



No Shelter

Robert Swartwood

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MEET HOLLY LIN. NANNY BY DAY. ASSASSIN BY NIGHT.

Holly Lin is living two lives. To her friends and family, she's a pleasant, hardworking nanny. To her boss and colleagues, she's one of the best non-sanctioned government assassins in the world.

But when a recent mission goes wrong causing one of her team members to die, she realizes she might no longer be cut out for the work — except the mission, as it turns out, is only half over, and to complete it will take her halfway across the world and bring her face to face with a ghost from her past.

Things are about to get personal. And as Holly Lin's enemies are about to find out, she is not a nanny they want to piss off.

Praise for NO SHELTER:

"Excellent—memorable and something I'll read more than once." —Roxane Gay, New York Times bestselling author of *An Untamed State*

"NO SHELTER is part mystery, part thriller suspense, and all kinds kick ass!" —The Man Eating Bookworm

No Shelter Details

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Author : Robert Swartwood

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From Reader Review No Shelter for online ebook

Ed says

Book #1 of an outstanding thriller series about Holly Lin, an Iraq War veteran now "off the books" covert assassin who moonlights as a nanny. A weaponized Mary Poppins, if you will. Holly is fascinating combination of guts, smarts and loyalty to her employer and the children in her care. She also demonstrates a deadly set of skills to complete her current mission of retrieving a flash drive from a gangster in Las Vegas. Things go sideways fast with Holly driving the retribution train at full speed. Well read and totally entertaining!

Louise Pledge says

I'm trying to remember what motivated me to put this on my Kindle. I just hope I didn't pay much for it (if anything), because it was AWFUL! Seven chapters was all I could stomach before I started checking reviews. Since it got so many good ones, I persevered to Chapter 23 but couldn't have lived with myself if I'd allowed myself to read any more of that filth! Disgusting language, graphic sexual details, scummy characters.....

Alisa Hedden says

No Shelter

By Z. Constance Frost

Review by A.M. Donovan

This is a fast paced story that gets you right into the action.

Starts with the first mission, and shows you the characters through their actions, instead of trying to describe everything in minute detail. This is something I very much like.

This is the type of Nanny (or Parent) every child should have. Willing to do whatever it takes to keep the children safe.

The main character, Holly Lin, is not one dimensional, but has complex relationships with the family she works for, the children she cares for, her co-workers, her own family (Mother, sister) and her real job.

The action is fast and realistic. Holly gets hurt, and it shows.

But, like most of us, the greatest pain comes from betrayal by the ones we trust the most.

There are, of course, twists to the story, but (congratulations!) not all of them are predictable.

The main complications (just like in real life) come when Holly tries to do the right thing, and the unintended consequences come up to bite her.

Definitely worth the time to read.

I look forward to having another visit with Holly Lin.

If you like very strong females, then you will enjoy this.

If you prefer your females to wait for rescue, then go somewhere else.

Lisa Reads & Reviews says

This was a good, fast-paced, solid read. Character development is especially well done for the action-hero, Holly Lin, and the action never drags. The prose is well-executed and clear, all while remaining out of the way to allow for quick enjoyment of the story. Although I didn't feel enough wow factor to give the novel 5 stars, it would have been 4 stars except that I remained unconvinced by too many elements that were critical to the plot. Without giving away any spoilers, I just didn't buy the betrayal and coverup scenarios, the flash drive hide-and-seek, and several other plot devices. The ending was a bit rough, even though I knew it was meant to set up for a sequel. The strength of the novel is in Holly's internal dialogue, humorous quips, and relationships. In all, this was an entertaining read.

Sara Avrams says

A good thriller

The book started out a little like an old fashioned crime novel. It turned out to be a pretty good read. The plot was a little bumpy in places with some of the characters being just a tad too cliché. In the long run, though, the story was engaging, action packed and fun to read.

Jay Deb says

Fast paced and suspenseful. I was going to give 5 but reduced to 4 only because of the topic around which the story moves.

Pete says

Action from a female action star before it was the hip thing to do. The plot and bad guy decisions require you to put a hold on reality and just read. There are many finely written action sequences that would work well in a John Woo flick. The author also does a great job fleshing out the main character Holly Lin. She's not sure she wants to be a Mission Impossible type government employee anymore. We get to meet her family and learn about her inner struggles as well as the events that led to her current mission on position.

Warning: This novel is open ended. Luckily there is a new Holly Lin novella coming out in about a month. Hopefully, more of the overall conflict will get resolved in that one.

I recommend for a quick action thriller with bonus points for the Bazooka Joe gum reference.

Stanley McShane says

No Shelter, A Holly Lin Thriller

Holly is a no nonsense operative. Her moves are exciting and evocative. You would not want to take her home to mother! But she could definitely be your friend in a dogfight. This book moves quickly and never fails to entertain. I highly recommend it for fast paced escapism. C E Williams free from Bookbub

Kirsten Lenius says

This book is a suspense thriller about a young woman who is a nanny by day and an assassin for hire by night, so to speak.

The premise is not bad, though the story faltered once in a while and things were done that didn't make sense to me. The whole thing was written in the present tense, which I do not favor, as it always reminds me of *Silence of the Lambs*: "It rubs the lotion on its skin, or else it gets the hose again." There were also a few errors, such as the one in which the author refers to a 'spindle' in the corner, by which from context I assume he meant a spinning wheel. A spindle is rather small, usually.

So, due to the inconsistencies and my personal preference for just about anything but first person present, I have to say the book was just okay. It could improve with some work though.

Susan says

Sucked me in from page one

No Shelter pretty much sucked me in from page one. Fast paced with lots of action. Holly Lin is totally bas a\$\$! I'll definitely be purchasing the next in the series

Theresa Abney says

The story was captivating enough that I almost forgot how much I hate first person narrative. Almost.

Steve Umstead says

Review of No Shelter by Z. Constance Frost

This was one of the first novels I downloaded for Kindle, as I'm slowly integrating myself into the wonderful world of e-readers. I saw Frost's name mentioned on a message forum, so I thought I'd take a look. Very eye-catching cover, intriguing blurb, so I decided to grab a sample. I burned through it in one night, got to the end of the sample section, and immediately clicked to buy the entire novel...it was that gripping.

Holly Lin is a nanny by day, and assassin by night. Frost takes the character around the world, from Vegas to Paris, from shootouts in the desert to a frantic tractor trailer chase scene, and never takes her foot off the gas

(pardon the pun). From page one, the story, the action, simply grab a hold of the reader and doesn't let go until the breathless end.

Holly is part action hero, part innocent young woman, and Frost brings an incredible range of emotion to the character. She writes excellent dialogue and uses the first person perspective very well in bringing Holly's thoughts and feelings to life. It's very easy for the reader to get inside her head, and feel the rage, sorrow, excitement, and more.

It's not all gloom and doom, however; Frost weaves humor and one liners into the story well (one I remember, without giving any spoilers, was when introduced to the Russian guard named Boris, she stops dead and says, "Is his name really Boris?", and later refers to Natasha - all without ruining the pace or plot line, like many other authors I've read have done when trying to integrate humor).

All in all, an excellent read. Fast-paced, hard to put down, full of characters the reader can truly feel for. I understand Frost is working on a sequel; I'll be watching for that, no doubt. For a debut work by an independent author, No Shelter is an enjoyable, emotional thriller well worth the reader's time (and small amount of money). Highly recommended - much better value than a latte!

Ross says

A damn fine book!

A female assassin (aren't they always now-a-days) with exceptional skills is a part of a shadowy maybe-government mob that ... assassinate people.

There are shootouts galore, kidnappings, ransoms, betrayal - it's all there:)

Actually it's a really good story, fast moving, with a protagonist that is easily attached to and bad guys worth hating.

A good book, finished as quickly as I could 4/5.

Tom Johnson says

In this first novel featuring Asian-American Holly Lin, we learn her background and that she works as an assassin for the government, her boss is Lieutenant-General (3 stars) Walter Hadden; she also is employed as his family's nanny, which gives her total access to the general. She is the daughter of a Japanese mother and Chinese father. She had joined the Army after high school, and while overseas her friend was raped and beaten by a soldier. She took it on herself to get even when her friend committed suicide, and she was arrested for murder. General Walters got her out of jail and brought her to work for his assassin unit. This is a complicated plot in which her task originally was to retrieve a flash drive from an arms dealer and take him out. There was a party with prostitutes that night and she is brought in as one of them. After killing the arms dealer and his guards, she gets the flash drive and rescues one of the girls. The Mexican girl tells her there is a ranch holding thirty or more illegal Mexican girls slaves for prostitution, and she takes it on herself to rescue them. Naturally, this upsets a cartel and they want her dead. And so does terrorists who were after the

flash drive that is now in the hands of the American government. People who are supposed to be dead show up very much alive, which complicates the plot – and her life – even more.

This is a good story with plenty of action, and Holly Lin takes a lot of beatings before it comes to an end. My one big complaint with the story concerns the character of Holly Lin. The author does everything right with her, but he fails making her a female Asian assassin, instead she comes across more as one of the boys. As good as this story is, I'm hoping the sequels bring out both her femininity and Asian background. There are male authors who write feminine leads quite well. For instance, Ian Hamilton's Ava Lee; Thatcher Robinson's Bai Jiang; The Black Stiletto by Raymond Benson; and K.W. Jeter's Kim Oh. However, Holly Lin is highly recommended for its great plotting and action.

Sean Peters says

This is where I wish they had 3.5 in the star listing.

This was a 3.5 book for me, I enjoyed it, but not as good as some of my favourites like Tom Wood, Ben Coes, Simon Kernick, Mark Greaney.

This is a first from this author, and reading a "Holly Lin" book, yes an assassin, killer with a past.

Read number one and yes I have bought number two in the series, just want to know what happens next...

MEET HOLLY LIN. NANNY BY DAY. ASSASSIN BY NIGHT. Holly Lin is living two lives. To her friends and family, she's a pleasant, hardworking nanny. To her boss and colleagues, she's one of the best non-sanctioned government assassins in the world. But when a recent mission goes wrong causing one of her team members to die, she realises she might no longer be cut out for the work — except the mission, as it turns out, is only half over, and to complete it will take her halfway across the world and bring her face to face with a ghost from her past. Things are about to get personal. And as Holly Lin's enemies are about to find out, she is not a nanny they want to get on the wrong side of, with the help of loyal backup, Nova, she is able to accomplish missions

Although this is the first in the series, I am sure they approve, sometimes I found the book slow and heavy going, then some action and fast paced then slow again.

History of the character is good, twists are good, some action far fetched, pace up and down.

Not as exciting as recent books I have read, but still quite good. 3.5 stars
