



Black Widow

Randy Wayne White

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A cult of death.

A weapon of apocalyptic horror.

Juan Cabrillo must stop them both.

THE ?FASCINATING?(*BOOKLIST*) NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Some women you love.

Some women you hate.

Some women you survive.

Doc Ford is drawn into a deadly battle when his goddaughter Shay is blackmailed. Someone filmed her at an out-of-control bachelorette party?and they want big money to keep it quiet. When Ford investigates, he finds that the woman responsible is an agent of corruption unlike any Ford has ever encountered before. And she may be the last encounter he ever has.

Black Widow Details

Date : Published (first published 2008)

ISBN :

Author : Randy Wayne White

Format : Kindle Edition 364 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Audiobook

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From Reader Review Black Widow for online ebook

Ross Dolloff says

These book are mysteries starring a guy who is a marine biologist and a former CIA or NSA agent. He runs a biological supply company. People ask him to help with their problem because his history. This particular story involves a blackmail plot on a Caribbean island. The series is great and this is one of the best.

Jimmy Henderson says

This is another one of the Doc Ford books that I could not put down...loved it

Sara says

Couldn't put this book down! My first Doc Ford book-now I have to go find more of them!

Nikki says

THIS REVIEW & MORE → SYNOPSIS BY SARGE

This was my August 2018 Mystery Book Discussion group read at my local library.

Doc Ford...marine biologist, detective, and occasional assassin. While living in the beautiful Sanibel / Captiva Island region of Florida, Doc is approached by his goddaughter (and former lover...weird) after being blackmailed during their drunken bachelorette party. The girls were videotaped doing things they wouldn't want their fiances / husbands ever finding out. What happens in Saint Arc, stays in Saint Arc...or does it?

While investigating the person behind blackmail video, Doc finds out that this is not just happening to his friend, but to many other wealthy women looking to vacation to St. Arc. Sex, drugs, and scandal run St. Arc. Will justice come to those who deserve it? Who is behind the blackmailings?

I'm not exactly sure how I feel right now. I really enjoyed the beginning of the novel with the whales. Knowing who was behind the scandal from the beginning didn't leave much to the imagination. Also, every character seemed so immature that it was hard to relate to any of them. There was so much more potential for the reader to figure things out, but it just didn't seem like a mystery to me. I'm slightly disappointed because the premise and potential were there.

AUGUST 2018 MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION

Glen says

Doc Ford's goddaughter is being blackmailed with footage from her bachelorette party, and Ford is used as a go-between.

Of course, things get complicated, and Ford finds himself in a whole lot of trouble.

Pretty good stuff, although a bit different than Ford's usual adventures.

Marion says

Randy Wayne White just cannot write a bad book. I have to admit I fell in love with the zany hippie/guru character, Tomlinson, from the very first and he's the character who keeps me coming back for more. I've gotten more hilarious one-liners from him than I can count. (My favorite is: "Weirdness is only weird if you fight it.") Mr. White, I demand a book with Tomlinson as the main character!!

My only tiny complaint about "Black Widow" is there wasn't enough Tomlinson in it.....thus said, I have to admit that the opening chapters with the sharks and whales were primo Tomlinson, and had me howling with laughter---but left me wanting more adventures with Doc and Tomlinson together.

In this latest installment, Doc decides that he can't take the boring life he's now leading since leaving the secret covert organization that he's been in for decades and he takes it upon himself to generate his own action and help save his goddaughter's reputation. This one has loads of non-stop action from blackmail to voodoo-practicing hermaphrodites. Who could ask for more?

Apatters says

This was a good beach read although a few too many story lines and characters to follow .

Lenny says

There is very little say about The doc Ford Series, its juts an awesome read as always.

Joyce says

I haven't read a Doc Ford novel in a couple of years since I have been reading new authors during that period. I had no idea how very much I missed him and his adventures until I started this one. Doc's goddaughter is being blackmailed and he gets involved. Tomlinson is very secondary in this, but Hooker is introduced and is well worth knowing. It is set in the Islands and is about revenge, psychosis, evil and greed. Does a plot get any better? The novel itself is most satisfying; the conclusion couldn't have been better. Perfect early Autumn reading and a great way to welcome oneself back to favorite authors.

Cheryl Klein says

I was initially lured by the tropical descriptions and the NPR recommendation, but soon I was trying to decide which bugged me more: the superficially empowered damsels in distress (note to White: Having your ladies say things like, "I can take care of myself, dammit" before falling into the arms of your protagonist does not an enlightened novel make); the "damn"-laden dialogue; the evil blood-drinking hermaphrodite villain (again, having your protagonist murmur sympathetic statements about how nature produces all kinds of gender anomalies does not make this character okay); or Doc Ford's habit of rattling off random facts that make him sound more like an avid Wikipedia reader than the scientist he supposedly is. All that said, the plotting is competent and much of White's subject matter is pretty interesting. He might even have extended his research beyond Wikipedia. This is a silly novel, but not entirely un-amusing.

Lisa says

Never disappoints

Always love Doc Ford novels and this one did not disappoint. The influx of new and interesting characters made this book very enjoyable.

Scott Rhee says

The Caribbean: a literal hotbed of animalistic pleasure and naked lust. That's what the travel brochures say, at least, and Randy Wayne White's novel "Black Widow" graphically illustrates it.

Okay, so I've been to the Caribbean once, but my experience was pretty much confined to a cruise ship with occasional trips on-shore for typical touristy traps like horseback rides along the beach, visits to beautiful waterfalls, walking through crowded markets to buy touristy junk, and getting wasted on margaritas. I did not get laid once. Perhaps part of the reason was that I was with my parents and sister at the time, and I was a teenager, so to go off looking for casual sexual experiences would have seemed at the very least awkward. Needless to say, my experience was not nearly as exciting or erotic as the experiences described in White's novel.

"Black Widow" is a weird book, I'm not going to lie. I love White's novels, which feature his hero, Doc Ford, a former CIA assassin/spy turned marine biologist living and working in the Florida Keys. Every White novel manages to be extremely different from the last, mainly because I think White doesn't like to pigeonhole himself in any one genre. He's pitted Ford against redneck gator poachers, ecological terrorists, and even Fidel Castro himself. He's also saved Disney World from carnivorous insects, a young South American girl who may have been the reincarnation of Christ, and the world from nuclear holocaust. The amazing thing is, when I read a White novel, I immediately think, yes, I totally buy it. Mainly because White is a great writer, but also because Doc Ford is probably the closest thing we have to a truly American James Bond. All that said, "Black Widow" is still weird.

The plot: Ford's god-daughter, Shay, is about to be married to a ridiculously wealthy young Senator-to-be,

but she and her bachelorette friends are being blackmailed. Someone has sent them a copy of a video of them doing very naughty things during their bachelorette party, held on the Caribbean resort island of Saint Arc. Shay paid off the blackmailers, but now they want more money. Ford decides to head down to Saint Arc to investigate. What he finds is a tropical resort, owned and operated by a mysterious woman (who may or not be a witch) that everyone calls the "Black Widow", because that's not creepy or anything. Basically the whole resort, as Ford finds out, is actually designed to be a blackmail factory. Guests are secretly given drugs that make them extremely horny, put in indecent and compromising positions, which are secretly filmed and then used as blackmail. It's actually a pretty horrifying and brilliant plot device.

The whole weirdness stems from Ford's total acceptance of everything he discovers when he arrives at Saint Arc, including a former British secret agent turned archaeologist who helps him in his attempt to take down the Black Widow and her bevy of racially-diverse Euro-trash hired guns straight out of a Die Hard film.

If all of this sounds utterly ridiculous, it's because it is, but it's also pretty entertaining. It is, unfortunately, not one of White's better Doc Ford novels, which is okay because he keeps writing more of them.

Mike French says

Doc Ford is to the West Coast of Florida as Travis McGhee is the East Coast. Always enjoyable and entertaining from start to finish! Randy Wayne White is one of my favorite authors and should be yours too.

Jeff Dickison says

Another good entry in the Doc Ford series, as Doc attempts to stop a blackmailing ring on a Caribbean island. Of course, complications arise and Doc has to take care of them. If you enjoy the series you will probably enjoy this.

Darrel says

I'm a big fan of Randy, and while Black Widow is a very good book, it didn't have the zing of many of the previous Doc Ford novels. I didn't feel Tomlinson was involved enough in the story line and really missed the off-the-wall views Randy expresses through the character. I still recommend it, just know that the complexity of the tale isn't as deep as some of the earlier parts of the series. BTW, I would add a half-star to a total of 3.5.
