



In Session

M.J. Rose

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In Session, from international best seller M.J. Rose, features the return of Dr. Morgan Snow, in a brand-new story collection!

As a therapist specializing in sexual issues, psychiatrist Dr. Morgan Snow isn't easily shocked or shaken, as readers and listeners of the popular "Butterfield Institute" novels know. There are times, however, when the need for her services leads her out of the office... and into unfamiliar worlds.

In these stories, the therapist matches her wits - and her training - against three men of mystery: Jack Reacher, John Rain, and Cotton Malone. These characters are, of course, familiar to listeners as the creations, respectively, of New York Times best-selling authors Lee Child, Barry Eisler, and Steve Berry. All three swore that their characters would never agree to therapy - unless Rose found a way to get them there. And she did.

In "Extenuating Circumstances" with Steve Berry's Cotton Malone, a woman seeks help for her lover, and sends Dr. Snow overseas on a most unusual house call.

In "Decisions, Decisions", Barry Eisler's John Rain forces Dr. Snow out of her own comfort zone, and into the world of a former patient's worst nightmare.

And in "Knowing You're Alive", with Lee Child's Jack Reacher, there are revelations for both the injured Dr. Snow and her unexpected savior/patient.

Note that this book uses the actual narrators from each character's respective series (Phil Gigante/Natalie Ross: Dr. Morgan Snow; Scott Brick: Cotton Malone; Barry Eisler: John Rain; Dick Hill Jack Reacher).

All the proceeds of the audiobook and a share of the proceeds of the ebook will be donated to David Baldacci's Wish You Well Foundation, supporting family literacy. (wishyouwellfoundation.org/)

These characters are the creations, respectively, of New York Times best-selling authors Lee Child, Barry Eisler, and Steve Berry, and are used with their full knowledge and participation.

BONUS AUDIO: Audible interviews author M.J. Rose.

In Session Details

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From Reader Review In Session for online ebook

Patricia says

REVIEWED FOR NETGALLEY

This book brings three stories, each different but non of the less, important to those who like to dwell after turning the last page.

It was the first time that I read something like this and in which the main character is a sex therapist, exposing to us reader's the problems shared with her patients.

In the first story, we have a woman that loves the man she shares her life with but wants to push forward with their relationship. Anyway, she senses that something is holding him back and asks for the help of Dr. Snow.

Almost undercover, our good doctor shows up with a solution that get's the job done.

Funny that something so small to an adult's eye can take such a big deal in a child's mind that pursues him through his adult life.

In "Decisions, Decisions", Dr. Snow will have to ask a former patient to contact the father of her son, he happens to be an assassin, so he can help her solve a problem with a patients husband.

Again, funny how people have fantasies to be degraded by their partner in life, getting high on them and how your partner can get addicted on something so wrong ... here's something to think about.

And what about Dr. Morgan Snow ?

You would think that she's a strong independent, woman but under her skin, she's so mortal as any of us and I think that anyone would do anything to protect the one's we love.

In our third story, Jack Reacher, an ex-military is following Ted Carlson and as he walks in the Butterfield Institute, a bomb ignites.

Under the wreckage is Dr. Morgan Snow. To distract her from the pain and from the hole happening he tells her a story.

My conclusion is that even in the middle of chaos we can still have hope to find a caring soul.

Overall and in the circumstances that this kind of genre was a first to me, I found the reading a very satisfying one and it can not be easy to flow with the words in this kind of story.

I will probably follow up in more of her books because I recognize that skill and imagination are here.

Cheryl says

I found the concept of the book very interesting. Morgan Snow meets characters from other novels (some of my favorite, too). While the interactions were short, they were powerful and provided insight into all the characters. Really worthwhile.

Julie G says

I'm not altogether certain what I expected from In Session: Dr. Morgan Snow - but I probably would have gotten more out of it, had I been familiar with all of the characters.

Nonetheless, it was an interesting read, or should I say reads?

The primary character - Dr. Morgan Snow - is a sex therapist and star of the "Butterfield Institute Series" by M.J. Rose. In this volume, consisting of three short stories, Dr. Snow 'shrinks' characters from three well-known suspense series.

Extenuating Circumstances: Steve Berry's' Cotton Malone is a former Justice Department operative who is enjoying his retirement and new life as an antiquarian book seller in Copenhagen. But his girlfriend is Snow's patient and begs for help with their relationship, sending the doctor to Denmark and a little covert therapy.

Decisions, Decisions: When Dr. Morgan Snow refuses to turn over a patient's records to her powerful husband, he makes thinly-veiled threats against Morgan's daughter. Terrified for Dulcie, she is forced to turn to Barry Eisler's John Rain, a master of death by "natural causes." And in the process, learns something about herself.

Knowing You're Alive: Lee Child's ex-military cop, Jack Reacher, has been following Ted Carlson since sundown. When the subject disappeared into The Butterfield Institute, Reacher waited; for an hour, until an explosion rocked the building. Inside, he finds Dr. Morgan Snow, trapped under debris he cannot move. While they wait for paramedics, he tells her a story.

Due to its nature: one fictional individual (rather) covertly providing sex therapy to three others, there isn't a lot of back story or character development here. You aren't going to get to know each person - as it's assumed they are already familiar to readers.

Although I did enjoy each story on its own, I'm certain that the impact / import of the conversations and revelations would mean much more to readers and fans of Snow, Malone, Rain, and Reacher. So, for me, it was a little disappointing.

But, it did pique my curiosity about these characters. Who knows? I may have found four new authors to explore.

And you simply can't go wrong when

All the proceeds of the audio book and a share of the proceeds of the ebook will be donated to David Baldacci's Wish You Well Foundation, supporting family literacy. (WishYouWellFoundation.org)

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received a complimentary electronic galley of this book from the publisher through NetGalley.com professional readers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

[This review was originally written 10/28/2011.]

The Pirate Ghost (Formerly known as the Curmudgeon) says

I thought this was great. The Audiobook turned out well. It's short, it's funny, fun, in the way that books are fun and, the interview with M.J. Rose at the end was actually very enlightening.

Besides... doesn't everyone want Jack Reacher, Rain and Cotton Malone on the analyzing couch?

And as if getting Dr. Snow pinned under the couch in her office wasn't a metaphor for something about her?

Really fun, and interesting read... short. and the audiobook performance was outstanding.

The interview at the end tells us that there was some colusion and some interesting experiments in writing that were more like online roleplaying...not that the authors involved would see it that way... (or like that I did).

The story invloves interlocking, interdependent short stories written help, or the blessing of the authors themselves. It's kind of like the action/adventure reader's digest version of "Thieves' World." The audiobook is especially interesting since they hired the same narrators that provide the audioreading voice for each character. That way if you follow Cotton Malone on Audio, you will recognize his voice. It's more of a performance than it is an audiobook.

It's good fun, interesting, if racy concept. Nothing that anyone should be concerned about as far as warnings wise, however, Dr. Snow isn't exactly an ear, eyes, nose, and throat MD here she's a sex therapist. I recommend it and found it a good fun read.

D.G. says

Interesting concept but I could have done without the psychiatrist. She was the least interesting of the bunch by far. Having the parts of John Rain, Reacher and Cotton Malone narrated by the respectives narrators of the series was supercool. Like anybody who's a reader of Rain & Reacher, I always wonder who'll come out ahead in a fight so having them "meet" the same person was super exciting (like they were real people!) even if the stories weren't that interesting. (BTW...John Rain would have never given his name to a stranger.)

Listening to this made me want to read the Cotton Malone series so I guess the freebie did its job to promote each series.

Leanne Kale sparks says

Interesting concept - taking three very masculine, well-known characters from other fiction, and placing them in situations where they are talking to a sex therapist about sex! The short stories are an easy read; I was able to get through all three in an afternoon. The premise behind Dr. Snow meeting and engaging the

three characters was very interesting (and apparently received the seals of approval from each characters creator). This would be a great read for anyone - not just women. Guys who are fans of any (or all) of the characters would enjoy the read without having to worry about "mushy love stuff" or highly-charged erotica. The characters seem to be in their usual elements - with a twist. Very enjoyable read...and all the proceeds of the audio book and a share of the proceeds of the ebook will be donated to David Baldacci's Wish You Well Foundation, supporting family literacy. (wishyouwellfoundation.org)! Win-Win!

Charlie says

Read other book reviews at Book Junkie Joint.

This crossover of protagonists from different authors is just pure awesomeness!

I'd have to admit that the main reason why I picked up this book was because of Barry Eisler's John Rain. I have three John Rain books and I just couldn't resist not reading this one.

Aside from John Rain, the other thing which made me pick up this book was the fact that it involved a sex therapist. Sex is an interesting yet delicate topic. Most people are still uncomfortable in discussing it openly, so I wanted to see how a sex therapist works.

I was not disappointed in picking up this book!

Dr. Morgan Snow is smart as she is perceptive. In Extenuating Circumstances, Dr. Morgan Snow shows that a sex therapy can be done even outside the four walls of her clinic. In fact, she almost seemed like a spy with what she did!

In Decision, Decisions (OMG! John Rain is here!!!), she crosses paths with John Rain, an assassin extraordinaire who can make his targets look like they died of natural causes. When Dr. Morgan Snow somehow assesses John Rain during a brief walk, she showed a totally different perspective of what his job meant to John Rain. And of course, the awesomesauce ending of John Rain being this stealthy good guy was epic. It totally rocked my socks off!

And finally, in Knowing You're Alive, this time, it isn't Dr. Morgan Snow who gives someone an epiphany. In the person of Lee Child's Jack Reacher, Dr. Morgan Snow learns that needing someone doesn't necessarily mean that you're weak, and being independent doesn't necessarily translate to strength. This message was what really got to me because it's the exact same sentiment I groan when I read about the noble idiocy of so many heroes and heroines in the many novels that I've read! It's just... perfect!

Jay says

I have never actually read a book from any of these 4 characters before, but if this set of 3 shorts is anything to go by, I'm definitely interested in reading more on all of them.

great quick read. 3 very different stories, but all fantastic.

** thanks to NetGalley & the publishers for this copy!

Jan Rice says

In the first of three stories, sex therapist extraordinaire Dr. Morgan Snow helps a female client to fulfillment by providing surreptitious therapy for her somewhat inhibited paramour Cotton Malone. Dr. Snow travels abroad to visit with him in his used- and rare-book store where, posing as a customer, she gets him to talk, perusing with him a book of medieval erotica featuring nuns and priests. Un-dammed, he gratefully makes her a gift of the hugely expensive book for her erotica collection.

What therapy ought to be? Dream on!

Adding to the hilarity, I entered into this fantasy world while driving down the road on the way to a required continuing-ed ethics workshop, the purpose of which is to teach psychologists and therapists what *not* to do with their patients. No dual relationships, no violations of confidentiality, no therapy at cocktail parties (or used-book stores), no expensive gifts or in-kind payment, no role confusion, and, most important, no taking advantage of the patient's transference or acting on that pesky counter-transference. Spoil sports! (But savers from career-ending lawsuits and front-page scandals as well, not to mention actual care of the patient.)

Meet, not Dr. Snow, but Goodreads author M.J. Rose. She has written a series, the Butterfield Institute books, about her heroine Dr. Snow, and another series as well, but the present short three-story collection has Dr. Snow finding a way to "shrink" action heroes Cotton Malone, John Rain, and Jack Reacher, all done with the other authors' permission and, sometimes, cooperation. This was a great opportunity for me to finally meet those action guys, about whom I'd sometimes been curious but never found time to meet between the pages. From an interview Ms. Rose gave at the end of the audiobook, I also learned the entire proceeds from the audiobook (and some from the Kindle version) has been going to David Balducci's Wish You Well Foundation literacy project.

Ms. Rose is an articulate and clever writer, and if her heroine varies off the helping path into the realm of erotic fantasy, so be it.

In the second story Dr. Snow is faced with a momentous decision as her maternal instinct clashes with a patient's needs, when a powerful--and sociopathic--politician tries to liberate damning files from her office.

In the final tale, Dr. Snow even uses her own painful injury to cajole Jack Reacher into distracting her with an erotic, and revealing, story.

The audio is well worth listening to, very professional, with the same actors who usually read each of the tough guys enrolled for the present effort, downloadable for your mp3 player, an hour and 48 minutes. Also on Kindle, 62 pages. Pure R-rated fun and games.

Rhonda says

Review: In Session by M.J. Rose

5STARS

What a clever book. Taking characters from different writers interacting with each other characters. On top of that the money goes to a charity Wish you well foundation of David Baldacci. It supports family literacy. Which I think is a great idea.

Lee Child and Barry Eisler were chatting about Lee's Jack Reacher versus Barry's John Rain. Then M.J. Rose jumped in and said her Dr. Snow would like to shrink them. Later she asked Steve Berry's about his Cotton Malone character too.

Dr. Snow runs into the characters at different places and shrinks them and it all works out. She meets Cotton Malone at his book store. Dr. Snow asks to meet John Rain in the park. Dr. Snow is in her office when she meets Jack Reacher but a bomb just went off and he climbed in to help. I liked all 3 short stories and would love to read more about them. I will look out for their books in the future.

I was given this ebook to read in exchange of honest review from Netgalley.

as review on readalot blog <http://readalot-rhonda1111.blogspot.com/>

Jennifer says

I do not usually read books like this. However, I love Steve Berry's Cotton Malone character, so I thought I'd try it out. MJ Rose's character Dr. Morgan Snow is a sex therapist. The premise for this book is that these 3 strong male characters are being analyzed by her, or come into her life, for various reasons.

The first story is Cotton's ("Extenuating Circumstances"). If you haven't read any of Steve Berry's books, I would definitely recommend them. I think they are fabulous books of adventure and finding things. They aren't your usual intrigue/adventure story. Cotton has to be one of my favorite characters. That being said, I was a little disappointed in his story. I know that it was written with Mr. Berry's consent and review, but it didn't have the feel of a Cotton story to me. Dr. Snow is approached by a woman about problems with her boyfriend. She counsels her, and then on a trip to Europe, makes a stop in Denmark to visit Cotton's rare book store. Over the perusal of an old erotic book, she gets Cotton's story. This was one of the shorter stories in the book and I don't know that it really gave me any insight into Cotton's character.

In the second story ("Decisions, Decisions"), Barry Eisler's character John Rains makes an appearance. Dr. Snow is threatened by the husband of one of her patients. She makes a connection with a former patient's friend who "makes things go away" and sets up an appointment. Though she initially wants to hire John for a task, it ends up that she just needs to talk the situation through with someone. John's interesting viewpoints and thoughts help her make a decision as to her final action. I haven't read any of Mr. Eisler's books, so I can't speak to how true to life the portrayal of John Rains is.

In the last story ("Knowing Your Alive"), Lee Child's Jack Reacher arrives on scene after a bomb has exploded in Dr. Snow's building. He isn't able to pull her from the rubble, but he sits with her until the rescue crews arrive. In order to distract her from the pain, he tells her a story about "his friend" who had a life-changing experience. This was one of my favorite stories, even though I have never read any of the Jack Reacher books. I thought this one was very personal, in a way that the other two weren't.

I think I will definitely pick up more books like this. I know I like the other books MJ Rose has written (The Reincarnationist, The Memorist). I haven't read any of the Dr. Snow books, but I may pick one up now and see what I think.

I received this book from the publisher through NetGalley. I was not required to write a positive review. All opinions are my own.

Marleen says

This is a short book but a delightful read. M.J. Rose has taken three heroes from popular thriller series and brought them face to face with Dr. Morgan Snow, the sex therapist from Rose's Butterfield Institute books. Steve Berry's Cotton Malone, Barry Eisler's John Rein and Lee Child's Jack Reacher are all ultimate tough guys who wouldn't dream about talking to a therapist about their (sexual) relationships. In these three stories though, Morgan Snow manages to get them to open up in ways that readers of the original books will find both intriguing and believable.

In the first story, "Extenuating Circumstances" Dr. Morgan Snow finds herself in Denmark visiting Cotton Malone in his second hand bookstore after Malone's partner tells her that he might have problems stemming from his childhood which are now affecting their relationship. Because Malone is not the sort of man who would voluntarily talk to a sex therapist, the doctor has to find a different way to get him to open up.

"Decisions, Decisions" finds Dr. Snow having to make a very difficult one herself when her daughter's safety is threatened by a man with political ambitions as well as sexual preferences he wants to keep secret. Not knowing what to do and deeply worried she turns to John Rein, an assassin for help. The solution he provides is not one she ever suggested or approved but one she can live with.

In "Knowing You're Alive" Jack Reacher is following a man. When he enters the Butterfield institute Reacher is forced to stay outside. An hour later a bomb goes off inside the building and when Reacher climbs in he finds Dr. Morgan Snow with a broken foot and buried underneath rubble. To pass the time until help arrives and to distract Morgan from the pain, Reacher tells her a story about an army cop who has a, for him, very unusual sexual encounter with a woman in a secluded cabin.

I had enormous fun with these stories. I did in the past read one of the Cotton Malone titles by Steve Berry and am in the process of slowly but steadily reading my way through the Jack Reacher series. I haven't read any of Eisler's books yet though.

Because my familiarity with two of the male characters in these stories is therefore sketchy at best I'm not sure if I'm the right person to judge how well Rose captured them in her stories. Jack Reacher, the only character I do feel I'm somewhat familiar with, does sound completely in character to me though and I enjoyed the story she had him share with the doctor. Since the acknowledgements indicate that all three authors either approved of the stories or cooperated with Rose in the writing of them, I have to assume that she must have gotten it right in their eyes. And if the original authors can't find fault, that is definitely good enough for me.

I had almost forgotten how much I enjoy M.J. Rose's writing, it's been that long since I last read a book by her. Now that my memory has been refreshed I want to make sure that it won't be such a long time before I read something else by her. I also can't help hoping that she will revisit Dr. Morgan Snow again in the not too distant future. I've read all the available titles in that series and wouldn't mind a new one to add to the collection.

Madri says

Ever wondered what it would take to get Jack Reacher (Lee Child's protagonist) in therapy with Dr. Morgan Snow, famous psychologist from the Butterfield Institute? Or if a assassin like John Rain (Barry Eisler) would ever talk about his sex life? Well, wonder no more. *In Session* is a fun and playful collection of 3 short stories, each featuring Morgan Snow (thank goodness she's back!) and a equally famous protagonist. Charming.

Daniel says

This review originally printed in Looking For a Good Book. Rated 4.25 of 5

I'm a virgin to all four characters here: Dr. Morgan Snow, Cotton Malone, Jack Reacher, and John Rain. But the premise intrigued me and the length was just right to make some introductions.

Dr. Morgan Snow is a sex therapist. Not surprisingly, the people she comes in contact with on a daily basis have some interesting stories to tell. The sort of stories one would ONLY tell a sex therapist. In *In Session*, we get three stories in which Snow interacts with Cotton Malone (a character created by Steve Berry), Jack Reacher (Lee Child's creation), and John Rain (the product of Barry Eisler). Each story is quite different and I presume in line with how the 'other' character (Malone, Reacher, Rain) would ordinarily react (although they are written by M.J. Rose).

In her afterward, Rose explains how the concept came about and what sort of input was provided by the other writers.

I was most fascinated by Dr. Snow and I look forward to reading some of Rose's other works with this character. But I can't say that any of the characters DIDN'T interest me. Each held some fascination, but each was so different that it's really hard to compare.

The Cotton Malone story ("Extenuating Circumstance") was probably the most interesting to me. It was quite clever and it was this story that also made me want to read more about Snow as well.

The story featuring John Rain ("Decisions, Decisions") was the most active, but it also touched on an aspect of sexuality that we don't often see in fiction - the sexual gratification from something other than sex. I wouldn't mind seeing this story fleshed out (pun intended) a little more, or at least another encounter with these two characters, although even with my limited knowledge of Snow, it didn't feel right that she approached Rain the way that she did.

The story with Snow and Jack Reacher ("Knowing You're Alive") was the most tender of the works despite the atrocity that brought the story together. This one was mostly a tease for me and made me want to read more just to get to know the characters in more depth.

This is an unusual work - three characters from three different authors interacting with a character by another author - but it works, in part because it's short and direct, rather than trying to introduce the readership to each character. The proceeds from this short collection go to wishesyouwellfoundation.org.

It is well worth the price and you should get this.

Looking for a good book? The brief collection, *In Session*, by M. J. Rose is a delightful combining of Rose's Dr. Morgan Snow character with three other notable literary characters and is worth reading.

I received a digital copy of this book from the publisher, through Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.

Jesi says

Rating: 3 paws

One quote from the book that I particularly cared for: "My whole life is a wrong decision. One more one way or the other there is a statistical rounding error."

Summary of the book in one sentence: "What a sex therapist discusses with professional assassins/spies in a therapy session."

So, I honestly had no idea what this book was to be about, and I really only got it because Audible was offering it for cheap and I enjoy the novels the different spy-characters are in. I had no previous experience with M.J. Rose's works, and I had no idea what I was getting in to. It was an interesting experience.

First paw consists of the writing style - basically, this is the technical aspect of the book. A short story anthology is a bit difficult to judge on technical merit, at least, it is for me. The writing is just too short for a real sample. But, Rose does well in this area, even in the brief moments that we're with her in the stories, and, while it's not stunning writing, there aren't any glaring, irritating mishaps that she takes, either. She earns this paw on the pure basis that I can't *not* give it to her.

The second paw is "emotional connection" - basically, was I *interested* in what I was reading? Even in these brief forays into the different scenes, Rose *did* make me interested. I Wanted More. I think that that's probably one of the signs of a GOOD short story - I'm left wishing these were actual novels, so I can revel in the emotional connection with the story. Rose more than earns this paw.

Third paw is plot - akin to writing style, but purely about The Story. I think my biggest complaint about this book comes with this topic. In any short story, suspension of disbelief is probably more important than ever, to Make Things Make Sense. Even so, the first story has been really questioning the ethics of this doctor and makes me highly uncomfortable. The other stories don't have this problem *quite* as badly, but then, the other stories don't really have much *plot.* They're far more akin to vignettes than anything else. They also didn't contain much *suspense,* which is what I thought they would, considering the characters involved. It was pretty much just dialogue. So, while I enjoyed the various stories and the writing, and so on, I really can't give this paw.

The last paw is "Other Stuff," which is pretty much anything that doesn't go into another category but is still note-worthy. So, let me gush about the narrators. I *adore* Scott Brick's voice and I think he really should read erotica. I'd buy that RIGHT up. And, I enjoy Dick Hill's voice, for a totally different aesthetic value. Hearing their voices in this made it more enjoyable. So, if you're looking for something purely on the

audiophile level, I'd say go with this. The performances were great. Obviously, this is a free paw for this book.
