



Legitimate Business

Michael Niemann

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Ritu Roy, a constable with an all-female United Nations peacekeeping unit in Darfur, Sudan, has been shot dead. Her superiors call it a random shooting. Her best friend thinks otherwise. She's found a bullet casing from a sniper's rifle, an uncommon weapon in the refugee camp. The case remains closed until Valentin Vermeulen arrives to conduct a routine audit. As an investigator with the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services, his job is to ferret out fraud. The casing is the first clue that Ritu may have stumbled onto a major criminal operation.

Solving the mystery of Ritu's death leads Vermeulen down a perilous path. With the help of journalist Tessa Bishonga, he visits the hidden camp of a notorious rebel leader. On the streets of Port Sudan he dodges a parade of shady characters. In the end, Vermeulen must expose the players in the not so "legitimate" business of supplying weapons to Sudan ... before they can hunt him down.

Book 1 in the Valentin Vermeulen Thriller series.

Legitimate Business Details

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Author : Michael Niemann

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From Reader Review Legitimate Business for online ebook

Edwin Battistella says

Michael Niemann's Legitimate Business is the real deal. Valentin Vermeulen, the UN fraud investigator introduced in his story "Africa Always Needs Guns." Vermeulen reappears in a full length story of action and intrigue set in Darfur. A UN policewoman is killed and her partner suspects she was murdered after complaining about shoddy equipment supplied by a contractor. Vermeulen's once-routine audit becomes an investigation of investigation a British military contractor who will stop at nothing. Niemann knows his way around Africa and Vermeulen emerges as a tough and wily hero, backstopped by strong female characters--including a UN peacekeeper and plenty of surprises. The intriguing portrait of the conflict in Sudan and international politics is a bonus. I'm looking forward to seeing more of Valentin Vermeulen.

Alison McMahan says

A great start to what promises to be a thrilling series

The novel manages to make the complicated situation in Darfur comprehensible while delivering thrills and even a bit of romance.

Carole Beers says

This is a fast-moving, fascinating look at dangerous people and alliances in the backwaters and big cities of Africa. The hero, a likeable but slightly rogue U.N. Investigator, engages the reader with his clever escapes and sleuthing. Those who like adventure, intrigue and action involving guns and explosives, will not be disappointed!

Doranne Long says

Legitimate Business, book 1 in the Valentin Vermeulen series, is a thrilling read! Michael Niemann writes with intimate detail and knowledge. In this book, he exposes the inner workings of doing business in a war zone, in this case Darfur, Sudan.

Mark Bacon says

Legitimate Business is a different type of mystery. It's an intriguing spy novel, a thriller loaded with exotic atmosphere and foreign intrigue and a mystery, all in one.

Valentine Vermeulen is a New York-based fraud investigator with the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services. Responding to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, the UN Security Council has approved

a significant military and police presence. Some 25,000 military and civilian people work for the United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). Millions of dollars in supplies and services are required to support the large operation. Vermeulen's job, initially, is to examine the books, but it quickly escalates.

A distance, exotic locale, unique characters--good guys and bad--and crisp writing make this international thriller an appealing intro to this new series. Two other books in the series are available.

Doranne Long says

Legitimate Business, book 1 in the Valentin Vermeulen series, is a thrilling read! Michael Niemann writes with intimate detail and knowledge. In this book, he exposes the inner workings of doing business in a war zone, in this case Darfur Sudan.

John Wintersteen says

Interesting looking series. There are three. The third is out in Feb 2018 in paperback only.

Cats of Ulthar says

As soon as I finished this exciting thriller, I wished to start reading again. LEGITIMATE BUSINESS is a fine balance between the global and the personal; between international politics and "exo-politics" (black market); legality and illegality of war; nations and rebels; warlords and refugees. Ideology, greed and the other human frailties predominate, while our protagonist Vermeulen is not so much "flawed hero," s a man who tries to learn from his mistakes and make course corrections: an evolving human.
