



The Archangel Project

C.S. Graham

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A murdered psychologist with ties to a secret CIA-funded remote viewing project . . .

A haunted young Iraq War vet with a "psycho" discharge and a talent that has marked her for death . . .

A deadly secret that will rock the world.

You can't hide the truth from those who can see.

When the charred remains of Tulane professor Henry Youngblood are discovered in the burned-out ruins of his New Orleans offices, the CIA sends maverick troubleshooter Jax Alexander to investigate. Joined in a reluctant partnership with remote viewer October "Tobie" Guinness, Jax struggles to decipher a cryptic set of clues that leads from the devastated neighborhoods of New Orleans to the power corridors of Washington, D.C. Pursued by agents of an influential oil and defense conglomerate with ties to the President himself, Jax and Tobie soon find themselves in a breakneck race against time to stop a ruthless killer and avert a diabolical plot that could devastate America.

The Archangel Project Details

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Author : C.S. Graham

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From Reader Review The Archangel Project for online ebook

Brackman1066 says

I liked this--all the thrillers of this sort that I've seen have been in my public library, where someone has a taste for espionage novels written by neo-cons where the moral is "get dem rag-headed commies." Boy is this an antidote to that. Since I'm on the same side of the political fence as the C.S. Graham (hint: not neo-con), I enjoyed this. If "get dem rag-heads" is your general outlook on life, then don't read it. Actually, do.

The plot was a little predictable, and somewhat similar to the first St. Cyr book. I look forward to seeing where the author takes these characters and will download the next book soon.

Michelle says

Remote-viewing, not great writing

Rick Verde says

Slow moving, but an interesting plot. Good enough to finish reading but not anything I'll ever read again.

Barb in Maryland says

Fast-paced and quite entertaining.

I tend to avoid conspiracy thrillers these days as I often find the plots just too over the top. (Or maybe I just read too many of them back in the '60s and '70s...)

I picked this one up because one of the authors writes one of my favorite historical mystery series. I wanted to see what she could do in a modern setting.

Full points to the authors for crafting a fairly plausible plot and very likable main characters.

I've got the next one on hold at the library.

Alyssa Allen says

I thought this book was great. I liked the differences between the two main characters, the adventure, and the plot. This was the first time in a long time that I actually looked up the sequel and put it on my to-read list. I'm excited to continue the story of Jax and Tobie!

Marisella says

I love the St. Cyr series, and thought the other books by the author would be as good. The plot was too convoluted, characters stiff and emotionless, action predictable.

Daria says

Quick page turner and really interesting topic. Great vacay book.

Ariel says

Tulane professor Henry Youngblood seeks funding for his remote viewing research project with test subjects from the wrong person. When he has October (Tobie) Guinness do an example of her remote viewing abilities, she sees documents that have just put the professor and herself in mortal danger. Professor Youngblood is burned in a fire and Tobie is running for her life. The CIA Director assigns Jax Alexander to investigate the professor's death, intending the assignment to be a punishment. Jax looks past the local police's assumption that Tobie killed the professor because she was discharged from the military due to PTSD. Rather, he realizes she is the key to what happened to the professor, but finding her while murderers are on her trail is a challenge. When they partner and recall the information from her remote viewing session, it takes them on a whirlwind race to stop a devastating large scale domestic terrorist attack.

October (Tobie) Guinness is former military suffering from PTSD who got introduced to the remote viewing program and finds she is a natural. She is smart, stronger than she thinks, and distrustful. Agent Jax Alexander comes from money, so he isn't impressed by titles or concerned about his career. This makes him look at his job differently and that shows in this investigation. Tobie has some friends who try to help her out. Two in particular stand out, Gunner who is a conspiracy guy and Colonel McClintock. Character development grew as the story progressed but took a backseat to the fast tempo of a thriller. If I could have asked for anything, it would have been just a bit more character development, but this is a common challenge in thrillers.

The setting is a battered and recovering New Orleans which evoked the aftermath of Katrina well. One scene occurs in a deserted part of town and gives the sense of a suburban ghost town. That left an impression.

The plot was interesting and Tobie barely eluding the relentless mercenaries sent after her kept the pace going. The climax definitely had some good tense moments, but it was resolved a touch too quickly. The wrap up lays the foundation for more books (which there have been two more with Tobie and Jax).

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and highly recommend it. I liked the concept, the overall plot, the remote viewing aspects, and the characters mentioned. I have already purchased the next in the series, The Solomon Effect.

Rating: Near Perfect - Couldn't Put it down. Buy two copies, one for you and one for a friend.

Series: 1st in Jax and Tobie Thriller series

Sensuality: Some action-thriller violence and occasion swearing

Mystery Sub-genre: Thriller

Obtained Through: Personal purchase

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<http://www.mysterysuspense.blogspot.com/>

J says

I enjoy another series by this author. As I remember it took a few for my to get into the story. I would like to read more in this series.

Kelly says

The Archangel Project by the writing team of Steven Harris and Candice Proctor, writing under the pseudonym of C.S. Graham is an interesting concept that ultimately fell flat for this reader.

The novel's protagonist is young woman, discharged from the army where she served in Iraq, on a psych discharge. October Guinness has the ability to "remote view" whereby she can focus on a geographical location and "see" what is occurring there. She participates in a university study and through her remote viewing manages to see things she should not. Enter the shadowy corporate and government figures determined to stop "Tobie", get rid of anyone who might know what she knows, and take over the government.

I liked the basic premise of the book. The idea of shadowy figures and conspiracy complete with a dash of the paranormal always make for a great read. One of the problems I had was the way the large cast of characters was introduced. Maybe I just wasn't paying enough attention, but it seemed in the beginning that there just wasn't enough specific information about each one to make them memorable. When they would return in a later chapter, I would oft times recollect the name, but not for the life of me remember who they were in the big scheme of things. So I would have to stop and leaf back through the book until I had that, "Oh....I remember who that was" moment. It took me a while to settle in and figure out the "who's who" in the cast of characters

I also disliked the occasional almost snarky snide comments the authors put in the book. Many of the bad guys were thinly veiled versions of politicians and corporations in power today. Occasionally it felt as though the authors had a great idea of a suspense novel, but what they really wanted to write was an anti-administration, anti-military industrial complex and anti-war screed. I was probably overly attuned to these things since the election year just ended and I've been so tired of being fed a constant diet of this in the news. I would suspect it didn't bother anyone else, I've just been on a strict "strict turn off the tv and radio" diet because I'm just sick of hearing about negative stuff I have absolutely no control over, so I'm probably the exception.

So, would I recommend the book? Ehh....probably not. Yet I do see a lot of potential in this writing team. Would I read a second novel by them? Yep, I would. I think they have a lot of ability, and some interesting ideas. I would just like to see them tighten up the writing a bit.

Melanie says

Even though I knew it wouldn't, I was still disappointed that this title had nothing to do with Harold Saxon's Archangel network. :) That aside, I shouldn't read thrillers. The people never seem real to me (a woman with bad knees who can't run, but who can handle marshal arts?), they always have unbelievable names (October Guinness? That sounds like a type of alcohol. Jax, short for all his initials? Definite stretch.), and they always make stupid mistakes (staying in town after being told repeatedly to leave). Thrillers just frustrate me. But at least I now know that the US government was behind the terrorist attacks of September 11, just so that they could go to war and Haliburton could get government contracts. I also know that the government will go to any lengths to promote war with Iran. Anyway, silly book. The highlight was the misplaced modifier that made it appear that Tobie ate cat food. That made my day.

Jessica Howard says

A predictable thriller set in post-Katrina New Orleans. Starring Jax Alexander, CIA agent in disgrace, and October Guinness, a psychic, or maybe psycho, ex-Navy college dropout. Tobie remotely views something she's not supposed to see, and then a lot of people try to kill her. Like six or seven different people. She saves herself a few times, then Jax saves her a few times, then they fly around the country trying to figure out what happened, and what the Archangel Project is. The characters' names, though ridiculous, were about as believable as the plot. But if you're looking for a fun thriller, and don't mind a hearty dose of conspiracy theory, it wasn't too bad.

Doris says

This story was a twist on the girl next door type of story. Our Heroine, October "Tobie" Guinness is a remote viewer (she sees things) who is a Navy veteran, wounded in action (by friendly fire) then discharged with a mental disorder, referred to as a "psycho discharge". She is young, so many of her inabilities to comprehend the actions she needs to take, or not take, are forgivable on those grounds alone.

Unlike other books, this does not make her a superstrong, super brainy type. She is just an innocent young woman who stumbled into a bad situation with an extremely covert operation.

This story takes a twist on the national mindset from the 9-11 attacks, and takes us from the backwaters of New Orleans (what IS it about that city?), leads us to the Capitol in DC, and gives us glimpses into the thoughts and mindsets of several innocents who are pawns to a greater power.

In this story, Tobie is being coached to utilize her skill at seeing things – call it telepathy, call it ESP or remote viewing or just crazy insight. As a result of her ability, she is dragged into the national conspiracy and we see her running from the people out to get her. Here is where the issue of her youth comes into play, as she does not understand the dynamics of conspiracy, although she is friends with a conspiracy nut.

Her helpers are varied, so she is not totally alone, which is good. As an innocent, she needs that, and as an innocent on the run, only those willing to step in can assist her.

I do like that she lets instinct guide her, and doesn't just charge headlong into an activity or event that could jeopardize her, although there were times when I could see that something was not going to turn out well. I also liked that she is not an open book, and although we are told about her family, she does not immediately run to them for help and protection, which bodes well for her as a person and an adult.

There was a series of events, leading from a fairly innocent confrontation to a final confrontation, all of which built on each other in a believable, although chilling, manner, flowing from scene to scene in a trail that, as mentioned, crosses the country.

I liked that, even though there are a series of bad guys, they all have touches that make them human and not just evil killers. They are family men with children and loved ones, they have goals, they have plans.

The only issue that I had with this story as a whole is that there are only a handful of females, and most were not seen "on stage". Overall though, this book is well written, dealing with human issues and greed, national plots, and power hungry tycoons.

There are several characters that I would have liked more information on, from the national scene to the main characters. Although we get quite a bit of background on Tobie, the books glosses over her military career. It touches on her age, and thinking back now, I am confused as to how old she really was. At some point it mentions 21, which does not jive with having dropped out of college 2 months prior to graduation (we know she is not a prodigy, as the story makes the point that she was never an ace student.)

I would like to have some of the detail on the secondary character known as "Jax". On the cover and in the description he is described as a "disgraced CIA agent" although that is not accurate: he isn't disgraced, just out of favor.

We get background and family touches for some of the villains, and get information on family connections and friends of the powers, but Jax is a mystery. We do have snippets of information about his past, with operations he was involved with in Colombia, but we don't get enough to get a real picture of him.

I really liked that Jax is hands off with Tobie. She is a nut in his opinion, supported by her medical discharge.

As a final touch, my copy had the first 2 chapters from the next book, which I will definitely be reading, and will hopefully learn more about Jax, his family and friends, and also get a chance to know more about the background and family of our main character.

A good story, well written and presented, with a touch of the paranormal, built into a city which has had some hard knocks in the last decade, and supported by a cast of characters, some likeable, some not, woven together with touches of humor, to give us a rounded plot about an intriguing subject.

Patricia says

Somewhat enjoyable/exciting story. What I did not like about it is the political agenda C.S. pushes.

Tex says

An okay thriller. Nothing special.
