

Tall Order by Stephen Leather

5 stars

The good guys are hunting.....the good guys.

“Tall Order” is the latest in the Spider Shepherd series, although they can all be read as stand-alone novels without detracting from the enjoyment of each book.

The action takes place in the present and a decade earlier and follows the reaction of the respective security services in the USA and UK following the terrorist downing of an American airliner, after taking off from New York, and the murder of numerous innocents by a jihadist suicide bomber at a football match in the UK.

Shepherd has blotted his copy book and has suffered from the fall-out of the suicide of the head of MI5 and has been assigned to desk duties. His unique talent for recognising people comes to the fore after the suicide bombing and he again finds himself in the thick of the action with a chance to get back into favour and to return in future to the field operations he so enjoys.

The plots (for there are two, separated by a decade) roar along at a tremendous pace. I picked up the book with the intention of reading a few pages and eventually was forced to put it down again but only after I had avidly consumed 180 pages. The action is non-stop and it's almost impossible not to turn yet another page to see what happens. Once the two storylines merge Shepherd comes into his own.

Some may find the many killings (executions) gratuitous and the story raises awkward questions of a moral nature which can basically be summed up as - is it right to execute terrorists without a trial? This adds another dimension to the thriller which can therefore be considered on several different levels. However, whichever way it is read, there is no getting away from the fact that, if you enjoy this genre, you will love this book.

mr zorg

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review