Bodyguard of Lies by Robert Doherty

Excellent

Who guards the world of covert operations? Enter the Cellar, a 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 both pick up the pieces of her life after Gants 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 Hannahs chance meeting sets a decades-old plan into motion.

They couldnt 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: theyve 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.
My Personal Review:
If I were to recommend this book to anyone, I would do so with the caveat: Give the book a chance to get rolling. It takes about 50 pages for the book to really hit stride. Until that point, the reader is mostly treated to a short action scene at the beginning of the book, followed by many pages of character development.

Now, character development is not a bad thing. In fact, I would say that Mr. Doherty does an excellent job of creating interesting characters that have depth in this story. However, in the past, Doherty has used action scenes as vehicles to show character detail. This time around he tends to use more static scenes that consist mostly of dialogue or mundane interactions with the surrounding environment. Is this bad? Nope, not at all. It's just not what I'd expect going into a Doherty book. Keep in mind that this formula only applies to the first 50 pages.

Around page 50, the story explodes. The characters begin to fire on all cylinders, action scenes help move the story forward, and story twists begin to make themselves apparent. At this point, I was locked into the story and found it very difficult to put down. This was the kind of storytelling I expected from Robert Doherty and I'm pleased to say it's his best effort yet.


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