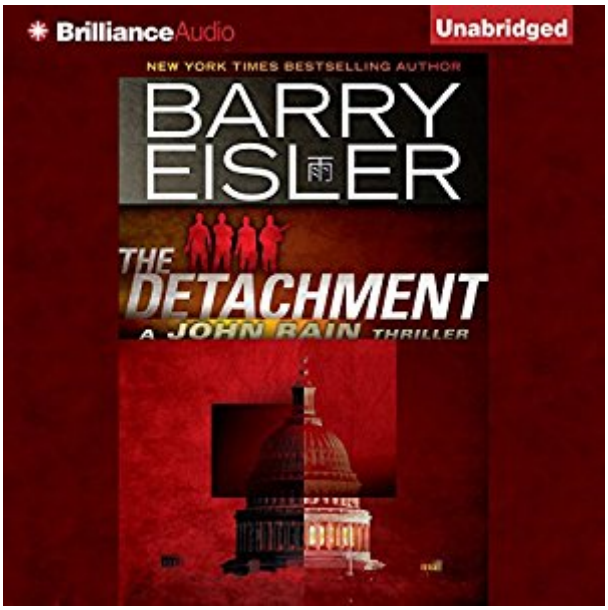
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The Detachment



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Synopsis

John Rain is back. And "the most charismatic assassin since James Bond" (San Francisco Chronicle) is up against his most formidable enemy yet: the nexus of political, military, media, and corporate factions known only as the Oligarchy. When legendary black ops veteran Colonel Scott "Hort" Horton tracks Rain down in Tokyo, Rain can’t resist the offer: a multi-million dollar payday for the "natural causes" demise of three ultra-high-profile targets who are dangerously close to launching a coup in America. But the opposition on this job is going to be too much for even Rain to pull it off alone. He’ll need a detachment of other deniable irregulars: his partner, the former Marine sniper, Dox. Ben Treven, a covert operator with ambivalent motives and conflicted loyalties. And Larison, a man with a hair trigger and a secret he’ll kill to protect. From the shadowy backstreets of Tokyo and Vienna, to the deceptive glitz and glamour of Los Angeles and Las Vegas, and finally to a Washington, D.C. in a permanent state of war, these four lone wolf killers will have to survive presidential hit teams, secret CIA prisons, and a national security state as obsessed with guarding its own secrets as it is with invading the privacy of the populace. But first, they’ll have to survive each other. The Detachment is what fans of Eisler, "one of the most talented and literary writers in the thriller genre" (Chicago Sun-Times), have been waiting for: the worlds of the award-winning Rain series, and of the best-selling Fault Line and Inside Out, colliding in one explosive thriller as real as today’s headlines and as frightening as tomorrow’s.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book deserves five stars by most measures, but compared to Eisler's best work, this falls just a bit short in terms of polish and believability. In this installment of the John Rain mythos, he teams up with his friend Dox, as well as two other familiar agents, Ben Treven and Dan Larison, in a force-fit detachment to thwart terrorist attacks on American soil. There are many plot twists here, including the apparent turncoat activities of their superior officer, colonel Horton. The team members manage eventually to overcome their distrust of each other and carry out brilliant tactics against an adversarial organization that is never quite adequately explained. Eisler gets all details right in his stories to achieve believability, except phone booths, but here the use of suicide bombers right here in the USA is not sufficiently explained so that the reader can envision how these organizations so familiar in the middle east could be transplanted to our country. Another loose end occurs when Ben Treven decides to let Horton go after the team takes his daughter hostage. Horton just disappears from the action, rather than trying to get in touch with his daughter. These seeming oversights are minor and can be overcome, of course, for the reader to be assured of another good escapist experience with Barry Eisler.

In "The Detachment" Barry Eisler brings together the protagonists of his previous novels - the experienced and utterly deadly John Rain, and the capable but conflicted Ben Treven. Along for the ride are Rain's partner, the sniper named Dox, and Treven's one-time foil, Larrison, a man as lethal as Rain, but who has burned out and is struggling to keep himself together.Colonel Scott Horton - Treven and Larrison's boss - has tasked them with bringing Rain and Dox into the fold in order to stop a plot he has uncovered to suspend the Constitution and execute a coup d'etat, right here, in the United States. The promised payday is huge, and Rain, who has struggled with finding a way to redeem his past sins during his later years, accepts the offer. Soon, the four men are taking important pieces of the group leading the coup off the board, but warnings from Larrison that Hort cannot be trusted begin to prove themselves more than idle chatter, and it is not long before the entire American security apparatus seems to be pointed directly at them. Not only might Rain and Treven's biggest payday be their last, but the very country is teetering on the edge of an abyss.Eisler's characters underpin a formidable story line with his customary page-turning pace and even more smart and original plot twists than usual. The tale is rooted in very real problems affecting the United States, and the author even provides extensive background reading notes at the end. This is more than a plot device; as it clearly demonstrates his genuine concern over the state of our nation, which manifests in the ending, wrapping up some things neatly, but also leaving the strong impression that all that came before may have, in fact, been for naught.Eisler's maturity

as an author and a person shows through in "The Detachment". There are elements of deep cynicism, but also of hope, patriotism, friendship, and redemption. He is in top form here.

Love the John Rain character and the setting and the sense of originality that the first several books in the series offered. This one does not live up to the rest. Please, if haven't read Barry Eisler, read the earlier works and stop before you get to this one.Added July 15 - After quitting at 34%, I finished "The Detachment" this weekend. The action does pick up. John Rain and his gang combine their talents to form a team the likes of which have not been seen since "The Gang" from "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" kidnapped the restaurant review writer in "Paddy's Pub: The Worst Bar in Philadelphia". Instead of the internally conflicted John Rain consoling himself with jazz and single-malt whiskeys in exotic locations of the early Eisler novels, we have Mr. "I care about your feelings" leading a cast of self-absorbed sociopaths on an adventure that is more creatively presented by a cable sitcom based in a run down pub in South Philadelphia.The first three John Rain novels were gems. There are some glimpses of the better novels in this work, especially an intriguing scene with friend Tomo Kanezaki. Hopefully scenes and characters like this will get more time in future novels, and John Rain will return to solitary form - while the rest of "The Gang/The Detachment" make Part 3 of "The Gang Gets Whacked".

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