Late one balmy summer evening in Pyongyang, an important Chinese intelligence general on his way to a secret meeting with Kim Jon-Il is assassinated in plain sight of a surveillance camera. The two shooters are wearing the uniforms of North Korean police officers. Kim Jong-Il denies any knowledge of the shooting, but the Chinese do not believe him. As they prepare to attack, Jong-Il promises to unleash his nuclear weapons on downtown Beijing, Seoul, and Tokyo, plunging the entire region into nuclear war. Kirk McGarvey, just off a difficult assignment that took him to Mexico City, has returned to his visiting professorship at the University of South Florida. A colonel in North Korea’s intelligence service shows up in person, asking McGarvey to prove that North Korea did not authorize the hit. It’s the most extraordinary request McGarvey has ever received. He enters a dangerous international shadow world where almost nothing is as it seems. The puzzles lead him to a mysterious Russian ex-KGB multimillionaire whose specialty is expediting assassins for hire, to Pyongyang where he finds the wedge to open up a far-reaching plot so monstrous the entire world could go up into flames, and finally back to the one nation that potentially has the most to gain by such a war. And the most to lose . . .

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My Personal Review:
There are only so many sure bets in life...death, taxes and a David Hagberg thriller. 'The Expediter' is NO exception to Mr. Hagberg’s impressive and growing collection of action/adventure novels. I’ve often said that Kirk McGarvey could wipe the floor with Jack Bauer, Indiana Jones, Dirk Pitt and any other number of action heroes--and do it smarter, too. This book only helped solidify my belief.
The way David Hagberg has an absolute CLEAR understanding of the world, its leaders and potential/catastrophic possibilities we have/could/will face is absolutely weird. My first recollection of Osama Bin Laden was reading about him in 'Joshua’s Hammer'...and man was that a hum dinger of a McGarvey tale! As of late, one of the main countries at the forefront of political unrest is North Korea, led by the difficult-to-define, Kim Jong (mentally) Il. You would think the LAST thing on anyone's mind is how do we help solve a potential world-class incident brewing between North Korea and China...however Mr. Hagberg once again rips a page out of a future edition of USA Today and tells us what MAY (or possibly WILL) happen if this type of situation sees the light of day (let us pray it never does).

Did North Korea plan and carry out an assassination of a Chinese General? And if not, WHO is responsible for this act and better yet, how can they prove it before a nuclear meltdown results between the two increasingly unstable countries? Getting Kirk to agree to this whole operation was some pretty good storytelling right there, but thankfully, Hagberg made the rest of the novel good as well.

What can I say that hasn't been said before about McGarvey? Without a doubt he is my 1 favorite action/adventure spy in print. I wonder just how much more Kirk can take, leading me to wonder how many more novels we'll get to see featuring him, but that's okay, I'm sure when Mr. Hagberg finally decides to lay him to rest his endless well of creativity will give us someone equally as entertaining to enjoy...although if I can be honest, I am NOT looking forward to it.

Long live Kirk McGarvey!

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
The Expediter (McGarvey) by David Hagberg - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!