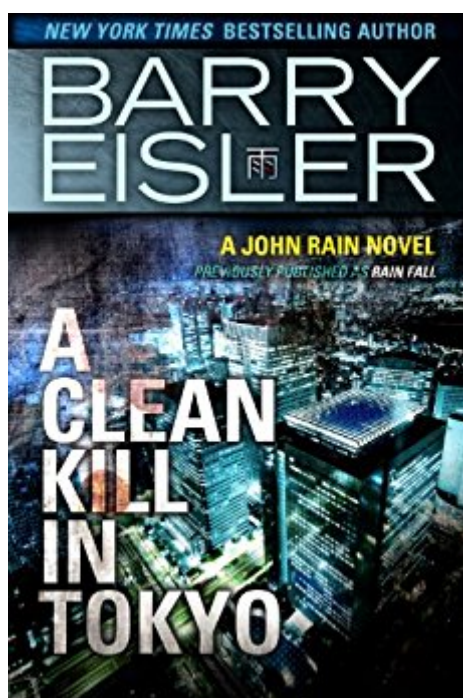


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A Clean Kill In Tokyo (Previously Published As Rain Fall) (A John Rain Novel Book 1)



Synopsis

Previously published as *Rain Fall* Name: John Rain. Vocation: Assassin. Specialty: Natural Causes. Base of operations: Tokyo. Availability: Worldwide. Half American, half Japanese, expert in both worlds but at home in neither, John Rain is the best killer money can buy. You tell him who. You tell him where. He doesn't care about why | Until he gets involved with Midori Kawamura, a beautiful jazz pianist and the daughter of his latest kill. *A Clean Kill in Tokyo* was previously published as *Rain Fall*, the first in the bestselling John Rain assassin series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Barry Eisler published this book under other names, which to me were irrelevant other than to provide some insight into what authors have to go through getting their works in front of saps like me. And I only mention that because it was the current title, "A Clean Kill in Tokyo," that got me reading the first book in Eisler's supremely engaging John Rain series. Not that death and destruction are my thing. Then again, they are. I like reading this strong hero stuff. But John Rain is against type. He's basically a hit man. He gets paid to put people down. He has a code. No women,

no children. And he assumes he's offing nefarious types. But he's not sure. Eisler slowly unveils Rain's back story, which is a trip. He said in notes that he updated the book from 95 technology references, and that Rain's kind of an old guy because he's a Vietnam vet. Didn't bother me in the slightest. Eisler's detail and reporting go deep, making this story quite fascinating whether he's taking the reader through a fight scene or explaining the details behind a war massacre in which women and children were murdered because some officer ordered it, even when told it was unlikely a village had harbored the enemy. I ordered another Rain novel. They're a bit tough to read at times. Rain isn't the most uplifting guy. He's a killer. But he has a moral code. And that makes him worth reading about.

I enjoyed this book. Quick read, good characters, good amount of action. The story takes place in Japan so there are a lot of Japanese words use to describe locations, actions and government agencies which showed the writer did his home work and had some knowledge of the areas where the actions took place.

This book has a lot going for it. It really captures the atmosphere of Tokyo, as many other Japanophile reviewers have noted, with an exact recreation of time and place (the book was originally published as "Rain Fall" in 2003. It has well developed characters -- both the good guys and the baddies, though in some cases it's hard to tell the difference (that's particularly true of the central character. And it is powerfully suspenseful, keeping those pages turning and the reader glued to the plot. My only problem is the extraordinary level of violence, which is amped up not just by the plot but by the skill of the writer. Because the writing is so good, the violence feels much more graphic than is often the case. That's essentially a matter of taste, however -- the reviewer's problem, not the writer's --- and I will probably in any case forge ahead with the story.

Barry Eisler, through his protagonist, John Rain, an assassin for hire, accomplishes something that most suspense writers do not. He reveals how his warrior thinks, assesses threats, and plans his action. And there is plenty of action. Rain is a half Japanese, half American war veteran whose past has led him to his current occupation. This adds great depth to the story of a contract murder and it's unlikely aftermath. More importantly, the story uncovers the Machiavellian inner workings of post-war Japan. The plot is layered like an onion where the last bit of skin is not unpeeled until the end. There is little to criticize in this book with the possible exception of Rain's obsession with Tokyo subway travel. Upon finishing this review, I am immediately ordering Eisler's next John Rain saga.

I purchased this book, "A Clean Kill in Tokyo (John Rain, #1)" by Barry Eisler to read on my Kindle based on the recommendation of a Goodreads member. Not knowing really what to expect, I was pleasantly surprised. The novel has a little bit of everything to please all tastes; mystery, thriller, romance, and espionage. John Rain, the protagonist, is an assassin, an ex-marine from the Vietnam era and a hit man who specializes in assassinations that look natural. John had combat experience and a mercenary history. War is all he really knew. He got into a variety of martial arts and spent three years in the CIA, before moving to Tokyo. He was an outsider in both worlds, US and Japan...just going through the motions. John had lived in Japan until he was ten, then mostly in the States after that. He came back to Japan in the 80's. He was a half-breed, his mother was American and his father was Japanese. John lived in the shadows. Rain falls in love with the daughter of his target, Midori, and must face old enemies that are trying to control him. Rain is now a hit man and is tasked to kill a corrupt politician. He kills the man and makes it seem like a heart attack. Later that day he meets Midori, the daughter of the politician. Due to Rain's secretive nature, he's unwilling to disclose anything personal but finds himself having feelings for her. Rain and his best friend Jimmy (A.K.A Crazy Jake), joined the American army where they fought in Vietnam. Rain finally feels accepted and sticks with Jimmy for years. Midori is being hunted because her father had a disk that contained discriminating information on corruption in the Construction Ministry, in Japanese society. Her father was trying to blow the whistle on corruption. The people that want the disk think that Midori has it, and are willing to kill her to retrieve it. Rain Fall is an amazing thriller full of intense action, a gripping story, and memorable characters. Like the novel states, " There was no home for them after what they had done."

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