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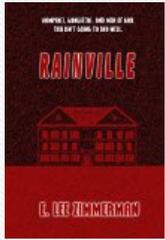
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“Wow! What a plot twist! The second book continued the story line and character development of the first with some very interesting twists. I would recommend this book for any one who loves military space opera.” -Charles E. May

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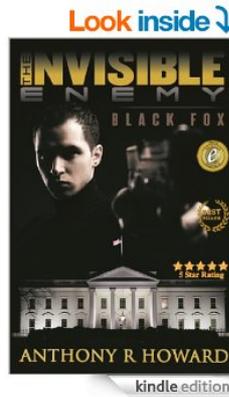


Author Interview #322: The Invisible Enemy by Anthony Howard

October 8, 2014

By Anthony Wessel

Our interview today is with [Anthony R Howard](#), author of the bestselling, award-winning novel *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox* (Suspense/Thriller, 4.9 stars, 42 reviews) and its sequel, *The Invisible Enemy II: Vendetta*. Before we get to the interview, a brief description of the series: *There is a secret that will bring America to its knees*. In *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox*, Reporter Dorian Valentine discovers the horrific truth regarding the Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty (a critical peace agreement between the former Soviet Union and the United States): One side is cheating, and even worse – the cheating side holds the ultimate trump card. Brutally trained from birth to live, talk, and think like Americans, foreign powers have constructed the most dangerous network of secret operatives ever known – created for the ultimate trinity: Intelligence, Espionage, and Warfare. This dynamic organization has been planted on US soil long ago by the former KGB to retrieve information at any cost, cause political catastrophe, or kill on moment’s notice. Now they are out of control, striking fear into the heart of the Pentagon. The Central Intelligence Agency assembles a powerful team of assassins that “do not exist” in an attempt to terminate an enemy that cannot be caught by any traditional methods. The Invisible Enemy grabs the reader by the arm, and casts them deep into the furious depths of intense warfare, awesome espionage, and unpredictable deceit – where there is a frightful undercover agenda that even the operatives themselves are not aware of



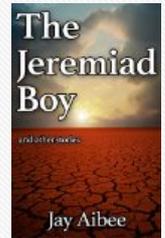
AUTHOR INTERVIEW WITH ANTHONY R HOWARD

[Anthony R Howard](#) unites cutting-edge technology, real life experience with the dept of defense and fast-paced action in his bestselling novel. The reader is paralyzed with anticipation as the plot somersaults out of control after the enemy operatives swiftly perform a devastating political strike, and then realize they have been set up. Here the game changes and no one has told them the rules. Betrayed by their own country and thrown into a world they can not trust, they are forced to depend on the most potent weapon they had ever been trained to use: their unnatural minds. *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox*, and its sequel *The Invisible Enemy II: Vendetta* is available in print, audiobook, and e-book through Amazon, Barnes and Nobles & other major retailers.

I’ve heard this book is very different from most fiction books. Tell us about your book *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox* and why it’s different from all of the other fiction out there?

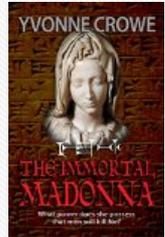
The traditional mold has now been shattered in a major way with *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox*, written by a Dept of Defense and Homeland Security insider. I’ve created a thriller that engages the audience with unknown government agencies, new technology, espionage, and of course a new way of looking at the spy game from an insider’s perspective and revealing how it affects everyone. It cultivates the mind of the reader and takes them to places they’ve never been to mentally. One of my goals in writing is to broaden the experiences of my reader community and add to the literary art form. I believe its key to not only present a fascinating story to the reader, but to bring value to the reader aside from entertainment. I believe that’s one of the key differences of my style of writing. Everyone loves to be entertained, so I’m obviously going to do that, and I truly enjoy it. Then a lot of people also value riveting, thought provoking idea’s. Topics where you finish the book and want to know more. Motifs that make you want do a bit of web surfing on the topics presented, or maybe dive even deeper. If you’d like, you can check *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox* out at <http://www.anthonrhoward.com>. It’s been getting great reviews from readers all over, and the

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The Blood Vivicanti Part 1
4.0 stars on 87 reviews

YOUNG ADULT –
GLIMPSE DARK SIDE
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Howl of the Sequoia
Deidre Huesmann

WEEKLY FEATURED
GREAT READS

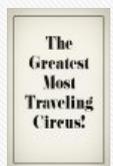
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provided for authors
featuring highly reviewed
books with a great price.
(4 stars or greater).



4.2 stars – 40 reviews
Broken Identity



4.6 stars – 44 reviews
A Brush with the Moon
(Foxyblood Series Book 1)



5.0 stars – 31 reviews
The Greatest Most
Traveling Circus

movie trailer and audiobook trailer are now up. I've also managed to bring a new perspective to the audience. Most spy novels focus on the good guys or sometimes the bad guys. I blur the lines. It's not simply a good versus evil type of design. The characters are very deep and multi-dimensional and the readers have told me they have found themselves connect to the most unlikely characters.

Folks are talking and blogging about *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox*. Your book has been compared many times to the hit series TV "24". Do you agree with your audience? What do you think of such comments and how do they make you feel?

I take these comments as a compliment. I haven't seen this years season of 24, so I can't fully interpret some of the commentary, however *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox* was created and copywritten in the library of congress far before "24" was even aired. I've seen other seasons and it's a great show. To be compared to it is an honor. I keep the action moving in my writing to entertain, and keep readers on the edge of their seats. I also feel it makes the show more interesting when you talk about current events like cyber warfare and international treaties and regulations, just as 24 does. On the other hand, I feel my work is different from 24 's Joel Surnow and Robert Cochran because they are confined to the rules of Hollywood. I am not. For instance, in the world of Hollywood, you generally don't take time out to explain how real technology works. It's very complex in some cases, and many TV watchers would get lost. So in turn Hollywood will make up completely fake technologies, false terms and tech words and phrases that don't mean anything or make any sense, just to simplify things. I don't do that. I explain the technology in a way that the readers can enjoy and understand, then during the action I teach how the technology is used – for good or for evil. Hollywood also has to be extremely politically correct when it comes to matters of politics. 24 decided to make up a completely fictional counter terrorist entity "CTU", so they wouldn't have to worry about causing ripples with any agency. It dulls the story to some, especially folks who work within that realm. I do not have to be politically correcting in my writing. I can simply speak on my experiences, and let the reader make the choice of whether this entity or this technology is a good thing or bad thing. Instead of introducing fictional organizations, I introduce real agencies that do exist, but no one has ever heard of because the organizations were extremely classified for so long. Hollywood generally won't show these entities for a variety of reasons. One of them being it would take too long to explain the organization, it's function, its politics, and why it exists. I've found a way to show the reader these dynamics through the action in the book and through the dialogue. This excites a lot of readers and makes my book different. In Hollywood it's easier to take an agency people already know, or make up your own rules along the way like "CTU". Another difference is Hollywood is generally going to conform to stereotypical roles to make things familiar. The term is sometimes called "bounded rationality". It's a behavioral theory term which basically means "the human brain will only process what it understands." This is of course does not affect how real life works. In real life because a person or country doesn't know about a technology or doesn't have a technology, doesn't make the technology not real. So I can break all of Hollywood's rules and I like it. It creates different deeper plotline, mysterious, non-stereotypical characters, and really intriguing themes. Hollywood also can not kill the "star", and the audience knows it. So you begin each show of 24 knowing that Jack Bauer, the hero, is going to without a doubt escape any peril he is in. We just enjoy watching it happen. He becomes immortal in a way, because every man, woman, and child watching 24 knows that jack is not going to die. He is also able to take on armies of men armed with machine guns against his lone pistol. These types of things don't go on in *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox*. All of the characters are mortal. Someone the reader thinks is a main character can die in an instant as in real life. Anything can happen. I want the reader on the edge of his or her seat at all times. My plots are purposefully unpredictable. I want the reader engaged until the very last page. I don't want the "okay I know he survives I just want to see how," type of environment. I also don't use the typical Hollywood model of protagonist versus Antagonist. The lines of these wargames are completely blurred. Without knowing it the reader might find him or herself aligning with a character they once perceived as an antagonist. One book review said it best "It was also fascinating how the author turns the antagonist into the protagonist without even the reader realizing it until a very powerful and unexpected scene I'll never forget." I like those kind of reviews because it lets me know I'm doing my job as a writer.

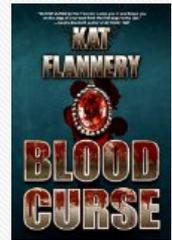
From the reviews on Barnes and Nobles and elsewhere, it seems you've drawn not only the spy novel reading crowd, but you've pulled from other genre's. How have you managed to touch readers who traditionally do not read spy novels?

Because from what the readers tell me it's a great book and an easy read. It's filled with action, suspense, mystique, intrigue, deception, mystery, romance and even fellowship. The action starts in the beginning and grabs even the folks who don't read that much. The book is also written for most ages, including junior high school students, yet it challenges each reader. There are adult themes that the younger readers may not pick up on, but in contrast, I present some younger themes some adults might not pick up on. Certain characters represent certain motifs as well. Adults who have not read a book since high school have picked up the *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox* and read it from cover to cover. Then they wanted to know more. I was fortunately able to entertain and educate by picking a topic the Hollywood has not touched before. No story like this exists anywhere. I checked as I'm a spy novel fan myself. Spy movies have been done. Spy novels have been written, but never a technology thriller exposing the *real* threats of America and what goes on behind the scenes. No story has posed the hard questions to the reader, then answered them. No story dives deep into how spies are trained, recruited, how the Dept of Defense will exterminate a serious threat, or how lines must be crossed and rights are violated in order to ensure the safety of Americans. The reader even realizes how back-door decisions made decades ago by the government can come back to haunt us, and allies can become enemies overnight. It's cool to talk about the black and the white areas. I bring the reader into the gray area, where ethics, the constitution, privacy laws, and due process can fall by the wayside when it's time to knuckle down.



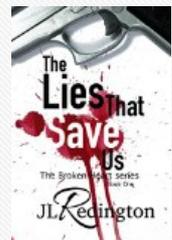
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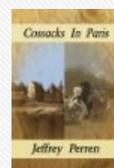
The Lies That Save Us
4.1 stars on 227 reviews

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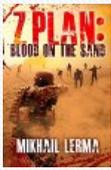
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From reading the book you clearly have intimate knowledge of the inner workings of the Dept of Defense, Homeland Security, the CIA, even the FBI and covert technology that really hasn't been exposed to the civilian global market as yet. How do you know the scoop?

I have a deep background with the Dept of Defense and technology. Currently, I'm an advanced systems consultant for the Defense, Intelligence and Civilian space. I've been an advanced solutions consultant for over 12 years. I've worked on projects for desert storm and quite a few other programs worldwide that have saved American lives. I've won several awards and several case studies of my solutions have been published across the Information Technology industry. I've done a sizeable amount of work for the U.S. Defense Sector, Department of Justice, and the Department of Homeland Security. I even relocated overseas to Amsterdam, The Netherlands for more than a year to solve technology issues for American based companies. This is in addition to the years of research and personal interviews I've done. I didn't get my information from an encyclopedia, I got it from job experience.

I heard rumblings from your audience and the blogs that you have quietly launched the sequel to the *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox* hidden somewhere. Can you speak to that? Is it true?

It's true. There is a sequel written and it's available to readers. It will not be in stores like Barnes and Nobles until late 2014 timeframe. I placed the sequel *The Invisible Enemy II: Vendetta* available for immediate order on Amazon because my readers asked for it, and usually I'm inclined to honor their request because I love them and I hope they love me back. Right now a reader, hopefully one who has finished reading the first book can go to [Amazon](#) and get the sequel. There is even a kindle version of it as well. Most folks who read the first book want the sequel. The sequel is a fascinating read as well because I don't have to "set the table" or introduce characters like I did in the first book. In the first book, *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox*, in chapter 2, I slow the action down to give some brief background on the spies and explanations of technology the reader is likely not familiar with. This is critical because all of my key characters are created with several dimensions. I will never build a house without laying a strong foundation. The foundation is laid in the beginning of *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox*, right before the action picks up again in chapter 3. In the sequel, it's also one roller coaster ride that you don't want to get off of. I remember one particular critic who was the hardest judge of books I have ever met in my entire life. When he said he couldn't put it down, I knew I had created something special to honor the first book. In *The Invisible Enemy II: Vendetta*, though I get a lot of complements on the cover of the book, my focus was certainly what is inside of it. The sequel takes you into a deeper, grittier level of the game. Here you meet mercenaries, aristocrats, secret societies and realize their alarming role in the political infrastructure and the spy game. This book is not for the light hearted either. There are some surprises that will knock your socks off. It's the perfect sequel to *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox*, which is a fascinating thriller all by itself. In my opinion, I hope my readers will agree with me, you can't fully enjoy *The Invisible Enemy II: Vendetta* without reading *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox*. In book signings and events, when readers ask for the sequel, I always ask if they have read the first book. If they say no, I have them get both books and urgently request they read *Black Fox* first, so they will understand the context and importance of what they are reading in *Vendetta*.

I hear the audiobook version *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox Audiobook* is very different from a traditional audiobook. How so?

Most audiobooks have one narrator reading the book by him or herself for 22 hours. I prefer used multi-cast (multiple actors reading the roles of the major characters) in the studio for the *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox Audiobook* production for a variety of different reasons. Foremost, it creates a new, unique theater like reality. The new 'facebook' generation want experiences to be vibrant, diverse, engaging, and interactive. Listening to one person for 22 hours can be exhausting. In the past, audiobook listeners have been a very particular audience and demographics. I believe that will change, and I'd like to be ahead of that transition. With the evolution of Ipods, mp3 players, and other inventions, audiobooks can be listened to while jogging, at the gym, cleaning, running errands, eating, airports, and even while working is an option for some folks. I was able to create a personal experience that the reader/listener can plug into personally. Audiobook listeners are diverse and multifaceted. So should the cast in their experience. My goal is to bring a phenomenal new experience to veteran readers and invite younger listeners as well, expanding into a different kind of audiobook market, combining incredible sound effects, talented multi-cast actors, spectacular special effects, a fantastic story, and great sound quality into a different and unforgettable experience. The audiobook music during the scenes was so breath taking and creative, the studio even launched *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox Audiobook Soundtrack* with over 40 tracks for just \$8.99. It includes the incredible original music and many of the theater scores. I don't believe an audiobook soundtrack has ever been done before. As I mentioned before, my goal is to add to the literary art form in many different ways, including audiobooks.

Sounds terrific! Where can potential Audiobook listeners go to perhaps hear a detailed sample of *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox Audiobook* at no cost, before they purchase?

They can listen to the 1st chapter of *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox Audiobook* for free here or on [Amazon](#), or [Audible](#)

Anthony, it's been great talking to you. As we close, please tell us where readers and listeners can contact you if they want to know more or have questions? And where can they pick up your book?

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