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Reviews of Ron Terpening's LEAGUE OF SHADOWS

“Terpening’s forte is action and there’s plenty here. *League of Shadows* is a **crackling good story**.”

— **Steve Berry**, national bestselling author of *The Romanov Prophecy*

“*League of Shadows* is a **smart, suspenseful novel** in which the last secrets of an evil past must be revealed in order to save new victims in the present.”

— **Thomas Perry**, national bestselling author of *Pursuit*

“An energetic, meticulously researched excursion into the world of classic wartime espionage. **A great read**.”

— **Olen Steinhauer**, author of *The Bridge of Sighs*, *The Confession*, and *36 Yalta Boulevard*

“**A masterful espionage thriller**. Terpening weaves a tale of crackling suspense that will keep even the most demanding of readers ravidly turning the pages. Fans of Jack Higgins will be clearing space on their bookshelves for the work of this hot new author.”

— **Brad Thor**, national bestselling author of *State of the Union*, *Path of the Assassin*, *The Lions of Lucerne*, and *Blowback*.

“**A first-rate adventure novel** that entertains and informs, with an intriguing cast of characters, an engaging plot, and well-developed locales.”

— **Stephen Mertz**, author of *Nightwind*, *Fade to Tomorrow*, and *Devil Creek*

“*League of Shadows* is a novel of suspense and intrigue. In Rome, 1943, three spies strived to infiltrate Italy’s Fascist hierarchy and their secret police. Now, decades after that long-ago mission went horribly wrong, an unknown enemy is hunting the former secret agents down. Their one hope for survival is an ex-cop obsessed with his mission. **An addictive read**, weaving together human drive, determination, and betrayal into a gripping whole.”

— **The Midwest Book Review**, *Small Press Bookwatch*, *The Fiction Shelf* (December 2004).

“Ron’s first novel, *Storm Track*, was a treat to read for its page-to-page, chapter after chapter, explosive global chase scenes. Now, in his new historical spy thriller, *League of Shadows*, he’s more than up to his old tricks; he’s downright outdone himself, mixing time lines with ease and chases that make you feel you’re in a theater.

I am a Terpening fan. His exotic settings alone are worth the read, sending me to places and times that are as alive with drama and humanity today as they were then. I am in the chase through an idyllic Italian countryside or sipping a cappuccino in an urban café of pre-

World War II, then, moments later, sweating out the balm of a desert flood in the aromatic monsoon along the Arizona-Sonora border—all the while in some nerve-racking situation that makes me forget I'm actually reading a book.

Terpening is **a master of plot** that cannot be easily anticipated yet flows smoothly, who brilliantly makes memorable his gamut of characters, the bad guys really bad but with edges of kindness, a main character with failings who's not just the good guy but sympathetic—and all of them created with gusto. His words often resonate poetic; his description and attention to detail are astute as a journalist's.

If you're a fan of World War II military history or an Edward Abbey-type southwest desert buff or if you just want to enjoy **a terrific page-turner**, *League of Shadows* is a must read. But read it when you don't have to go to work the next day."

— **Ron Argo**, author of *Year of the Monkey*, a novel of Vietnam

"Former policeman Nick Ferron is drawn into an international adventure after his grandfather's disappearance in the Colorado mountains. Thomas Gage was an OSS agent during World War II who attempted to infiltrate the OVRA, the Italian secret police under Mussolini's regime. In an effort to understand what happened to his grandfather, Ferron tries to track down the other people involved in the wartime mission. Using a complex structure that moves back and forth in time, Terpening (*Storm Track*) does an excellent job of keeping the concurrent stories clear, and his historical descriptions are well researched. **Fans of Jack Higgins's thrillers will enjoy**. For most public libraries.

— Joel W. Tscherne, Cleveland P.L., in *Library Journal*, 129, no. 20 (December 2004), 103-104.

"Thomas Gage was an OSS spy in Rome in 1943. Betrayed by an Allied traitor he, Beppe Aprico, and Theunis Kloos escaped, but many Italian partisans did not. Among those caught and tortured were Gage's eighteen year old contact and lover. Gage has never stopped seeking the traitor's identity. Now, fifty years later, the traitor must erase his past. He pays assassins to eliminate the former agents who would reveal his treachery. When Gage disappears, believed dead, his grandson, Nick Ferron, sees the traitor's hand at work and takes on the hunt. With Aprico now just shot to death, Nick follows the trail of the only remaining agent to the jungles of Suriname.

You can race through this suspense thriller riding the whirlwind of drug busts, jungle guerrilla attacks, gun fights, assassinations, and love affairs right into the breathtaking climax. Or, if you are disciplined enough, you can turn each page slowly and savor the extraordinary visual and historical detail Ron Terpening has painted into his complex story. Either way, **you are in for a treat**. This is a book to add to every collection of historical fiction."

— Lucille Cormier, in *The Historical Novels Review*, no. 31 (February 2005), 38.

"If you're looking for a good spy thriller, *League of Shadows* ... is **a crackerjack choice**. Loaded with plot twists, it jumps around to places such as Dutch Guiana, Italy, Washinton, D.C., and the Sonoran Desert from the 1940s to the present. The protagonists, grandfather (the old Office of Strategic Services) and grandson (Drug Enforcement Administration) are a likable duo. They face Benito Mussolini's secret police and venal politicians with equal aplomb."

— J. C. Martin, Special to the *Arizona Daily Star*, (May 1, 2005), .

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