



Bodyguard of Lies

Bob Mayer

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West Point Graduate, former Green Beret, and NY Times, USA Today, Wall Street Journal Bestselling Author Bob Mayer

Over four million books sold. Translated into over a dozen languages.

"Heart-racing, non-stop action that is difficult to put down."-Mystery News on Bodyguard of Lies

"Thelma and Louise go clandestine."-Kirkus Reviews on Bodyguard of Lies

"In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies." Winston Churchill

Who polices the world of covert operations? Enter the Cellar, the most secret spy organization hiding deep within the United States.

Two women become inextricably involved in a dangerous web of lies, intrigue, and betrayal as they fight for their lives and the safety of their country. Neeley is the lover and protégé of Gant, a Cellar operative, and is trying to pick up the pieces of her life after Gant's death and unveil a mystery that Gant always held close to his chest. Hannah, a housewife, is equally lost after her husband simply disappears. They soon learn that the men in their lives shared a dangerous secret, one some very powerful people would shed blood to protect. Neeley and Hannah's chance meeting sets a decades-old plan into motion and puts their lives at risk.

They couldn't come from more different worlds, but as they try to escape the people who seem determined to kill them, Hannah and Neeley discover they have at least one thing in common: they've both been living a lie.

Crisscrossing the globe, the women find themselves in a deadly game of survival, one that they must win in order to keep the United States safe not only from vicious acts of terror, but from its own powers that be. And if they ever hope to uncover the truth about the lovers they thought they knew, Neeley and Hannah first must learn the truth about themselves. But when the Cellar is involved, there is no such thing as coincidence, and the truth is always protected by a Bodyguard of Lies.

Bodyguard of Lies Details

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Author : Bob Mayer

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From Reader Review Bodyguard of Lies for online ebook

Shelley says

Storyline: Two women become inextricably involved in a dangerous web of lies, intrigue, and betrayal as they fight for their very lives to stay one step ahead of those who want them dead.

Neeley is the lover and protegee to Tony Gant, a Cellar operative who dies after a long struggle with cancer and now she has to try to pick up the pieces of what was his life. Before he dies, he taught Neeley everything she needed to know in order to survive. Including, becoming a excellent sniper. Neeley tries to pick up the pieces of her life and figure out a way to stay ahead of the cellar and it's intent on collecting pieces of a puzzle that has far reaching consequences for the US.

Hannah Mastersons life was all normal, as normal as one who has everything and has been kept in the dark about her husbands past exploits. When she realizes that John has left her without a word, she plunges into darkness only to come out when Neeley suddenly shows up looking for her husband.

Hannah and Neeley both soon learn that their respective lovers were aligned, and the reason John fled is that once Gant died, he knew the cellar would come after him to collect the tapes that they had kept as sort of a protection against being sanctioned.

The twisted tale of intrigue and suspense, is a good read. You feel for these two women as they try to come together and fight for their very lives. You see the nastiness of the Cellar and it's leader Nero. You see the outright corruption that has plagued this country for a century, and continues today unabated.

Bodyguard of Lies is a fast read. I really didn't get bogged down in anything that wasn't part of the story line. Another thing, please, give this book a chance to get moving. Neeley and Hannahs stories will compel you, and leave you routing for their survival.

Once you reach the ending, some will question why it was left that way. Of course, it's a segway to the next book in the series, Lost Girls, of course!

Betty says

Good concept for a thriller, especially since, IMO, the Mogadishu calamity hasn't received nearly sufficient attention as a trigger for espionage suspense novels. And Mayer actually did a fairly credible job writing his two female lead characters. The editing/proofreading sucked though, enough that this is really closer to 3.5 stars. It is possible to make a proper noun ending in S possessive. All it takes is a freakin' apostrophe. Someone should have used a few of them. Okay, a lot of them. But I rounded up because the story was a good, gripping one with good pacing of a plot that made sense.

Richard says

I enjoyed The Devil's Triangle series, The Dave Riley series and the Nightstalker series. This first book in the Cellar series has plot, character and action. It needs a reader. I had a lot of trouble with Diane Havens narration. her voice is flat with little inflection, no differentiation between characters and little emotion. This hurts my appreciation of the work. Keep writing Mr. Mayer, but please get a different reader for this series.

J. says

There are books that grab me from the starting gate, reel me in, keep me turning pages . . . and then fizzle in some manner. This can happen through emotional involvement (I quit caring about the characters), through plot twists (becoming too unbelievable), or through confusion (I couldn't follow the writer's meaning). With Bodyguard of Lies, an otherwise cracking good thriller by Bob Mayer, this happened through a dwindling intensity in the author's originally powerful narrative, and what felt like a rushed middle and ending.

****SPOILER ALERT****

When Tony Gant dies of cancer, he leaves his lover and undercover ops protege Neeley a problem, a puzzle, and a pathway to follow--as well as a target metaphorically painted on her back. Throughout his life, Gant has enforced an uneasy truce with the Cellar, a powerful shadowlands Federal agency, by hiding certain documents and videotapes implicating a powerful Congressman. This blackmail cache also made it possible for others involved in the Congressman's past disaster, specifically a pipeline engineer named Masterson, to live a normal life rather than be eliminated as a loose end.

But Gant's death knocks this uneasy balance out of kilter. The Cellar and the Congressman want those documents, and they presume Neeley has them. As well, before dying Gant manages to warn Masterson, who disappears, leaving his distraught wife Hannah trying to understand the ruins of her upper-middle-class life. These two women, on the surface utterly dissimilar, must work together and follow Gant's pathway from Colorado to France to West Virginia, solving his puzzle, to renew the truce before the Cellar's operatives break it and them.

The storyline rocks from the opening pages, and here Mayer's clear, direct writing satisfies. He builds an engaging picture of a woman whose husband has vanished:

"Hannah Masterson opened the door and walked to the mailbox, a routine she had done for years. She returned clutching a wad of envelopes and newspapers. A quick check turned up no new postcards or letters from John. There were several bills, objects she would have carried to John's desk but now felt heavy in her hands."

He handles action as concisely as narrative:

"Reacting instinctively, not knowing where death had winged its way from, the other four men swung up their submachineguns and fired on the Mercedes crew. The dumpster man replied, only to be lost in the roar of the machine gun in the window. In the ensuing confusion, and on the same paused breath, in between new heartbeats, Neeley put a round into one of the limo men."

But the flowing style becomes more choppy toward the book's center:

"Hannah brushed her hair vigorously for the photo, giving her some time to feel things out. Hannah decided

that Suggs was relaxing a bit although he still had difficulty ignoring their breasts."

The engagement and strong characterization remain, but such repetitions should have been smoothed over in edits, giving the center and even more, the end of the book, a less polished feel. The deeper into the story the reader travels, the more choppy the writing becomes, as if Mayer was rushed in the conclusion and not sufficiently supported by an editor after the first hundred or so pages.

None of this detracts from the storyline. The Cellar's leader plays operatives against each other as if playing chess with himself, and figuring out the old bugger's game is half the fun of Mayer's beautifully convoluted plot. But I found his ending slightly off and somewhat unsatisfying. A previously unknown third party scores the killing shot, rather than either of the two main characters, and the presence of two bullet-proof vests at the end game is less planning on anyone's part and more an accident. And does "dying" while wearing protective equipment qualify as a surprise ending any more?

Finally, there's the character development for Hannah, the abandoned housewife. Of course she toughens up fast when her life is on the line. It's also believable that she learns quickly and begins to feel excitement rather than terror as she and Neeley sort out the puzzle and understand the game. But when she starts drawing conclusions from thin air, without explaining how she reaches them to the reader's satisfaction, it's a bit much:

"How do you know that?" Neeley demanded in frustration, but Hannah didn't answer.

So why four stars? Bodyguard of Lies remains a cracking good story, a page-turner and a blast. It could have been better. But that won't stop me from reading more of Mayer's stories, just as soon as I whittle down the to-be-read stack.

Bill Bowne says

Lots of action with continuous twists, turns, and surprises.

Tina Simmons says

This book has the unfortunate distinction of being the first book I completely figured out before the ending. It was predictable to an extreme fault. I also really struggled with the weak characters. I am a well read woman, however, I would not be able to fly a plane, fire a gun.under pressure, or many of the amazing feats the lead character did, just by reading good books. gag.

Brentman99 says

I had read Robert Doherty's (aka Bob Mayer) Area 51 and the Novel Writer's Tool Kit and liked both, so I was very motivated to read Bodyguard of Lies when I was able to snag it for free at our campsites take one/leave one bookshelf.

The book was an interesting read and I like that it opened up several future possibilities, which I'm assuming

were taken advantage of, though I have yet to see any follow on books.

I found this book different in many ways, particularly in which the male author bent over backwards to create strong female lead characters. Not a bad thing at all, given that it usually goes the other way. Overall, I think he succeeded quite well, but I think that the main antagonist, Racine, was a bit too much of a cookie-cutter/stereotypical misogynistic bad guy to really accept his character fully. But he did his part and met an expected fate.

Overall, I think that the book was a good timewaster as I spent the majority of my reading time either on the train or at our summer trailer. I'm very interested to see where Neeley and Hannah go from here.

Worth the time spent reading.

Stephane Gagnon says

Very good book but the writer needs to fire his editor! Otherwise i would've give him a five star, i will still read more of this series though.

David Dalton says

Finally starting to catch up on several of the low cost or free books from Bob Mayer that I have picked up over the last several years. I have been reading several sci-fi books and it was good to get back to spies and action for a bit. I liked this thriller and already have the 2nd Cellar book in my Amazon database. A couple of tough women are the stars and they handled themselves pretty good. I see they are featured in the next book as well.

Sheri Wilkerson says

Bodyguard of Lies is the story of Neeley, a woman who discovers that all is not as it seems in her world. As a teenager, her lover gives her a package to take on a plane and she realizes that it is actually a bomb. Enter Gant, a mysterious dark man who very calmly disarms the bomb and takes Neeley to live with him. Ten years later he is dead and Neeley is left holding the clues that will keep her alive--that is, if she is smart enough and resourceful enough to figure them out.

Hannah Masterson's entire life disappeared, along with her husband and all of their money, and she has no clue why. She is left with nothing but memories, and she is even questioning them as to whether or not they were real. Gant's death and Masterson's disappearance start a chain of events that brings the two women together in a fight for their lives. They have to learn to work together and trust each other, even though they come from very different backgrounds, if they want to survive. And always in the background is the mysterious Nero, pulling strings and watching how things ravel...

I highly recommend this book if you love mystery, intrigue, and some ass-kicking heroines!

william h bowen says

Great as usual

I love the way Mr. Mayer writes, very casual and laid back. The story line is always exciting and keeps you on the edge of your seat.

Roger John Jones says

A good yarn

Not one of his best. But a good story. I will be interested to see where he takes the series. It is possible I will like book 2 more.

Heather Trim says

SYNOPSIS:

In BODYGUARD OF LIES by Bob Mayer (ePublished 2010) hidden deep within the United States, the Cellar is a secret spy organization who polices the world of covert operations. Two women from completely different walks of life are thrown into a dangerous fight for their lives like a modern day Thelma and Louise. Kindle Edition from Author

Neeley is the lover and apprentice of one of the Cellar's now dead operative, Anthony Gant. After his death, Neeley searches out the mysteries that Gant left behind. Hannah is a rich housewife whose husband mysteriously leaves her and is connected to Gant's secret. When they meet a plan is set in motion to uncover the dangerous secrets that someone high up in the government is trying to keep hidden.

REVIEW:

Neeley is a sexy, dangerous assassin who seems to not have a conscience. But as Hannah talks and opens her up, we see the layered person that she really is. I found her more intriguing than Lisbeth in "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo."

Hannah is a surprising character to the degree that I need to read the second book to see how her life pans out. She starts out a depressed, everyday-average housewife whose husband disappears. When Neeley finds her they are forced together to escape death. (I won't say why, because that will spoil it!) But Hannah handles being pursued by dangerous, hired gun, Racine, sent by the Cellar, like she might handle a mix up at the grocery store.

Racine, the crazy assassin chasing them, is seriously screwed up. Everything he does is creepy, even the tone of his narrative creeped me out. (Note to self: stay away from guys who break into houses naked!)

BODYGUARD OF LIES is very well told and the plot is exciting and fresh. With a dash of intrigue and a pinch of thriller, this book held me to the very last page. The first 25% of the book is character setup but very worth it for the investment in Neeley and Hannah. If you can get past that, you'll love the rest. I love endings that I don't see coming. The end is guaranteed to surprise.

The only negative I'd have to say about this book is the ugly cover. But, of course, never judge a book by its cover. But for visual people—such as myself—I would not have looked twice at this book because of the bland cover.

RATING:

I'd rate this book at a 4. It was very good because of the surprises and the deep characters. I'm headed to Amazon to download Book 2 on Kindle: **LOST GIRLS** by Bob Mayer.

"In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies." Winston Churchill

Susan says

Bodyguard of Lies is the first book in The Celler series. You can read this as a standalone, but it is clear that the story doesn't end with this book. There is violence. While I was excited to about two strong female lead characters, the storyline was average and the ending was hard to believe. Set aside your preconceived notions when reading this book.

Tara Chevrestt says

This book has a lot of riddles.. While readers try to figure out what happened to a group of military men in Somalia years ago to cause such fear that the men are either in hiding or dying, they must also figure out the characters and how they fit in. Gant, a military man at the heart of it, that trained Neeley, his girlfriend, dies and his life is a complete mystery. Neeley's life before Gant trained her to be an operative is mostly unknown. John disappears leaving his wife Hannah with a thousand questions and no money. Except for the fact she was an orphan previously, very little is revealed about the housewife. Neeley and Hannah partner up to get to the bottom of the secrecy that centers around a covert underground government group called The Cellar. There is a senator, a video tape, a blackmail scheme, and a smoking man. (Anybody remember the X-Files?)

I will say this: Robert Doherty certainly knows his weapons and tactical equipment. I am quite impressed as far as the details go. What killed this novel for me was the lack of depth in his characters. With so little information about them to go on, I did not "get to know" them.
