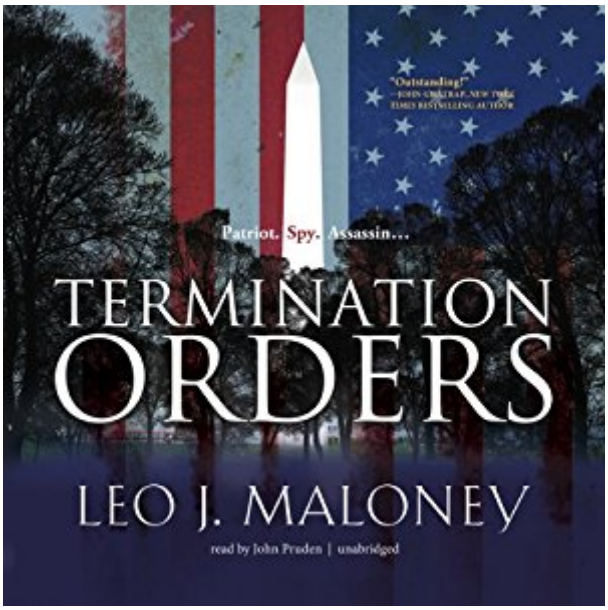
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# Termination Orders




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## Synopsis

In the tradition of bestsellers by Robert Ludlum and Vince Flynn, Termination Orders introduces Dan Morgan, a retired black-ops agent who must return to duty to thwart a deadly international conspiracy. Once a trained killer for the CIA, Dan Morgan has built a new life for himself. But when he receives a desperate plea from his former black-ops partner - reportedly killed in a foreign battle zone - he flies in to help. It should be a routine mission, extracting a human asset from the region, but it’s not - it’s an ambush. Now Morgan is running for his life, with crucial evidence in his possession. With his contacts dead and his family in danger, Morgan must take on a full-scale conspiracy in the highest echelons of a vast global network that plays by its own rules. Leo J. Maloney spent over thirty-five years in black ops, accepting highly secretive missions that would put him in the most dangerous hot spots in the world. Since leaving that career, he has had the opportunity to try his hand at acting in independent films and television commercials. He has ten movies to his credit, both as an actor and behind the camera as a producer, technical advisor, and assistant director.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the second "Morgan" thriller I have now read. This book was similar in many respects to "Silent Assassin" ... (same song - different verse). Maloney is a pretty good action/thriller author. His books move along at a good pace and are entertaining. The main character is well contrived and his personal background makes for interesting plots ... similar to the Bond & Bourne character/novels.

While I enjoy the escapism, my only personal problem with the series so far is that some of the events and motivation for Dan Morgan to act are not convincingly realistic enough to always be believable. But it isn't a big enough problem not to continue reading on.

I just finished book 5 (Arch Enemy) in this series and reviewed it, and realized I needed to jump in a time machine and come back to review book one as my note to readers interested in picking up the first volume.Yes, this book (and the series it spawns) is similar to the Mitch/Digger/Scot/Jericho/Pike books out there in that it features over-the-top good guys running around beating up on over-the-top bad guys in exciting, page-turning ways. What is different in this series is that Maloney forgoes the "tortured soul" single-person bad-azz shooter in favor of some very interesting, multi-player character development.His larger plot arcs are fun, interesting, and genre-appropriate. The plot points and devices used to move along those arcs, however, are at the very top of disbelief. Maloney frequently employs deus ex machina and extremely improbable plotting to move the characters from point "A" to point "B." These insane events happen so often that I almost wonder if they aren't used as an inside joke to fans. Something along the lines of "Bad guy have a gun to your head? Already pulled the trigger? Don't worry! Call 1-800-Plot-Fix NOW and we'll send you a sniper's bullet to knock the barrel away before the bullet can exit the barrel! Operators are standing by!" Of course, the narrow escape happens in all books of this genre, but Maloney tends to have a knack for taking it to the extreme. Like I said, I wonder if he does it as an aside to his fans.That said, the reader can afford to have some fun rolling their eyes at the various last-second contrivances used to advance the plot, because Maloney is so damned good at character development and interaction. It's not just the main protagonist we get to know in this book/series, but his partner, his daughter, his boss, and many others. Whatever Maloney lacks in the art of semi-realistic last-minute escapes, he more than makes up for in developing his characters and allowing them to interact. He is exceptional at switching first-person perspectives from character to character, and you, the reader, are treated to experiencing many personalities as they view the same plot arc from different and very realistic perspectives.This is Maloney's strong suit - what sets him apart and what sets this series apart. His characters are so strong that I am more than able to overlook the plot devices - even consider them part of the "fun" of the read - because I am paid in very good, very strong introspection and interaction. The characters "do" some really silly things, but they act, think, feel, and interact in very real, very well-considered ways.Why five stars if I complain about the plot contrivances? Because I'm not complaining about them - merely pointing them out. Maloney is good enough with the arc and good enough with the characters that I can roll my eyes all I want and still

feel like I got a highly enjoyable read. You WILL roll your eyes, but if you will also wipe them a few times. That's why I keep wondering if it's intentional - if Maloney is intentionally going over-the-top to get your guard down so the serious, real parts hit you harder.Within the limits of the genre (this is light reading, after all), Maloney is highly adept at putting you in the brain-space of different people. For me, that was enough to keep a 5-star rating despite some pretty intense eye-rolling deus ex machina moments. I poke my fun because readers of reviews should know and understand what they're getting, but I remain an avid fan of Maloney and this series, have gladly purchased all five books thus far, and will be near first in line for the sixth pre-order.

I suppose if you want to read about a hero with major flaws this could be for you. Morgan runs blindly into situations without a thought in his head. He was supposed to be an accomplished assassin but apparently Maloney doesn't know what that means or Morgan was a real has been and forgot everything he knew that made him useful to the CIA when he was younger.The character development is terribly weak. Morgan's grown daughter wants a better relationship with her Dad so Morgan promises to take her to a sports event in a day or so. He than runs of to Afghanistan for a few days and than returns to the US to run around the country for a few more days and never is the missed sports event mentioned until weeks later. Probably a nice development to flesh out the characters but it than lies ignored for chapters and chapters.I suppose it beats doing taxes or reading the paper, but only just a little bit better.

This novel has more twists and turns than an Etch-A-Sketch! Maloney does an excellent job developing the characters and seamlessly melding the past with the present. The plot keeps your rapt attention from start to finish.

I'm about 2/3 of the way through this book and honestly, it's really dragging. I used to read to get to sleep. Then I discovered authors like Mark Dawson and series like the Grey Man books. Suddenly I found myself unable to go to sleep, I'd literally read all night. Leo J Maloney has brought me back to the point where I struggle to end a chapter before nodding off.I guess my question is, does this series get any better after this, clearly, difficult first book? If they all follow the same pace with the same bungling and inept protagonist, I just don't think it's worth wasting any more cash on. Oh, yeah, for the record, I agree with every reviewer who says that Maloney's bio is BS. I personally know of a former telephone sales guy who created a far more convincing covert operative character in his very first self-published novel.

Truth is I got halfway through this book and tossed it aside. The writing is horribly bad to point of distraction (was his editor on vacation?), and for a supposedly "highly trained black ops assassin" this main character is a completely incompetent moron stumbling from one ridiculous cliched scenario to the next. This book is what a spy thriller might read like if a junior high teenager was trying to write a Schwarzenegger action movie.

I purchased this book on a recommendation from another Brad Thor fan. The book was right on the same level as the Brad Thor books that I adore as well as those by Marc Cameron. Great thrilling novel full of twists and turns that keep the pages turning. I highly recommend this series.

The book is a decent read. There is knowledge on the subject matter by the author. The story however IS a bit formulaic and the twists were fairly easy to spot

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