



The President's Henchman

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As we've just seen, it's only a matter of time--and not that long a time--before the United States elects its first female president. Which will make her husband--what?

Well, if he's the ex-cop who solved the murder of the president's first husband and brought the killers to justice...and if he's not the kind of guy to stand on formality...and if he doesn't want to be the head of the FBI...and if he takes out a license and becomes the first private eye to live in the White House...

That would make him The President's Henchman.

Jim McGill's first case is to find out who is stalking a member of the White House press corps, before that stalker turns the tables on McGill and maybe even threatens the president herself. He also has to be a shadow adviser to a young Air Force investigator who is looking into a he-said-she-said charge of adultery leveled against a female colonel working at the Pentagon, a case with the potential to derail the new president's administration before it has a chance to begin.

The President's Henchman Details

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From Reader Review The President's Henchman for online ebook

Jen Reynolds says

For a book I got from Amazon Kindle for free, I was extremely happy with this book. It had all the action and fun and mystery I love in my books. The new female president's husband is an ex-cop turned PI and opens his own agency when they get to D.C. While she's running the country, he's trying to solve a crime. The only thing I didn't like about this book was there were too many subplots. So many that I forgot which plot was supposed to be the main one. And too many characters to try to keep track of. There was the plot of the potential court martial for a female Lieutenant Colonel for adultery and her lover, (or maybe it was Navy?), the General out for revenge for some reason that was never fully explained, the brand new OSI Air Force agent assigned to investigate, a Cuban crisis, a threat against the children of the husband (the president's second husband), an anti-abortion backstory, a Senator out to get the President, and what I think was the main plot, the development of some drug to create multiple personalities in people so they could be used in CIA assignments. But in spite of all the extra plots, I still found it very good and am looking forward to reading the next one in the series. I'm hoping it won't be as convoluted.

Sharon Kallenberger Marzola says

The President's Henchman is the first book in Joseph Flynn's Jim McGill's series. I'm not sure what I feel about this one. I like the premise of the story-- Jim McGill is the husband of the first female president. He decides to become a private investigator instead of head the FBI. His code name is The Henchman due to his previous law enforcement background. His first job as First Husband PI is finding out who is stalking members of White House press corps.

I like Flynn's writing style especially when he is interacting with his wife and the White House staff. Flynn lost me with the vast number of characters and subplots. Fortunately, there is a list of characters at the beginning of the book, that I need too often. When it's necessary to flip back and forth from the story to the character list so often, it took me out of the story. It is frustrating. I didn't expect the ending at all. Then, thinking about it a while, I suspect this is because this first book is free. My guess is this is used as a teaser to buy book two.

I like the story and premise well enough to add book two to my TBR list. However, if the second book ends with unresolved plots and/or a type of cliffhanger, I won't continue. My favorite feature of this type of mystery series is the continued character development through each subsequent novel while giving each individual book a satisfying ending.

Cindy says

A new series for me, I really enjoyed this. It introduces Jim McGill, the husband of the first female President, Patty Darden Grant. He's her second husband - her first husband was killed as the result of a terrorist bomb and McGill was the chief of police and investigated the murder. Now, McGill has decided to open an office as a private investigator and business is not exactly booming (well, at least after the lobbyists figured out that

he wouldn't be getting them insider access to the president). He finally gets his first client, a media personality who's apparently being stalked. There's also a young Air Force OSI investigator who's drawn into a hot-potato case and needs a little backdoor advice from McGill. The author skillfully weaves the two stories together and comes to an exciting conclusion. My only criticism is the ending is a cliffhanger - this is a sneaky ploy to sell the next novel and dirty pool in my book. But I liked the story and so will probably look for the next installment sooner, rather than later.

Quotes to remember:

My profession is giving money away wisely.

Wisely must be the hard part...Like being a genie and not having the wishes you grant backfire.

If some smart-ass wants to underestimate you, encourage the SOB.

The North Shore's political views ranged from moderately liberal to liberally moderate.

If you loved your kids, you wanted them to make their own ways in life, but if all else failed, you were their safety net. For as long as you lived.

...after her death one of my favorite punishments for myself was to imagine in great detail the life Nan would never have.

Donna says

I won this novel in a Goodreads giveaway that introduced me to the works of Joseph Flynn. I LOVED this book, and plan on picking up others both in the Jim McGill series and his other books. The author teaches the reader to either love or hate the main characters and to identify with problems they face. In the case of Jim McGill, his love for his wife and children is pure, and in contrast to what he does to protect them at all costs. It's also refreshing to see a woman as president making decisions for a nation using not only intelligence, but compassion as well. Mr. Flynn, you have yourself a new fan!

Jonetta says

Jim McGill is married to the President of the United States, the first woman elected to the office. He's a former police chief now trying to establish his new private investigation firm. He came up with his new moniker, The President's Henchman, discarding all the others pretty handily. His first case is indirectly connected as the client is a member of the White House press corp and he's also asked to shadow an Air Force investigator who's representing a rising female Army colonel who's being accused of adultery.

I was engaged from the first page! Jim is incredibly likable and his wife, Patti (POTUS), is the ideal of who we'd like to see in the White House. There are several storylines in play, not all connected, but the flow was just about perfect. I felt I knew these people, or would like to know them. This wasn't Jim's or Patti's first marriage so that was a unique aspect of the story as blended family issues were addressed, especially as Jim's children don't live at the White House. The case was strange and intriguing and the military investigation perplexing.

My only criticism was the seemingly rushed ending. There were some dangling plot issues as a result but maybe they're addressed in the next book. No matter as I enjoyed this too much and will definitely be continuing the series.

Glen says

Disjointed novel with an intriguing premise.

The first female president's husband is a PI. He puts out his shingle and his first case is a news reporter who has a stalker. From there, things fall apart. The book tries to bring West Wing type political stuff into a PI mystery, but there is no real understanding of politics, on either the local or the national level, or of civics, either.

The author tries to do too much, with too little, and produced a disappointing novel.

Sharon Michael says

I'm always delighted when one of the free downloads turns out to be something I can't put down, especially if it is the first of a series and more books are available.

Interesting premise, main characters are a married couple, she is the first woman president of the U.S. and he is a former police officer. Lots of characters, perhaps not completely believable plotline but the characters make it work, a few stock characters but developed well into individuals. Somewhat of a black/white presentation of political agendas and politicians, but I think it was necessary, used as a background framework rather than a political statement.

Enough action to keep the reader occupied, mature and rational main characters (which I greatly appreciate) and an occasional touch of humor. Definitely a series I will follow as I've already downloaded the second book.

David Highton says

I enjoyed this a lot more than the standalone Flynn book, Digger - husband of a female President and how he interacts with the Secret Service and the enemies of his wife and of his first client as a PI.

Kyra Halland says

Wow, what a ride. Fast-paced, suspenseful, witty, with great characters.

Jim McGill is a former cop who just happens to be married to the recently-elected first woman president of the United States. To keep himself busy, he opens up a P.I. business (much to the displeasure of his Secret Service guards). But soon enough, he finds out that life at the White House isn't all bunnies and rainbows.

There's a military sex scandal, a Cuban crisis, a mad scientist trying to work his way into the CIA with a technique for altering personalities, radical anti-abortionists, scheming Senators, and a threat against Jim's children from his first marriage. And it all comes together in one breathless, dangerous day. Yeah, there's a lot going on, but it's all interesting. Even the political stuff. I don't generally enjoy political storylines, but these are exciting and well-done, with real stakes that mean something to the characters.

Speaking of the politics, the book hits a fine balance, without falling too heavily into one camp or the other. The President is a moderate Republican, Jim is a moderate Democrat (a mixed marriage in the White House!). There are bad religious people and good religious people. There are bad people who are against abortion and good people who are against abortion. Good military people and bad military people. Good and bad people on all sides of the political spectrum.

The characters are all well-drawn, distinctive, and interesting, and most of them are likable, except for the ones you'll love to hate. But even those aren't just cardboard cutouts - Mr. Flynn portrays very well where they're coming from and what they want and why.

The book is written in a witty, engaging, down-to-earth style that tells the story at a quick pace that's hard to put down. I stayed up waaaay too late so I could finish the last 20% (and this is not a short book; it seems shorter than it is) and then I immediately downloaded the sample for the next book in the series.

Benjamin Thomas says

An interesting premise here that goes slightly askew. The setup is pretty cool as we are introduced to Jim McGill, the main character who is the "First Husband" to the US's first female president. He is affectionately known in the press as the first henchman but since there is no prior expectations for what a first husband should be like or what they should do, Jim, an ex-cop, decides to open up his own private detective agency. So the novel is part mystery/detective novel and part political thriller.

It was nice to see the first couple in action throughout the plot but I felt that the book suffered from way too many subplots and extraneous characters. Frankly, I got lost trying to keep track of who's who and lost some interest in most of the subplots. I also thought the logistics of the way the first husband was handled by the secret service detail was way more flexible than what would really happen but I suppose the author had to take liberties in order for any sort of plot to develop.

This is the first of a series and I do plan to continue reading them, at least the second one to see how that goes. Jim McGill is too much of an intriguing character to give up on without a second shot.

Wennie says

Fond of mysteries and thrillers? If so, this is one book that you will thoroughly enjoy.

In the world of Jim McGill, the improbable has happened. The U.S. now has its first female president, and by extension, its first First Gentleman. Government agencies - including the politicians, CIA, and the Secret Service - don't quite know how to treat him, especially when he insists in opening up his own private investigations business. Yup. The First Gentleman is a gumshoe, and his first client/case is a doozy. Not only

does Jim McGill have to work his case, but he also has to contend with political fallout related to his past cases when he was a cop, as well as navigate through the quagmire of inflated egos, soaring ambitions and criminal intent that populates the hotbed known as Washington DC.

I am very pleasantly surprised to find this "freebie" to be so good. The way Mr. Flynn lead us through the story - showing snippets of what was happening in each character's sphere- was easy to follow and contributed greatly to building the suspense of the story. He brilliantly showed us just enough to keep us hooked and interested, and revealed the information at just the right moment.

He masterfully weaves the different components of his story so that individual story lines slowly blend into one cohesive plot line, and the sum of the parts become whole. I enjoyed meeting and knowing the characters to this series and I look forward to reading the second book, which I am purchasing right after I post this review.

Mike French says

Very enjoyable read! While Joseph Flynn is not as well known as Vince Flynn, I enjoy him just as much in the two books I have read. Planning on Reading more ASAP!

Sheery says

I LOVED this book! It was recommended to me by a friend and I'm so glad I read it! It's the first in a series and I've already got the second book ready to go.

Jim McGill is the husband to the first female president of the United States. As a retired Chief of Police he isn't interested in being idle during his wife's years as president. He goes to work as a Private Investigator in Washington D.C. - much to the annoyance of the head of the Secret Service.

This book is full of twists and turns - both politically and personally - but it is thoroughly entertaining. McGill and Patti (his wife and the president) have their plates full adjusting to their new lives but they handle it with class, intelligence and a smidge of under-handedness but done for all the right reasons.

There is a large cast of characters in this book but Flynn does a good job making all of them believable and fleshed out. The story lines were tied up in a satisfactory way by the end of the book. And there was a cliffhanger that made me want to immediately buy the second book in the series. I look forward to continuing on this fictional journey of McGill's and Patti's.

Coco.V says

FREE on Amazon today (10/26/2017)!

Richard Myers says

A great drama/crime novel. There is action in every chapter and I recommend this book to everyone.
