The Innocent: A Vanessa Michael Munroe Novel by Taylor Stevens

When Men Are Innocent, Life Shall Be Longer. Emerson

With The Innocent, Taylor Stevens, the bestselling author of The Informationist, returns with another blockbuster thriller featuring the fearless Vanessa Michael Munroe.

Eight years ago, a man walked five-year-old Hannah out the front doors of her school and spirited her over the Mexican border, taking her into the world of a cult known as The Chosen. For eight years, followers of The Prophet have hidden the child, moving her from country to country, shielding the man who stole her. Now, those who’ve searched the longest know where to find her. They are childhood survivors of The Chosen, thirty-somethings born and raised inside the cult who’ve managed to make lives for themselves on the outside. They understand the mindset, the culture within that world, and turn to Vanessa Michael Munroe for help, knowing that the only possibility of stealing Hannah back and getting her safely out of Argentina is to trust someone who doesn’t trust them, and get Munroe on the inside.

Tautly written, brilliantly paced, and with the same evocation of the exotic combined with chilling violence that made The Informationist such a success, The Innocent confirms Taylor Stevens’ reputation as a thriller writer of the first rank.

My Personal Review:
Vanessa Michael Munroe is an assassin who has nightmares about her past. She understands her killing capability and when her best friend, Logan, asks for her help, she can’t refuse.
Logan explains that eight years earlier, his friend, Charitys daughter, Hannah, was abducted from her school and taken across the Mexican border to a cult known as The Chosen. Followers of The Prophet, have hidden Hannah and shielded her abductor. Hannah was age five at the time and Logan and other members of the group who have escaped The Chosen, ask Munroe if she will rescue her. Since Munroe came from a similar background, she accepts.

These people who had been childhood members of The Chosen, tell Munroe some of the things that go on there and inform her that they know where Hannah is located.

Munroe poses as a donor and makes contact with members of the cult in South America. Since she will be bringing in wealth, she is accepted without many questions.

She is able to get entry into one of the group homes. As she sees the children, Munroe understands how difficult it may be to rescue Hannah, if she has been brainwashed and is unwilling to leave.

The reader understands the level that the children have been instructed in the Cult religion. They are told that the outside world is corrupt and that people will say bad things about The Cult. Unfortunately, in this day where we learn about young people being abused by people in authority, we see how naive children can be.

The setting is well described as we see the outward life of contentment in these children. Munroe is a character that we want to see succeed. She is another in the group of fiercely aggressive female characters in the line of Lisbeth Sandler in the Steig Larssons novels and just like those novels, I would enjoy seeing this book filmed.

The book is disquieting at times when we see the vulnerability of the children but it is still a wonderfully evocative novel that will remain in the readers mind with the thoughts of missing and lost children.

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