



Alan Lennox and the Temp Job of Doom

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Alan Lennox has been assigned yet another soul-crushing temp job, keeping him from his first loves – drinking, playing video games, and looking for a boyfriend. But Alan’s new job proves to be anything but boring when his co-workers start turning up dead. The mysterious megacorporation Amalgamated Synergy has taken a deadly interest in Alan and his three roommates, and the hapless quartet are woefully unequipped to deal with the psychotic secretaries, murderous middle managers, and villainous vice-presidents hunting them down.

Their investigation leads them deep into Amalgamated Synergy’s headquarters, but can Alan and his friends stay alive long enough to discover who – or what – waits for them on the top floor?

Alan Lennox and the Temp Job of Doom Details

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From Reader Review Alan Lennox and the Temp Job of Doom for online ebook

David Teachout says

I am astounded by the positive reviews. The editing is atrocious, the characters gross stereotypes without consequent little depth and the plot moves along like zombies: you see it and blink then it's far ahead. The plot "twist" is a scifi groan, frankly, that has little build-up and nothing in the way of explanation beyond the need to make the plot more interesting.

Crystal Marie says

We've all heard (and probably read) books classified as Urban Fantasy. Well, this is Urban Science Fiction and it fits this genre perfectly. To misuse the Bard, There's something rotten in the corporation of Amalgamated Synergy. People are murdered, for seemingly no reason. Others have become mindless drones. When Alan Lennox and his roommates are brought to AmSyn, they have no idea what they are in for. Murder, lies, and a fight to get up to the top to face the CEO. Only when they reach the top, nothing is what they expected.

There is so much I can't say, because to say it would be to give away what is at the base of AmSyn's troubles. But let me just say, I was impressed. This was a nicely thought out plot with twenty-somethings who are not sure of what they want...only they quickly realize they don't want to be dead, video games, several points of view, and a unique antagonist.

The only reason it got 4 stars instead of 5, was it felt like it ended too soon. It felt like something was missing. Otherwise, I do think this was a great start to an interesting series. Plus, who doesn't love the phrase Urban Science Fiction?

Reviewed by a-nony-mouse for Crystal's Many Reviewers

Copy BOUGHT for review

Erin Korbel says

Good read, but definitely wasn't what I expected!!

A definite page turner for someone who likes finding out what's going on at the climax of a book!! Once I got going I couldn't put it down! Was shocked at the direction the ending went to! I absolutely did NOT see that coming!! Can't wait to pick up another book by Brian Olsen!!

Amy says

This was fun. Not brilliant, but fun. The plot was silly and light, but mostly maintained its internal logic, so it was easy to forgive. I liked the characters well enough, though some were better-developed than others (I do see that later books are named for other characters, so I'll assume they get more fleshing out). All in all, a nice distraction for a few hours.

Brandon Cathcart says

The book has a good sense of humor at some points, but the characters are all typecast and the twist was unsatisfying.

Giddy Girlie says

It's hard to describe this book without talking about the actual plot, which is hard without giving anything away. Sorry about that. I don't want to spoil anything, but this book was super fun. I thought the characters were very "real" and their reactions to the craziness surrounding them were very true to life. The whole story was really fast-paced with a lot of excellently written action sequences. Action isn't usually my "thing" but I found myself effortlessly following along and cheering on our heroes.

The crux of the story revolves around 4 friends who all end up being employed by the same mega-corporation, and they are trying to determine if it's coincidence or something more sinister. I won't give away details, but it suffices to say that I won't be linking my video game apps to my Facebook account. ;)

Ryan says

Picking a book, totally on a whim, can have it's drawbacks. Often times, especially if it's a book you haven't really heard of before, a synopsis can sound promising, but the book itself leaves you cold. You end up kicking yourself in the ass for even giving it a try, and swear with your last breath, you will never be so reckless is choosing your next read.

Then there are those rare times that the whim pays off, and pays off in spades. I'm not even sure how I ended up spotting Alan Lennox and the Temp Job of Doom, but it's not something I would normally give a second glance to. I've had mixed results with urban fantasy, so I tend to stay clear of it, unless it's series or author I'm already familiar with. There was something about this cover, and yes, I'm going to blame the cover, that just grabbed me. It also helps that the book was free at the time, so I figured what the hell, it won't be like I'm out any money. So I downloaded the book, started to read, and didn't put it down until I flicked past the last page.

The book opens with a classic horror scene. A single, lonely individual, stuck at work in her Tokyo office building, long past the time when her coworkers have left for the day, is staring at her computer screen. Naturally she's not working, rather playing a game that simulates working at an office job. What's better than being an office drone, than playing a game as an office drone? When she finally shuts off the computer, ready to go home, she is startled to see the reflection of her manager in the dark screen. Next thing she knows, she is being chased through the building by her murderous boss with a baseball bat, and I'm pretty sure you can figure out the rest. From Tokyo, the scene shifts to New York City, where the rest of the action

takes place.

Alan, the hero of this book, has just stormed out of another boring temp job, and insists on meeting his roommates for a drink at their favorite lesbian bar. This scene sets up the group dynamic, though we have already met them separately. Dakota Bell is the ambitious girl, plugging away at her first job out of college, working for Amalgamated Synergy. She's been there for months, but has never been given a task to do. Mark Park is a personal trainer, more concerned with picking up women and setting up Alan with a hot client, than he is anything else. By the way, Amalgamated Synergy is at work in his life too. The gym he works at is owned by them, the hot chick he picks up is a VP for the company, and the client he sets Alan up with, is lawyer involved in a lawsuit on behalf of a certain game developer. You know, the game the office drone in Tokyo was playing, right before her brains were bashed in, the game every single character in this book is playing. Then there is Caitlin Ross, the struggling actress, hellbent on finding the next big gig. She gets suckered into working for Amalgamated too, as a voice actress. No reason is given, the director of the shoot has not clue why they are doing it, neither does the corporate exec who shows up to supervise. And that's sets the scene, though I'm leaving a whole bunch of details out.

What follows is a hilariously gruesome, workplace killing spree. It takes a satirical look at the modern workplace, poking fun at the size of global corporations, and the hive like mentality they instill in their employees. Alan Lennox and the Temp Job of Doom, also plays with the precepts of horror, fantasy, and science fiction. It blends the genres together, breaking all the rules, and has a ton of fun at the same time. In that regard, it reminds me of Horrorstor by Grady Hendrix, poking fun at not only modern society, but the genre(s) the book is being written in.

I'm hoping the remaining three books of the series, each one features a roommate as the main character, are half as good as this one. From what I can tell, though the nightmarish situations change, each book will find the roommates fighting for their lives, surrounded by satire and gore. I can't wait to dive into them. This was definitely a whim that paid off.

J says

Definitely off my usual beaten paths of reading, and could probably be described as quirky. There's something about how the author asked readers to suspend disbelief for the more elaborate mind-control portions of the story while employing a kind of tone that acknowledged just how much of the plot was in jest, or didn't take itself too seriously. At the same time, there was a way in which even the tiniest details were continually sewn up and resolved as it moved to its conclusion - a methodical approach - which spoke to the thought an intelligence behind the writing. It's weird. I'm still shaking my head at the fact that I finished and kinda liked it, while muttering the entire time, "This isn't really my cup of tea." How insidious that mind control!

Jemma says

A fun read for anyone who's ever temped, likes New York, or gay lifestyles. Not a book to shout about but pleasant none the less, with a few genuine surprises and great scenes.

Sydney Blackburn says

I really enjoyed this, taking it as an intentional, over-the-top satire. That said, Pete's ultimate fate was kind of off-putting. I didn't realize at first that it was an ensemble cast, so felt the title was somewhat misleading -- For a titular character Alan didn't get any more POV time than the rest of the ensemble.

Lillian Francis says

DNF'D 9% chap 4.
Boring.

Glenn Conley says

Temp workers suck. Everyone knows this. Every big company has a big mainframe computer which is perfectly aware at how much the temp workers suck. Because, all temp workers do is fuck around all day. They check facebook. They play stupid fucking video games, instead of actually doing any work.

This book is about one such mainframe computer which has had enough of its stupid goddamn temp workers. So it starts mind-controlling its long-term employees, making them kill off those useless fucking temps.

Sounds like an interesting premise, right? Well, not so much. See, most of this book is stupid bullshit temp worker horseshit. People fucking around, not doing any work, and just being boring little shits. And going to the fucking bar with their friends, chatting about how stupid and useless they are.

Sure, there are several murders, here and there. But, nobody really knows why. All they know, for the first 80% of this book, is that people at this huge corporation are going slightly insane. They're not themselves. We don't find out that they're mindless drones, controlled by the evil mainframe, until the last 20% of the book.

And then, like a fucking Scoobie-Doo episode, the evil mainframe finally reveals herself, through one of her trusted drones. She corners the fucking useless temp cunts in an office, and spews her whole goddamn evil plan. Along with the standard "And I would have gotten away with it too, if not for you useless fucking temp workers!"

It was actually an interesting story, in the end. But it wasn't a 312 page story. It was maybe worth 100 pages, at best. Because there's just too much bullshit filler, with stupid 20-something cunts partying it up and wasting everyone's fucking time.

Judelon Ingram says

I really, really liked the title. 3 weeks and only 30% into it, and I still like the title.

Emesskay says

Soooo...take some cyberpunk, a few pinches of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, add in a group of "meddling kids" (meddling twenty-somethings, actually), a tablespoon of snark, and stir...and you get Alan Lennox and the Temp Job of Doom. I have no idea how to categorize this book - it is a mystery, but not in the traditional sense. It reminds me of the mysteries Buffy and her friends would sometimes solve (like in the episode "Band Candy"), though no demons or vampires (hope that is not considered a spoiler). I found the characters likeable and realistic. Once I started reading this story, I was quickly pulled in as the mystery deepened.

The book is about 4 friends/roommates who share an apartment in NY. They all have different aspirations and goals, but similar problems (money, romance, lack of job opportunities). And then there is the company Amalgamated Synergy, which starts appearing in their lives more and more often, until they can no longer believe it is a coincidence.

The tale also has a very important message, one I can completely get behind - use complex passwords and don't re-use them! Different passwords for all your accounts, please! :-)

Alicia says

The pacing is incredibly slow. By the halfway point I knew as much about the plot as I did after the first chapter. I felt nothing but apathy towards the main characters. It's getting two stars instead of one for a final confrontation that was stupid but entertaining.

Bonnie Dale Keck says

NOT kindle unlimited {got it on a freebie day}

Alan Lennox has been assigned yet another soul-crushing temp job, keeping him from his first loves – drinking, playing video games, and looking for a boyfriend. But Alan's new job proves to be anything but boring when his co-workers start turning up dead. The mysterious megacorporation Amalgamated Synergy has taken a deadly interest in Alan and his three roommates, and the hapless quartet are woefully unequipped to deal with the psychotic secretaries, murderous middle managers, and villainous vice-presidents hunting them down. Their investigation leads them deep into Amalgamated Synergy's headquarters, but can Alan and his friends stay alive long enough to discover who – or what – waits for them on the top floor?

Book One: Alan Lennox and the Temp Job of Doom

Book Two: Caitlin Ross and the Commute from Hell

Book Three: Mark Park and the Flume of Destiny

Book Four: Dakota Bell and the Wastes of Time

The Dystopia Spell (Multiverse Mashup Book 1)

Night of the Living Date (Multiverse Mashup Book 2)

The Case of the Empty Throne (Multiverse Mashup Book 3)

P.A. Wilson says

Not my usual read, and frankly it took a while for me to get into it. From page one, it intrigued me, but I was trying too hard to figure things out. When I decided to go along for the ride, I was hooked.

Alan is bored. The temp work gets that way fast for him and he has a habit of running out on the job. Things are different when he realizes that there's something weird going on. A series of coincidences pique his interest and suddenly he's reeled into the trap.

An addictive video game and a huge corporation have too many things in common for Alan and his roommates to ignore.

I recommend this book to anyone looking for a fun read with a bunch of raving lunatics.

Chasia Lloyd says

This was a fun and amusing read. It was in serious need of an editor for the first half but flowed a lot smoother by the end. Diverse cast of characters, albeit a bit one-dimensional. LOVED Alan and Pete's playful romance, and I would read the rest of the series for them alone if they were still a thing. But alas...

Kate Sherwood says

I feel like I spend a lot of time on writing forums defending diversity for diversity's sake, encouraging authors to include characters from a variety of sub-cultures, etc., and often when there's pushback people say things like "I want to write characters, not tokens. I don't want to have my book written based on a checklist" or things like that and I'm always bewildered. Who's saying you have to write tokens? Who's saying you need to have a checklist?

And then I read this book, and... well. It really did feel like there was a checklist of diversity involved. And I don't think it was the checklist ITSELF that kept me from really bonding with the characters, but I felt like we didn't really get much else. I'm a total suck and cry at the drop of a hat, but if one of the main characters in this had been killed (as many secondary characters were) it wouldn't have affected me at all. No tears. It just never felt... well, obviously it wasn't meant to feel real; it's just a fun little romp. But there are ways to write fun romps and still have deep characterization, I think?

I don't know. This wasn't terrible - I finished it, after all. But I didn't love it.

Afshaan says

A very fresh, quick read. It's contemporary and is relatable to all Millennials. The story moves along at a quick pace but with enough character development to develop feelings, one way or another, for them; well, most of them.

The plot is unique and there is no way you can figure out the suspense.

It was an enjoyable read and has certainly sparked my interest in the other books in the series.
