Killing Rain (John Rain Thrillers) by Barry Eisler

Killing Rain Is One Killer Book!

No one but Japanese-American assassin John Rain can win the game of cross and double cross he encounters in this new novel of sexy international intrigue in the series.

Torn between his past as a soldier and his vocation as a killer, longing for attachment but forced to operate alone, and haunted by the fear that one day there must be a reckoning for the things he has done, John Rain moves like a dark ghost through Tokyo and the other urban landscapes in which his Asian features enable him to operate undetected. His ability to make death appear to have been of natural causes keeps his reluctant services in constant demand.

In Killing Rain, Rain has a new employer, the Mossad—which needs an operator who can remove problems in Asia—and a new partner: Dox, the ex-marine sniper and party animal first introduced in Rain Storm. He also has a new hope—that by using his fearsome talents in the service of something good, he might atone for all the lives he has already taken. But when Rains freshly awakened conscience causes him to botch an assignment, turning what should have been a surgical hit into a massacre, he finds himself running both from the Mossad and from the CIA. Can he trust Delilah, the alluring Israeli agent whom he once fought and then loved, to save him now?

Barry Eisler in creating John Rain has invented an assassin, a hit-man for hire, who thinks, who broods. Rain, the offspring of a Japanese father and American mother is a contemporary samurai who continually muses over his chosen career as a very high-priced, meticulous assassin. Rain has what many might consider problems, such as lack of a permanent love
interest and so on. In Killing Rain, the fourth in the John Rain series, aging becomes another of his concerns.

Through a intermediary, a gorgeous Israeli intelligence agent who specializes in seduction to serve her country, Rain is hired to kill an Israeli who sells knowledge of explosives to terrorists. Rain has acquired a sort-of partner, known as Dox (as in unorthodox), a large, verbose American. Doxs specialty is as a sniper.

The two track down the target, Manny, to Manilla and in Rains typically painstaking (and thrilling way) set the scene for his demise. The ambush goes wrong and among the dead are two men who might be CIA agents. Rains concern for Mannys young son is what makes the assassination go wrong. Rain has scruples: he isnt just anyones murderer.

The beauty of reading Eisler is that he takes you into the very complex mind of John Rain and some of the people he interacts with. Their is Deliah, the beautiful Israel agent. Dox who appears to be superficial, but is not. Even with minor characters, Eisler manages to evoke depth in them.

The action moves from the Phillipines to China and is unrelenting. Now Rain and Dox are being hunted by the Israelis and a mysterious organization that may or may not be connected to the CIA.

It never stops. Eisler keeps pouring it on and Rain keeps thinking and thinking. And the reader keeps reading and reading until long into the night, unless they have a self-discipline I lack.

Eisler has created a grand character in John Rain, the assassin who thinks . . . and kills with mind-gripping perfection.

Jerry