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Monster Hunter Memoirs: Grunge



Synopsis

Two multiple New York Times best-selling authors team up to expand Larry Correia's Monster Hunter universe! When marine private Oliver Chadwick Gardenier is killed in the marine barrack bombing in Beirut, somebody who might be Saint Peter gives him a choice: Go to heaven, which, while nice, might be a little boring, or return to earth. The Boss has a mission for him, and he's to look for a sign. He's a marine: He'll choose the mission. Unfortunately, the sign he's to look for is "57". Which, given the food services contract in Bethesda Hospital, creates some difficulty.

Eventually it appears that God's will is for Chad to join a group called Monster Hunters International and protect people from things that go bump in the night. From there, things trend downhill. Monster Hunter Memoirs is the (mostly) true story of the life and times of one of MHI's most effective - and flamboyant - hunters. Protips for up-and-coming hunters range from how to dress appropriately for jogging (low-profile body armor and multiple weapons) to how to develop contacts among the Japanese yakuza to why it's not a good idea to make billy goat jokes to trolls. Grunge harkens back to the Golden Days of Monster Hunting, when Reagan was in office, Ray and Susan Shackelford were top hunters, and Seattle sushi was authentic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I got this book through Edelweiss to review. This is the first book in the Monster Hunter Memoirs, which takes place in the mid 80s of the Monster Hunter history (before the MHI books). This book was okay but not nearly as good as the MHI series. I had some issues with this book.

Mainly I just didn't like the main character Chad; since this book is completely his memoirs this is an issue. He is a self-proclaimed womanizer who is apparently awesome at everything. He's written like a hero (which I guess he is) but comes across as very arrogant and insufferable...he also can do no wrong (aside from all the womanizing). I can honestly say if I ever met this character in real life I would hate him. Previous MHI books were nicely balanced between female and male characters, and all those characters (while heroes) also had endearing flaws. My other issue with this book is that this is less of a book than a series of loosely connected events strung together chapter by chapter. I guess that's okay; this is labeled as memoirs and that's what it is. I just didn't find it to be all that engaging or interesting. I have never read anything written by John Ringo before and maybe it's just his writing style that's rubbing me the wrong way. We do encounter lots of creepy monsters and there is a ton of action (which was well written). There is a lot of gun talk and lots of gore just like previous books. Overall this was okay but definitely not as good as previous MHI novels. I didn't enjoy the main character and the book was less of a book than a bunch of loosely connected events. I had a lot of trouble getting through this book and, although it is much shorter than the MHI books, it took me a much longer time to read it.

So, a bit of background. Larry Correia wrote a series of books where monsters, virtually all monsters from folklore of every nation, are real, and a private company, Monster Hunters International, hunts them to collect bounties paid by the federal government. The first book was a huge success, so much so that now there are five books in the series with more coming. John Ringo is a prolific author, writing books in multiple genres from science fiction to fantasy to, well, whatever the Kildar series is. His books are also hugely successful. One of John's series was a tale of the zombie apocalypse, written from the point of view of characters who were actually competent. One day, John picked up an MHI book and read it. The next day he picked up the rest. A few weeks later he had written two. This is not normal; authors don't generally just write a book in another author's universe. That's something fans do, usually badly. (See 50 Shades.) John did not do badly. In fact, he did so well that he and Larry decided that this project, that started basically on a whim, should see the light of day. Baen publishing agreed, and so MHI: Grunge was born. Collaborations are notoriously tricky things. Two writers with distinct voices have to find a way to harmonize together. When it works, each writer strengthens the weak points of the other, while their strong points shine. When it doesn't work, the work doesn't live up to the standards either have set in the past. Making things tougher, it's hard to collaborate repeatedly. As an example, Stephen King and Peter Straub collaborated twice, first with the *Talisman* and then the sequel, *The Black House*. The first book was

magical; the second, meh. So how does this particular collaboration work out?

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