



Schism

Bill Granger

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After twenty years in the Cambodian jungle, Father Leo Tunney has staggered out--with a secret of global importance.

What does Father Leo Tunney know?

Washington, Moscow, Vatican City and an international bank want to find out--at any cost.

So does a cool, clever U.S. agent: Deveraux--code name, the "November Man." And one other: A beautiful young journalist who has her own way of prying answers from a tortured priest...a woman who might outwit them all...or become the ultimate pawn in a deadly game that could destroy the balance of world power!

Schism Details

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Author : Bill Granger

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From Reader Review Schism for online ebook

Joe Noir says

One of the most original and unusual spy novels I've ever read. Father Leo Tunney walks out of the jungles of Cambodia to the US embassy in Bangkok. He's been gone for twenty years. The CIA holds him incommunicado, then lets him go to take up residence at an order in Florida. Suddenly, agents from several intelligence agencies are in the area. From the Vatican, the Soviets, the CIA, and an unknown fourth group. Also in the area is The November Man from R section. Why so many spies in one area all interested in one old priest? What does he have to do with national security? Then, during mass, the old priest lays hands on a bent and twisted woman with Scoliosis, and she is cured! It's a miracle! Bill Granger really knew how to build suspense through a quiet conversation. The action is spare, but vivid. Not as good as The November Man, but my attention never wavered.

Lawrence Grey says

I have tried reading several of Granger's novels and find them somewhat difficult to get through not sure why but they don't match up well with many of the other authors on my list by free from the local public library

Peggy says

A step down from November Man.

Renee Pawlish says

This was a good spy book, stuff I liked to read when I was younger. Granger does a good job of keeping up suspense, and keeping you wondering what's going to happen next. Overall an enjoyable read.

Frederick Danysh says

Father Leo Tunney has been missing for 20 years and presumed dead. When he shows up at the US embassy in Bangkok it makes world headlines. When a reporter scoops his story, her apartment is ram sacked and she is advised to drop the story. Father Tunney has to make a decision about the knowledge that he acquired while missing.

Scott Parsons says

Another brilliant November Man novel by Bill Granger! This is my first read of 2015. If I had finished it a

few days earlier, I would have rated it one of the best books I had read in 2014. This is the second novel in the November Man series and I think the best I have read so far in that series. I still have another four to go. Granger's skills at character development and complex plotting are exceptional.

Father Leo Tunney, a Catholic priest who had been sent to Laos more than twenty years ago and was long thought dead, emerges from the Cambodian jungle and surfaces at the American embassy in Thailand. There is great interest in and consternation at his sudden emergence from the "dead", so to speak. The CIA, the Catholic church and the Soviets all are deeply concerned about what he might reveal about his experiences in the jungles of Southeast Asia during the missing twenty years.

The Americans fly Father Tunney to Clearwater, Florida, which is the HQ of the branch of the Catholic Church that he had been sent overseas by, both to save souls and to spy for the CIA. He is interrogated for several days by the CIA who are unable to get him to speak about his experiences. They then turn him over to his church colleagues in Clearwater. The Cardinal who heads the secretive organization, the Congregation for the Protection of the Faith headquartered at the Vatican, dispatches his protege, Irish priest Martin Foley, to interview Tunney and find out if he knows a secret that could be harmful to church interests. Meanwhile the Cardinal heads to Pague to negotiate a Concordance with the Soviets that would allow the Catholic Church to operate in the Eastern Bloc while recognizing the governance of the Soviet authorities and their lackeys in the adjoining countries. The Soviets also dispatch rehabilitated spy Denisov to Clearwater in pursuit of the same secret.

Reporter Rita Macklin who took a photo of Father Tunney in the custody of the CIA in Washington also heads for Florida to seek an interview with Father Tunney. Also dispatched to investigate the priest is Deverereaux, the November Man. After surveying the ground and the players, including some whose identity is unknown, Deverereaux decides his best approach to Tunney is through Macklin so he strikes up a conversation with her by passing himself off as another reporter on vacation. They become intimate but Rita is scared away when she realizes that Deverereaux is one of the spies gathered there.

After the murder of the emissary from Rome, Martin Foley, by Denisov, and the local head of the society to which Tunney belongs by someone unknown, Father Tunney who has been writing a journal of his experiences sends it to Rita Macklin. Macklin, upon reading it, realizes she has journalistic gold and leaves Florida abruptly for parts unknown. But not unknown for long as the forces redeploy to track her down and secure the journal. Except for Denisov, who has been trapped into a fake defection by Devereaux, and is taken way by the FBI. She is pursued by the CIA and the forces of the unknown parties which turn out to represent the International Commercial Bank which has worked with the CIA for decades. The Bank has a big Trans Asia project cooking, in conjunction with the US National Security Adviser, to exploit the cheap labour now available in Vietnam and does not want Tunney's revelations to upset the applecart.

Again Deverereaux rides to the rescue. Like the others he tracks Rita Macklin to Wisconsin and snatches her from right underneath their noses. After escaping detection, they make their way to Washington where the secret that Father Tunney had stumbled on is revealed. It becomes clear what the Soviets are trying to hide and why the Church is aiding them. The President has to intervene to prevent war between China and the Soviets. Rita gets her scoop. And she and Deverereaux reconnect for the beginning of a relationship that lasts through the ensuing novels.

Lee says

Another solid Devereaux adventure in which the series' protagonist is more a 'bit-part' player in the mission. Still a good read and the plot is better than the original novel, though Devereaux is the man that keeps the interest for me.

Alex Van Beek says

I owe it to Pierce Brosnan and my insatiable man crush on him for discovering this so far fantastic series (he starred in, and I believe produced, a movie adaptation of the seventh November Man book). Granger's first book had all the hallmarks of a first novel, such as rough writing, a plot that reads as if it was made-up as it went along, and one-note supporting characters; there was, however, enough good and enough avoidance of stock spy novel cliches that I thought it worth continuing with the series, and I'm glad I did. Schism expands on its predecessor by including many of the same characters and placing them into a plot as complicated as any I've ever read, spy genre or otherwise; this allows Granger to give characters he thought we knew some roundness, allowing the reader to finally understand what drives these characters and their overall place in the narrative (Granger is so thoughtful about this he even explains the character's motivations from the first book and summarizes the first novel's plot several times; it's safe to say I didn't understand what happened in the first book until I read the second). The complicated plot is one of the novels greatest strengths as it has several different angles that it approaches the story from but is never messy in its storytelling, and is fully resolved by book's end with no loose ends. Recommended for fans of the genre and those who don't believe a great spy story can be set almost entirely in America.

Athelstan says

The first 75-80 pages felt like an editor would have come in handy but then the action kicks in and you see why all that set up was necessary. This was an exciting novel and never felt flat after those first hundred pages or so. I will continue reading Granger's November Man series. They are just great to read.

Holger Haase says

My brief enthusiasm about having found a new (at least for me), exciting spy series is already on the wane with this second entry which seems more than a Church thriller (nothing wrong with that as such) than an espionage romp. Problem is that for most of the first half nothing much of any danger seems to happen, such one expository scene after the next. And the final revelation is pretty much a not very exciting anti-climax. Ok read. May give this series one more chance but will probably wait a while to continue with it.

Garry Wall says

Devereaux fits the picture of the best agent. Physical where necessary but first and foremost excelling at the intellectual level.

LadyTechie says

Schism is the second book in the November Man series. I am totally enamored of this series and have a great appreciation for this sub-genre of thriller, an espionage story. I received a copy of Schism from Netgalley, which rocks by the way. I love this series enough that if it exists on audiobook I will be reliving it again and buying them. When I learned that this series started originally in 1979 I wondered how it was that I had missed them all these years. No worries I have found them and plan to devour them one after another.

Schism has the frosty November Man, Agent Devereaux, in Miami, investigating the return of a Catholic priest who went missing over 20 years prior in Asia, Agent Devereaux's former playground, where he spent many years stationed. Every agency wants to know where the priest has been during all of the years he has been missing and given the possibility that he may have been involved with the CIA while he was in Asia there is great concern about what secrets he may have. Every letter of the alphabet soup of the government has touched down in Miami to determine the priest's next moves, including the Russians. There is murder, mayhem, and many secrets that come to light. We get to see the November Man at his best and a bit of his vulnerability. Really looking forward to The Shattered Eye. Review can also be seen at LadyTechie's Book Musings <http://LadyTechiesBookMusings.blogspot.com>...

Mike says

Overlooked series by a former Chicago Sun-Times columnist. The November Man hails from a secret intelligence agency buried in the Department of Agriculture and designed to keep an eye on those responsible for the Bay of Pigs and other fiascos. A long missing priest wanders out of the jungle and into the U.S. embassy in Laos. The CIA, the Soviets, the Vatican and, of course, the November Man, all take an interest. Entertaining spy thriller.

Frank says

The villain and plot remind me of Fleming's earlier works; especially Dr. No. A great series that hides its age well.

Fred says

Great Stuff. Early November.
