



Nightstalkers

Bob Mayer

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Staff Sergeant Winthrop Carter has just been drafted into the Nightstalkers—an elite group of soldiers that...

Actually, he's not quite sure what they do.

Born from the Area 51 initiative, the Nightstalkers defy sanity and decorum and include among their ranks Moms, a Black Ops trainee too extreme for Special Forces; Doc, a scientific crackpot; Roland, the weapons enthusiast; and Mac, a contemporary MacGyver. All of them take their orders from the elusive Ms. Jones, who everyone claims is just a hologram.

Those orders include tracking down and sealing tears in our reality that are releasing interdimensional beings known only as Fireflies—creatures that take control of both living and inanimate matter in order to unleash wanton destruction.

Just as Carter is settling in, a rogue scientist triggers a fresh invasion of Fireflies that swarm a swanky gated community. Now it's up to Carter and his new teammates to neutralize the threat while figuring out who's behind the breach.

Nightstalkers Details

Date : Published December 11th 2012 by 47North

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Author : Bob Mayer

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From Reader Review Nightstalkers for online ebook

Jack says

Entertaining military-scifi book, but it is not a futuristic tale of augmented humans fighting with strange weapons. Instead, it is about a small squad SpecOps team with contemporary weapons. Their task and recurring enemies, however, are sci-fi enemies known as "Fireflies" come in from another world/dimension through "rifts." A well-written and fun book. The author is a former military commander and Green Beret, which lends much to the authenticity of the book. I'm definitely going to read the next book in the series.

11811 (Eleven) says

So I said oh look, another never-ending three star sci-fi series. It's about Area 51 and aliens. It must be cheesy as hell.

Not so, young Padawan. This was very well-written. Graduating from West Point probably helped with that.

This is basically military sci-fi but it didn't batter me over the head with the military angle as is too often the case for me in this genre. There are other elements to the story and overall it impressed me.

I had no intention of continuing the series since I already pre-judged its entirety at three stars but I was wrong so book two is on the list.

Got aliens?

Les says

It appears that the whole Area 51 series has been re-released and with this book the author has decided to take the story in a completely new direction. As an introduction to what could effectively be a new series it's pretty good. However, I hope that we do link up again with the familiar ancient aliens from the previous books.

The Nightstalkers are an efficient albeit eccentric (slightly bonkers) group of soldiers and technicians who have been brought together to tackle various unexplained phenomena that have been occurring around the globe.

The action is typically good for this author being very descriptive with lots of hardware and explosions and all that good stuff. I felt that there were a few scenes missing that I would have quite liked to read - like getting a 'possessed' horseshoe off a horse without hurting it. That would've been interesting. This happened a couple of times but didn't really detract from the book as a whole.

The main characters are really good. They are the usual deep and mysterious covert types but they display enough humanity to make them likeable. There is a bit of time spent on building the main cast so I assume that we'll be seeing them in action again.

If I didn't know it was continuing into other books in the series then it would've seemed a little 'aimless', but it looks like the series is going to pick up right where it left off (if in a slightly tangential way).

A good book.

girl writing says

Started slow but picked up. Good enough character development that I wanted to read through and am interested enough to read the next in the series. Entertaining escapism.

Trish R. says

Male authors are just the opposite of 95% of female authors. Male authors don't want you to know what anyone looks like. They just want to tell you all about the weapons being used, whether it's a handgun, shotgun, rifle, laser pistol or a gun with a title and a number after it, or a hatchet, or an explosive, BUT they don't dare tell you anything about the men and women, except when the person's face is a scared mess, then they tell you all about it. I'm at 30% and the only thing I know about our heroes, and a bad guy, is the scars and wounds on the faces, and that Moms has muscles.

That being said, I thought this was very entertaining. There wasn't one hero but several, none of which no longer used their real names, so there was, Kirk, Moms, Nada, Doc, Roland, Mac and Eagle, and the "asset" Scout (I adored Scout.) The team was run by Ms. Jones, who you never saw, but when they were out on a mission then Moms was in charge.

This was about "rifts" that opened up and let "fireflies" in from another dimension and it was up to the Area 51 team to hunt them down and destroy them. It was fascinating how they found the fireflies and how it took something different every time to get rid of them. Fireflies took over inanimate objects and became killers: a backhoe, a pool where the water could reach out and pull you in, Scout's beloved horse, and so on.

There was wonderful camaraderie with the team and lots of laughs. I found myself laughing out loud several times.

Nothing sexual, except for a quick vulgar remark Doctor Winslow said to his wife. The F-bomb was used 42 times and in the situations they found themselves THAT word was needed.

The 3 books in this series are a free read and free listen.

As to the narration: This book was from 2012 so I wasn't thinking the narrator would be so great but Eric G. Dove was terrific, both his emotions and his voices.

Mark says

Title: Nightstalkers

Author: Bob Mayer

Publication Date: Dec 2012

Genre: Sci-Fi

Score: 2/5

This book is the lightest of light fluff. I don't even have much to say about it. It's a crazy story about this secretive non-governmental/governmental task force whose job it is to deal with paranormal events. The primary enemy is this gate to alternate dimensions that occasionally gets opened where something called fireflies come out and can either animate inanimate objects or possess living objects. And the team goes out and finds these gates and kills the fireflies. It's mostly a bunch of nonsense. There was one character in this book that sparked my interest. During one of their call-outs, the team runs into this 13-year-old girl named Scout who they adopt or actually, she adopts them, and she's smart and funny and snarky. And an all-around fun character. None of the other characters were memorable. Nothing was all that memorable from this book, but it was okay. I listened to it on audiobook and it only lasted about 6 hours. Quite short. I'm not going to be finishing up the rest of this series which I understand is quite long. Maybe the author gets better as the series goes by, but this is an inauspicious beginning.

Eric Smith says

It was fine I guess. Story was somewhat interesting but without a lot of depth. The characters were okay but I never really got a full sense of them other than a couple and couldn't really differentiate between most of them. I couldn't even tell you for sure how many were part of the squad and I just finished it. Five? Six maybe? Very readable and fast paced but I wont remember it a couple weeks from now.

Matt says

A pretty good novel involving some paranormal stuff and a secret military unit. Area 51 Nightstalkers had some real good action scenes, some slow parts, and some good characters.

The only disappointment i had with this was I was hoping that it was connected to Bob Mayer's Area 51 series, but this had nothing to do with that series. It's still a great story, but i had been looking forward to reading stuff set in that universe.

Area 51 Nightstalkers overall was a great read. I enjoyed it and can't wait till the next book comes out.

Colin D. Ciley says

Always at the Gallup

Look quickly and thoroughly or you will miss key point. The impossible becomes plausible, but leaves the reader head-scratching as, he/she prepares for the next battle, and there will be many more for this small group of

Superbly trained professionals race from one battle site to the next. Fantastic weaponry mixes with an established protocol and logic.

WOW!! What a noise!

Mike (the Paladin) says

This is an interesting idea and could have been much better than it is. I'm hoping that the series will improve. I have marked the sequels and placed them on my wish list on Audible. I'll do what I've done with other books that were a bit, "borderline". I plan to give it one more book.

The book is constructed around a special ops "team" that have to face a strange phenomenon that seems to have (in the past) been brought about by "careless scientific inquiry".

Actually that's not a new idea. There are scientists out there who sort of work on the premise that "if it can be done it ought to be done". Or even "If it might be possible it should be tried". During dialogue in the book one of the characters points out that when the first atomic bomb was set off some of the scientists present thought that they could set off a chain reaction that might destroy the world.

And they still set it off. (We'll not talk about the Hadron Collider and reports that the safety reports were biased).

Anyway that idea is one that's been done in science fiction before (not only in books but in movies and TV). It's not new but it's a good reliable place to start a short story or a book (or movie or TV show).

Anyway, scientists keep repeating the experiment apparently in ignorance of early problems or attempting to get a different outcome... (what was that Einstein said about doing the same thing and expecting a different outcome?).

There does seem to be an idea that it's not ALWAYS the same experiment (and that possibly "others" from "outside our universe" may also be involved) but for the last century+ we've apparently not grown significantly in understanding.

See these things cause "rifts" and things called "fireflies" come through the rifts. Fireflies "possess" animals

and things (they apparently can't possess people). They can possess animals and cause them to attack...or "things" and cause them to attack. (At one point they possess a curling iron....).

As I said this has been going on a while...You see the tunguska blast was a rift.

Anyway the action sequences are okay. We get to know the people and that puts a little strain on our suspension of disbelief muscles. If like me you're a military and/or weapons buff you'll probably wonder why they use their chosen weapon.

I mean it's nothing huge but there's enough sour notes to make me roll my eyes now and again.

Not bad, not great, jury's still out on the series.

Diane Burton says

Great introduction to the Nightstalker team. You learn enough about the characters to care what happens to them. Bits of humor bring needed relief from intense situations. Loved Scout. Hope she returns in future books.

Laure Reminick says

With my background as a TM teacher, you'd think I would only read stories full of sweetness and love and light. But a well-written military story is impossible for me to resist, and the Area 51 story of the Nightstalkers series is one of those.

Written in the omniscient point-of-view because the story is about a TEAM, not any one protagonist, you are drawn into the quirks of seriously specialized men and women. I thought of the television show The A-Team at its best.

Out of Bob Mayer's many books, this series may be my favorite because -- despite saving the world from all those things that go bump in the night -- the serious butt kicking by the team members is tempered with banter and humanity and woven with wit and wisdom. Even some sweetness and a tease of love developing, at least in this one: Area 51.

Randy says

I read the first couple of the Area 51 books under the Robert Doherty byline, but it's been a good dozen years since I read one.

NIGHTSTALKERS is the latest and it seems to signal a change in the series, The Nightstalkers are a team of specialists that deal with the Rift, an opening to an alternate universe created by a computer program. Whenever one opens, beings of pure energy, they call them fireflies, slip through and cause havoc. They can inhabit animals, plants, inanimate objects, machinery. The only thing that can't take over is humans. Once in they are locked and are very hard to stop(kill). Each presents a different challenge in stopping whatever

carnage they are causing.

The team has a traitor in their midst, who steals the program and sells it. A new rift opens in a gated community in the Research Triangle of North Carolina(handy since Mayer lives in Chapel Hill).

The team has to get in quietly, find the fireflies, six of them, in whatever guise, thing, animal, before the civilians become aware.

Nicely written, fast paced thriller.

PJ says

Won an ARC copy courtesy of the publisher via First-Reads.

This was a very pleasant surprise. Like a cool mix of EUREKA, and Stargate SG-1, with a bent towards the militaristic operations inherent in the latter, I can say that this is definitely a 'goodread'. Mr. Mayer has done an excellent job coming up with a slew of unique characters that while completely different, all share some bit of commonality. It gives the plot a diverse and unpredictable twist often enough to keep you guessing what is coming next, while maintaining your interest and keeping the non-stop action coming.

5 Stars to Mr. Mayer for a fun book, that has gotten me interested enough in his work to want to check out his other books.

I can only hope he follows this one up with a sequel as it was left WIDE open to continue, and the unique characters and settings used, beg to be 'redeployed'.

Jim says

Area 51: Nightstalkers, written by Bob Mayer and published by 47North Publishing, introduces us to a group of highly trained and secretive government agents, whose regular identities we learn, are taken away and in its place, are known only by a selected one name.

The group leader, heard only in a darkened room and whose image is shrouded in a holographic darkness is Ms. Jones, a Russian whose body is forever changed by radiation damage at Chernobyl. Then there is the group commander known as "Moms" who leads a collection of personalities and abilities as they pursue Rifts and fireflies: Eagle, Doc, Nada, Roland, and Kirk the newest member who, in this installment have to deal with Burns, a former member who goes rogue.

Rifts are portals (think Stargate SG-1) out of which come fireflies, small and powerful alien creatures who possess animals (and the reader shall see, water in swimming pools and other intimate objects) which must be contained. Chasing these rifts and fireflies takes the group across the United States and into a variety of settings.

Fast-paced and entertaining, Area 51: NightStalkers, is a mix of special ops and science fiction with a great cast of characters.

I enjoyed this book and look forward to the next volume.

I rate it a 'great' read.

Note: I purchased a Kindle copy of this book and wrote this review in response to my reading experience.
