to succeed on it's own merits, it creates a problem for his loyal, violent, debaucherous and very, very short hench-lawyer Topper. When you get into the game for the action, the last thing you want is a real job.

After Edwin and his company suck all the fun out of his life, Topper rebels. Staging an unlikely, uphill coup against the smartest, most thorough genius he has ever known.

If you've ever had a job you hated. If you've ever secretly rooted for Lex Luthor. If you've ever wondered what it would be like if the henchman was in charge. And, especially if you've read How to Succeed in Evil, you'll love, How to Succeed in Evil:Hostile Takeover

Hostile Takeover Details

Date : Published June 27th 2012 by good words (right order)

ISBN :

Author : Patrick E. McLean

Format : Kindle Edition 221 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Comics, Superheroes, Humor

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Michael Feeney says

Really enjoyed this, the sequel to How to Succeed in Evil. I don't think the storyline was necessarily better, but Hostile Takeover seemed to flow much better than the first book. May be just an impression, but I found it more polished. Exactly as enjoyable, though...

The main thing about these books is simply that they are great fun. The characters of Edwin Windsor, efficiency consultant to supervillains, and his hedonistic attorney Topper are well conceived and written. Patrick E. McLean has put together another enjoyable visit into the boardrooms of evil...

Rochelle Brandon says

Abandoning evil consultation because of poor quality villains, Edwin perfects evil in the form of an insurance company (confirming my long held suspicions that the insurance industry is pure evil). McLean continues his series by focusing on the Edwin's disgruntled sidekick, Topper. Evil has gone corporate and Topper vows to teach his friend that there is more to life than evil. Once again, McLean's superb story and impeccable writing had me wheezing with laughter.

Donna says

Wow, what a disappointing followup to a great book, How to Succeed in Evil. This book just wasn't any fun. Edwin, the fabulous consultant for Evil, is simply boring in the few scenes we actually see him. Topper is the star of this one and while I loved him in the first book and the novella Consultation With a Vampire, he didn't have any fun in the book either except for his too brief time as a super hero.

I hope there's a next book in the series and I will happily give it a chance but I hope it returns to the spirit of the first one.

Sasha Garza says

This was a wonderful book. I wish I could have listened to it. I love the sound of McLean's voice.

Edwin is one of my favorite bad guys. He is the scariest one I know.

In book 1, Edwin was logical, calm, and composed. The story starts out normal. As the situation progresses, Edwin makes decisions I understand. They're clever and justified. I identify with him. About half way through, there is a chapter told from the perspective of a prostitute. She sees Edwin as cold and evil. Her description is visceral. It gives me chills. She changes the way I see. This new perspective sets a tone that alters my reactions to the events that follow. By the end of the book, I see Edwin as Evil and cruel. Then, I remember the way I used to agree with him. Those thoughts scare me every time.

Book 2 is about Topper, Edwin's midget lawyer friend. Topper is argumentative, aggressive, and impulsive. Topper watches Edwin make bad and destructive decisions. His narration is emotional and moving. His feelings win me over. I start rooting for an annoying little jerk. I understand how and why he acts. Once again, I'm drawn into someone doing 'wrong'.

There is so much more to say, but I won't spoil the plot. I love this series. I love the questions it raises. The books are thoughtful but not preachy. The characters are deep and real. Sentences are well constructed and a joy to read. As a narrator, McLean's voice is deep and rich and clear. Please read or listen to these. You won't regret it.

Jon says

Might have been better than the first installment. These were very good words in definitely the right order.

Victor says

Bah...

A weak follow-up to an excellent book. I really don't understand how things can go wrong when the cast of characters include: The Most Calculating Man in the World; a maniacal, hedonistic, destructive dwarf, a superhero with a desire to switch teams and a human wrecking ball.

But somewhere in there the author decided to screw over the reader. Writing was solid, minus a few errors.

But it just didn't seem believable.

The main character, our stalwartly calculating Edwin from the first book, decides to become an evil-doer because of the death of his faithful Agnes. But we don't see anything really change. In the first book, he's a consultant for evil because he wants to help them make a profit. In the second book, he's supposed to be motivated by the death of his friend, yet the motivation never changes... money. We don't see an actual shift in the character's drive... he just becomes a self-actualized profiteer.

Then, we have possibly the worst crime of all. The author decides to give the most destructive and perverted dwarf in all of the history of literature superpowers, and barely gives us one short scene with them. Nothing could have elevated this book from "meh" to "fun" like a flying dwarf in a child's superhero costume and balls of energy shooting out of his fingers. Things were looking up at that point. Unfortunately, it was all for naught. Nothing really exciting came out of that golden opportunity.

Anyway, couple that with the author's use of a time worn and annoying method of wrapping everything up without having to make any sacrifices and the book managed to leave a bad taste in my mouth upon finishing. I would have rated this a two, but it's still a well written book, with interesting/entertaining scenes. It just could have been a lot more fun.

Robert Williamson says

Another great one from Patrick E. McLean. Topper is back and better than ever. Great story.

Can't wait for more.

Zyriel says

Something that stands out in Patrick's How to Succeed in Evil series is his excellent characterization. It's almost over the top, but it works, particularly in such short stories.

That said, I didn't like this one as much as the first. It might be because I listened to the first in podcast form, which Patrick's zeal evident in his voice. But I think it was also because the story was a little dry and once I got about 2/3, a little obvious.

I certainly plan to continue reading his work, but this one wasn't the best of them.

Geoffrey says

Don't get me wrong, I liked this book - but the first one was much more fun. This didn't have the same mix of amorality, charm and wit as the first book.

I'll be reading the next book that comes out as I like McLean's demented little world he's creating - but I hope this next one doesn't focus so strongly on just one character. This was too much Topper and needed other sociopaths to keep the fun going.

Stephieshaver says

The kindle version has a lot of typos, but still enjoyable.

Marcus Cooper says

I only gave this book 4 stars because I don't think it is as good as the first book. But I do love it. the story is great. there wasn't as much balance in this one. a little too much topper and not enough Edwin. and Agnes, the best character is gone. but Daniel is around. hopefully he plays a bigger roll in future stories.

Nathan Hillyer says

Not as good as How To Succeed in Evil but worth reading. There were some funny moments with an always eccentric Topper but some really sad trauma that was left hanging and forgotten, perhaps being part of the cruel injustice, but a reader certainly desires some significance when an innocent man like the lovable Adjustor Jerry is killed or when the Cromoglodon is electrocuted. I guess I thought it could have been a bit

funnier, even in its evil. Even in evil, a reader loves comedic karmic justice.

Michael says

Nice story with some fantastic reflections on working life

The story itself is ok, a worthy continuation to the previous two. Original rethinking of the superhero trope. If it was just that, I'd easily recommend it as worth the time and money, while advising you to read the preceding two instalments. What makes this one even better, much better, are scattered passages where the story reflects on corporate - and despite what this sounds like, these passages are gold, worth perhaps more than the story.

Well done. Kudos.

Andrea says

I love the idea of this series, but the writing could be stronger and cleaner and there are A LOT of typos in the Kindle version.

I'll keep reading McLean's books because I think he has great ideas, but I really, really want them to be better. I just can't put my finger on how or why...

William Temple says

Hilarious

Topper is a very funny and tragic character that brings out my sympathetic side. We got to see from the viewpoint of a misfit who seeks the exciting to hide his pain. This book allowed me to read about a colorful protagonist and there were many plot turns. I will say the ending was predictable and so we're other parts.
