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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 put off buying this 'till this past weekend when I needed a book fix while on vacation, I read about everything John Ringo writes, but this isn't Johnworld, this is Larryworld and I didn't think John's attitudes would fit in. Well, I was wrong to avoid it and I am eager to read the next book. I wouldn't

want John doing the main story arc, his mindset would not be suited to it, but to tell the story of a monster hunter from another era, isolated mostly from the main action of the story, he is perfect. His voice is different, his attitudes are different, but he seems to do a good job of integrating his character into the universe, I can't think of a truly jarring note and his depiction of the Wild Hunt and the Fey court added some much needed depth to that area. He did his usual "Hi, I'm John Ringo and I am being cryptic and you will have to wait and see if I enlighten you. Or not." Which I actually enjoy as I like books that make me think and not just count rounds. Recommended.

I held off on buying *Monster Hunter Memoirs: Grunge* for quite some time. It came out back in August, just as I was settling into the homeward stretch on Post Traumatic Stress. So I made myself wait. I promised myself that I would read it when I finished my own novel, as a reward. When I finished the first draft a few weeks ago, I promptly bought myself a copy and devoured it. For those who aren't familiar, the book is set in the world of Larry Correia's blockbuster *Monster Hunter International* series. The series mostly centers around Owen Zastava Pitt as he joins *Monster Hunter International*, a band of redneck libertarian mercenaries from south Alabama who hunt monsters. The series is pretty much exactly as awesome as that makes it sound. Bestselling author John Ringo wrote this entry, however. After the editing job turned into a bit more than just editing, Mr. Correia became a co-author. Fans of both Mr. Ringo and Mr. Correia will love this book. Unfortunately, I only really fit into one of those categories. I have not read much by Mr. Ringo before, but what I have read I have only moderately enjoyed. I did, however, enjoy this book quite a bit more than I have enjoyed Mr. Ringo's other works. The problem I tend to run into with Mr. Ringo's works is that largeish portions of them come off as either lectures or preaching to the choir, depending upon your political inclinations. I'm not particularly fond of either. I understand quite well why this has brought Mr. Ringo a massive audience - I'm simply not a huge fan of it myself. With that said, this book exhibits considerably less of that than other works of his that I've read. And what it does have comes off less as a direct lecture to the reader and more of just showing the main character's personality. I found that much easier to stomach. Also, when Mr. Ringo isn't lecturing to me the book is generally a heck of a lot of fun. On the other hand... even though it's assembled as a novel, the book reads more like a collection of short stories strung together than like a typical novel plot. I guess that fits with the "Memoirs" theme, but left me a bit unsatisfied. All told, I'd give it three and a half stars - but existing fans of Mr. Ringo would probably add an extra star on top of that.

Good, but not up to the previous monster hunter books. I want to read more Owen Zastava Pitt and

the gang, and Abomination, I actually found a pic of what Abomination would really look like on Pinterest! Can't wait for his next book!

It was...okay. Ringo obviously has a different writing style from Correia. If you're a fan of the MHI series (and you should be), you'll appreciate some of the additional information you get from this book. But, like others, I found the main character nigh insufferable. He just does everything perfectly, and it starts to get old. Even Earl Harbinger (personally my favorite character of the series) has flaws and makes mistakes, whereas this guy...well, not so much. So, it could be better. The Memoirs books will hold you over until some new Larry-only material comes out, but don't expect the fun characters you get from the regular MHI universe.

I do love Larry Correia's characters and stories. I binged read them when I found them. His humor and story telling fits my personality. I like guns, I like the idea of blowing things up and Monsters who are killers need to die. And Mr. Correia does a good job of making sure we know not all "monsters" are alike, some are pretty nice. Now for Grunge. I did not feel this should be read before the others. I liked John Ringo story about Chad and the idea of a journal worked for me. As a woman, Chad, was a good example of all the guys I was warned about back then when I was much younger. And on the whole, I didn't like him but for me that was ok, Even with his childhood, which was truly bad, he did have other influences so his decisions and the rationale for his - love them and leave them - policy actually made him more believable. He told himself what he wanted to hear and he did have some good qualities. While I'm not sure how I would feel about more books featuring Chad, I would still recommend this book. It gave me some interesting information about some of the characters I had met in the other books.

I was not overly impressed with this joint venture. You can definitely tell that it was not Correa doing most of the writing. Some of the chapters were a bear to get through... violin, really? Aside from the horrible hilltop scene, the book kept me engaged enough to get through it in two days. Honestly, the main reason to keep going was because I was hoping for some more back story, and since Correa was involved, it gives a tiny bit. This is one of those one and done books, where I have read all other MHI books multiple times.

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