



Zero Option

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SAS Sergeant Geordie Sharp is required to undertake two top-secret missions, in the full knowledge that, if things go wrong, the authorities will deny all involvement. In the first mission he is to serve as a commander of a hit team on a Black, or 100 per cent non-attributable operation assigned to the SAW, the Regiment's ultra-secret Subversive Action Wing. His target is an Iraqi who defected to Libya after the Gulf War. The aim is to kill him and leave no clue to the identity or origin of the assassins. Returning to base, Sharp finds he must also carry out a high-level political assassination on mainland Britain. If he fails, his four-year-old son will die at the hands of the IRA. Trapped between opposing forces in a fight to the death, he twists and turns through a nightmare maze, desperately seeking some way of averting tragedy. Who will be hit the hardest — Geordie Sharp or the British government?

Zero Option Details

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Author : Chris Ryan

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From Reader Review Zero Option for online ebook

mr leslie thomason says

Bringing the facts of the unseen armed forces

I've given the story 5 star rating as I can relate to a story so similar, also how the story keeps on track giving a day by day coverage of how many persons are vulnerable, to anyone if certain information is available no matter how safe you think your family is. how much you would do to save your family? If you found yourself in a position were you where forced to save your family? I really enjoyed the story from start to finish Chris Ryan has researched for a good while to get all the facts necessary to bring together a captivating story.

Susy says

I have only made it 30 pp into this book and after a month, this is shaping up to be a DNF book.

I attribute my struggle to

1. The many British idioms, slang and military terms. This slows me down considerably but would not cause a DNF per se. But to that I add--
2. The 1st person narration.

I know my comments must run on like I am obsessed with PoV, hehe. Here, the POV of the SAS soldier would not be a deal breaker; after all, I survived the 1st Person narration of the Hunger Games Trilogy and actually consider Catching Fire to be a Favorite.

No, my problem is I don't like the hero, pr more specifically, the author's limitation in creating the hero. I cannot get into the story because Ryan has created a very WRONG character.

I get that the hero is a highly trained, elite soldier, but c'mon! The man's son has been kidnapped by a pissed off IRA drug dealer, and he can chat and eat breakfast? And he hardly has mentioned his son, instead thinking of his live-in girlfriend who isn't even the boy's mom. Grrr!

Forcing myself to read page after slow page, I find myself wondering if Chris Ryan had kids when he wrote this novel, or had friends who had kids, or ever read a book about a father...or seen a movie about a father...or is just a huge male chauvinist selfish pig.

30 pages into the story, and I hate the hero and the author.

The old adage stands: write about stuff you know. I think Ryan should not have been writing about fatherhood at this point in his career. Or at least, that is what I have learned 30 pages into Zero Option.

If anyone can assure me it gets better, please let me know. For now, I have no intention to read a story in which the hero is more worried about sleeping without his girlfriend than how his 4 year old endangered son is doing.

Scott Gardner says

Very good book

This was a great follow up to the first book and I hope the third is just as good
Can't wait to read it

Brendan Liston says

Very flat boring unrealistic character. Appears not to have any thoughts or feelings and never stops to contemplate why his family has been kidnapped. The biggest opinion that we get of Mr. Sharp is that he thinks the IRA are bastards. Since there is no insight in to his own thoughts it would be asking far to much for him to try to acnowlage other peoples thoughts.

Also the term PIRA is used far to much. Sometimes 4 times in a page. Dosn't seem to realise that everybody generally refers to the PIRA as the IRA so once its been established that this is taking place after 1921 and we are talking about the PIRA there is no reason to keep repeating this. There are also plenty of other terms that you can use eg. Provos, Provisionals, RA etc.

Johnnie Gee says

P.T. Deutermann is rapidly becoming one of my favorite authors. David Stafford exposed corruption within his department as a reward he is sent to a very mundane job a government Siberia. He stumbles on a government employee who decides to make a million dollars by selling a deadly cylinder which contains a virus.

There is a lot of action but Deutermann brings all of the characters to life; from a mute psychic girl to various government agencies all trying to reign in David Stafford. Cover-ups come from every direction and the higher ups bring pressure to their teams to parrot the cover-ups.

Very good.

Paul says

Had to read this book because the previous one ended with the son being kidnapped. Actually I felt the main storyline was whether the main character would be able to rescue his son. Granted there were his other missions. The part about meeting his nemisis in Columbia was interesting. Good thing that the son was indeed rescued in the end.

Daniel Morgan says

One of my favourite books of all time. Carried on from the last book brilliantly. I was dissapointed with the next book in the series but I haven't finsihed the Geordie Sharp series yet so I may be a bit forthcoming with my complaints.

Definately read. Series starts with Stand by, Stand by.

Chris says

I've read a couple of Chris Ryan books before this one, including the first in the Geordie Sharp series. Because of this, I actually feel like I've read Zero Option before. Certain scenes are even lifted from other books from this author, with just a couple of minor alterations.

In Zero Option, Sharp's four-year-old son and pregnant girlfriend are kidnapped by the IRA and they later use this leverage to make Sharp assassinate the British Prime Minister. If you're son/daughter/pregnant wife/girlfriend got kidnapped you'd be absolutely distraught and wouldn't be able to function beyond the bare basics. However, Sharp goes on an SAS mission to the Middle East. The author explains it away by saying that Sharp's commanders wouldn't give him an option and that Sharp himself thinks it could end up being a good idea because it'll take his mind off things. It's completely unbelievable. He's so completely nonchalant, you'd think his cat had died.

I also felt no sense of desperation about him getting his family back. It could've been just any other mission. You can't really explain it by saying that that's the way Sharp is approaching it, so he keeps things professional, because you don't get that sense and surely you wouldn't be able to when it is so personal.

The book is perfectly readable, but don't expect too much believability. The star rating is simply for it's readability.

Graham says

The second in Chris Ryan's Geordie Sharp series takes a little while to get started for real. There's a ton of exposition, tying up the strands from the end of Stand By, Stand By. Lots of dialogue and an encounter with a sex-crazed female employee don't really go anywhere – the latter element seems to have been included purely for the purpose of titillating the reader.

However, once the action moves to Libya, and the boys go in on a gung-ho adventure, riding Quad bikes across the desert, things pick up and Ryan is once more in his element. Accounts of the various operations and procedures are painstakingly detailed and really get the adrenaline pumping, with highlights including the super-rifle assassination at the end and the hit on the armoured prison van.

Ryan's prose is chock full of expletives and machismo, which is fine for this reader, and the action scenes are expertly staged. If there are any criticisms, it's that Ryan's plotline is sometimes contrived, bordering on

the point of ludicrous, and there are one too many coincidences in the plot for it to ring 100% true. Favourite bit? It's gotta be the joyriders, who end up biting off more than they can chew...

Grace says

I really enjoyed this book, more so than the first one. It picked up directly where the first one left off and the conclusion was fast paced and exciting. If you like Chris Ryan then you'll like this.

Joanna says

Great action, realistic dialogue but flat pacing and insufficient character development for the reader to develop a true empathy with the main character. The gung-ho will love it - things blow up.

Andrew Herbert says

s'okay. Far fetched. The action is good, but the inconsistencies in the main character are a distraction.

Phillip says

Pretty much the same storyline as the first Geordie Sharp book.

Marcus says

Zero Option pretty much picks up the story where the author left it in Stand Down, Stand Down, so be sure to read the first book before you get on with this one. This second book is also pretty much more of the same - spec-ops tales told in rapid tempo, using simple, direct narrative. As in the first book, it is easy to recognize the fact that Ryan knows what he's talking about. But unfortunately, the story that stayed grounded in the first book, becomes rather incredible in Zero Option. Furthermore, different parts of the plot do feel disjointed, like couple of short stories that were forged together for the sake of filling out a single volume. Still a good, quick read, but far less impressive than the first book.

Susana789 says

Autorovo zázemie a znalosť "terénu" sa pozná, suchý dokumentaristický opis situácií mi vyhovuje viac ako metaforizovanie akčných scén literárnymi opismi. Len mi nedošlo, že čítam druhý diel :-).

Colin says

I wasn't impressed with the way the books plotline was just full of expletives and machismo, which is fine but not every reader enjoys that, and the action scenes are fantastically put together. But it loses it way..... The tag line is "*Assassinate the Prime Minister or your son dies*"

Yeah the book builds up to it but its over too fast the whole book concentrates too much on the subplot.

Kingfan30 says

My first venture into a Cris Ryan book. The reason I picked it up at the charity shop? It started with Z which crossed of a letter on the a-z challenge! Maybe not the best reason to buy a book, but actually it wasn't too bad a read. It's pretty fast paced, he seems to know what he's talking about, all the terms are pretty easy to follow. So why only three stars. His son and girlfriend have been kidnapped and he still goes off on a mission - I mean really, I don't have kids but if I did I would move heaven and earth until I got them back.

Anthony Ambrose says

An excellent book, follows on from his first book 'Stand by, Stand by'
If you liked the first book then this is a definite recommended read.

Azim Azidin says

It is great that it makes me do a bit research about Northern Ireland relations with the UK. The IRA. PIRA. Gulf War.

It requires me to always check the dictionary to read this book as it uses British slang words.

Overall, it's interesting.

Ben Jackson says

If you're a Chris Ryan fan, then you'll love Zero Option! Chris Ryan continues to publish action packed thrillers that transport you to the scene of the battle as if you were there. Loved it!
