



## Natural Selection

*Stephen Leather*

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## **Natural Selection** Stephen Leather

An action-packed short story featuring Dan “Spider” Shepherd during his days on the SAS selection course. Shepherd is tested to his limits - and is given his nickname.

Natural Selection is about 14,000 words, about thirty pages, perfect if you have half an hour to spare.

Stephen Leather is one of the UK's most successful thriller writers. He was a journalist for more than ten years on newspapers such as The Times, the Daily Mail and the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong. Before that, he was employed as a biochemist for ICI, shovelled limestone in a quarry, worked as a baker, a petrol pump attendant, a barman, and worked for the Inland Revenue. He began writing full time in 1992. His bestsellers have been translated into more than ten languages. He has also written for television shows such as London's Burning, The Knock and the BBC's Murder in Mind series. Two of his books, The Stretch and The Bombmaker, were made into movies. You can find out more from his website, [www.stephenleather.com](http://www.stephenleather.com).

## **Natural Selection Details**

Date : Published December 2nd 2013 (first published October 12th 2013)

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Author : Stephen Leather

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# **From Reader Review Natural Selection for online ebook**

## **Christopher says**

### **Sound Stuff**

A fascinating and entertaining insight into the early years of the bold and already legendary defence expert Dan "Spider" Shepherd.

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## **Wayne Marinovich says**

First one I have read of the Stephen Leather catalogue and I have to say I was really pleased with it. Then writing was fluid, the descriptions were vivid without compromising on the speed of the action. A good balance. Recommend it to others.

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## **Mandy Walkden-Brown says**

SAS selection. Their last task is jungle training in the jungles of Belize. Thanks for the delightful description of their repast where Shepherd gets his Regiment nickname.

Good intro to the Spider Shepherd series. The tarantula eating was much scarier than the firefights they were engaged in, in my opinion.

A nice reminder also of how intense the selection course for admission to the SAS actually is too.

I've read several of the Shepherd series and it was great to read about the team's origin.

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## **Hemantkumar Jain says**

Stephen Leather has an eye for detail. His writing is filled with details of the trade and craft related to the subject of the plot.

Natural Selection is a kind of introductory story to the character of "Spider Shepherd" - Stephen has written shorts as well as novels with him as central character.

It was a nice short story as well as a very good introduction to Shepherd as well as Stephen's writing style ... the details of the genre and subject he is writing and the depth of his understanding at ground level - is pretty impressive.

I look forward to reading more of Stephen Leather and yeah, more of Spider Shepherd too.

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## **Gary says**

A short story introducing the character Dan Shepherd prior to the excellent series of books by Stephen Leather.

I saw this book advertised on Amazon totally free and been as I was already reading the Dan Shepherd series decided to take up the offer. An interesting story that works especially well if you are already familiar with the character, it explains the origin of his nickname 'Spider' and one of his early exploits while on SAS training.

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### **Neil says**

For a short story (only about 30 pages) this was very well written. Some people might be familiar with the Dan 'Spider' Shepherd series, for others this gives you a good indication about what to expect in the series. The writing is quite fast paced, and for a quick read it is full of action and interest. It deals with the time that Dan Shepherd went up for selection into the SAS, and it also reveals how he came by his nickname of Spider.

It has certainly given me enough interest to try and find the other books in the series.

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### **Alan says**

I liked it. Will read other of his books.

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### **Rose says**

#### **Rose**

Stephen Leather writes about four men learning how to become super efficient at handling unusual tactics in jungle surroundings. Becoming increasingly adept at hearing and using their natural abilities, these men become the best of the best. Great read!

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### **Andrew marr says**

#### **Intense**

Good read be it a short one. Stephen leather is an Author who makes you think your there in the thick of it

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### **Robert Williams says**

#### **Very good read**

I started this book and then couldn't put it down, its the first time reading a book from this author and will be reading more

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## **16greenwayg says**

good start to the series, very realistic, lots of dialogue

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## **eddie fretwell says**

**What can i say, its Stephen Leather.**

He is one of, if not the best at SAS. Carry on the good work and I'll carry on reading them

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## **Hazel says**

I am a huge Stephen Leather fan and particularly love his character Dan “Spider” Shepherd. This short story introduces “Spider” and, for those of us who are already familiar with him, provides a little insight into his early years during selection for the SAS and the origins of his nickname. For those who aren’t, this short read provides an introduction to a great character and series of books that you will quickly become addicted to.

Even though this is a short story, it provides a good indication of the excellent writing style and skills of Stephen as an author and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who enjoys a good action story with great characters.

I downloaded this story from Amazon for free and as of today, 31st January 2016, it remains free so give it a go, you have nothing to lose.

My blog: Reading Stuff 'n' Things

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## **Mari-Elaine says**

Great short story in the inimitable style Stephen Leather has mastered.

It's a great intro read into the character of Dan 'Spider' Shepherd & how he got his nickname as well as to experience Leathers' fluid, fast moving & descriptive writing style.

Whether you are familiar or not with the Spider series this is a wonderful taster of the fine standard of his books.

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## **A Reader's Heaven says**

*An action-packed short story featuring Dan “Spider” Shepherd during his days on the SAS selection course.*

*Shepherd is tested to his limits - and is given his nickname.*

Excellent! This is what a prologue short story should be - lots of action, intrigue and descriptions of skills and weapons that really add some depth to what is already excellent story-telling. The writing is tense and exciting and was really a page-turner.

The story of how Dan got his nickname is kinda cool.

Recommended for both new and old Stephen Leather fans.

Paul

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