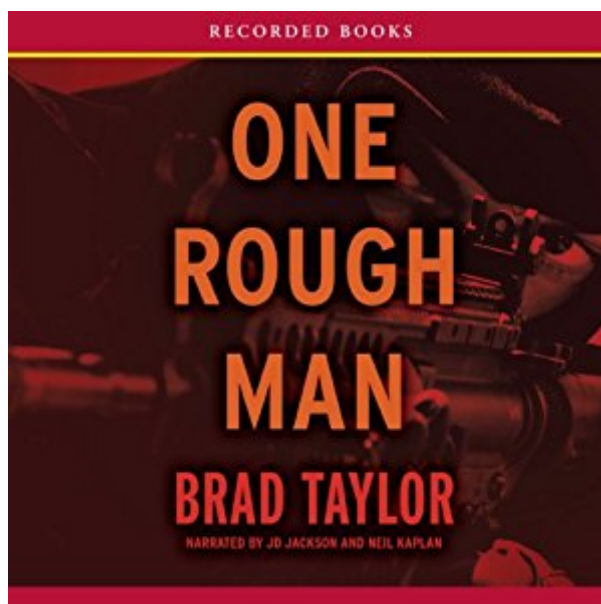


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One Rough Man: A Pike Logan Thriller



Synopsis

A former Delta Force commander, Brad Taylor proves with this breathtaking debut thriller that Vince Flynn and Brad Thor have company. A collection of top operatives, the Taskforce was commissioned by the highest levels of government, kept secret from the media and even Congress. The best of the Taskforce bunch, Pike Logan, knows the greatest threat to American security is one or two idealogues. Unfortunately for them, they've just crossed Pike's path.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I ran across another of Brad Taylor's Pike Logan books and liked it so much that I wanted to back track to the beginning of the series. This makes one of the best first novels that I have read in a long time. Taylor has a close expertise in the deadly world of special operations and he shows that in his descriptions of hand to hand combat. More than that, he gets us inside the head of his hero as Pike Logan tries to figure out how to stay alive and how to prevail in his many fights. The fights are top of the line thriller fodder, they make the book. He has invented a quick moving plot that we can not only follow but that we can believe. He takes us from Central America to Norway to Bosnia with enough description that Taylor might have been at these locations. He surely did his homework if he hasn't been there in person. We suffer no ambiguity in this story. The good guys are good and the bad guys are bad. We do receive a nicely calibrated dose of bad guy motivation, which is nice to have. The baddies might be totally bad but they are not simple cartoons. They do what they do for their own reasons and we know and understand those reasons without having to agree with them. The good guys are not all drawn with as much care. We don't know much about the team mates,

including knowing what they look like. In a fast paced thriller this might not be necessary but it prevents the coveted five star thriller rating. On the strength of reading the book further along in the series, I ordered out three or four more Pike Logan thrillers. I expect to devour them as fast as I did One Rough Man.

I thought this book was pretty good for a debut. Brad Taylor's first effort is a good one and puts him in a category of authors whose work I will continue to explore as he develops his craft. His main character Pike Logan, a down-on-his luck (to say the least) former Delta Commander and team leader of a super-secret elite group of operators is certainly one that is intriguing. He suffers a very traumatic loss and then goes through a breakdown. An interesting set of occurrences come together forcing him into an international race to stop the detonation of a WMD. The book suffers though from a lot of outlandish coincidences that end up, of course, either leading to success or the perfect set of circumstances for revenge. It also has some dialogue that is--for lack of a better word--cheesy and left me saying, "Really? He just said that?" At times, I felt like I was reading a script for one of those late night, "movies for men who like movies" about some lone rebel dude out for blood, etc., etc. Even so, Taylor tempers the budding romance in the book and presents it realistically considering the trauma that Pike Logan has endured. The best part about this book is the action, which is described in a stellar fashion that really gets your adrenaline pumping. He does a good job of presenting operational intricacies without getting too technical. Mr. Taylor definitely knows his stuff having lived through many situations similar to Pike Logan's. I hope his second effort (which this book at least ensures I will purchase) will be better than this pretty good first effort.

I like to go back to the first book of a series to get to know the character and why he or she is what they've become. Pike Logan is a member of an elite, clandestine team, so black only a handful know of it's existence, the President being one. While on his latest mission, one that he promised his wife and daughter will be the last one, he gets word of something so horrendous that it totally changes his life, his outlook, and his soul. During one of his drunken phases, he coincidentally meets a young woman whose uncle has disappeared. Pike begrudgingly agrees to help and they go on an adventure (an't be called a "mission" because Pike is no longer in the clandestine business) that will uncover a plot so heinous that it doesn't seem possible, or real. that Pike needs to make his old unit leaders understand that it is an imminent threat to the world. Brad Taylor admits that he had a lot to learn when writing this first novel and gives credit to his many mentors in the writing world. There are sections that are confusing and I found I had to go back a page or two to see who was

actually talking. However, for a first novel, it held my attention and makes me want to read more about Pike Logan. He has a wicked sense of humor and it comes out in the dialogue when you least expect it.

Pike Logan, the ultimate apex predator. Very few people in the world of any elite special forces possess his skill level. Then his world crumbles, his wife and daughter are murdered. He leaves the covert task force, that only a select few in government are aware of. He blames himself, his world disintegrates. He is a shadow of his former self. A beautiful girl rescues him from a bar fight and offers him a ride home. Here, the tale begins. This is an action packed thriller. A terrorist with an ancient weapon of mass destruction. Only Pike can stop him. A fantastic read!!!

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