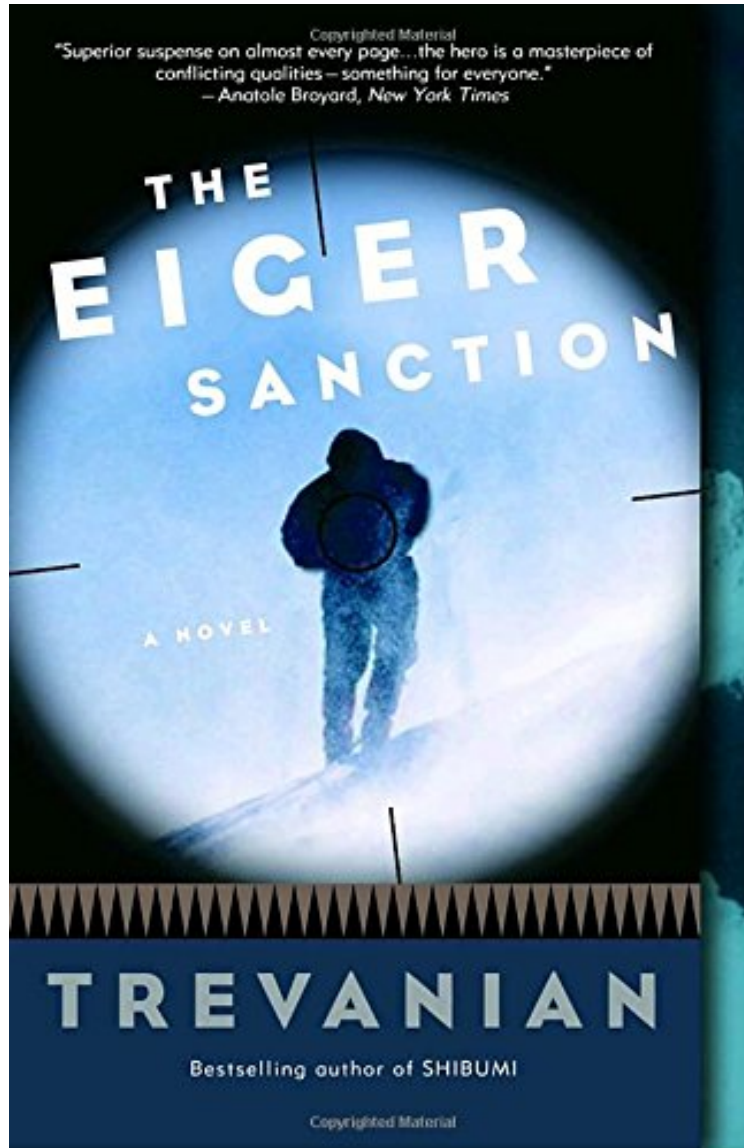


(Pdf free) The Eiger Sanction: A Novel

The Eiger Sanction: A Novel

Trevanian

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#582686 in Books Trevanian 2005-05-10 2005-05-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.30l, .55 #File Name: 1400098025336 pagesThe Eiger Sanction | File size: 48.Mb

Trevanian : The Eiger Sanction: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Eiger Sanction: A Novel:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Cold, Formidable, Unforgiving - Not The Mountain, The GuyBy Bill SlocumA 1972 spy novel classic that uses the Swiss Alps as its main setting, "The Eiger Sanction" introduces us to one of the toughest tough-love cases you'll ever meet in spy fiction: Jonathan Hemlock.Hemlock is not only an esteemed art professor but a ladykiller-at-a-glance. He used to be one of the world's greatest mountain-climbers and

now dabbles in assassination to amass a collection of art masterpieces he keeps locked in the basement of his converted-church manor on Long Island. When we meet him, Hemlock has tired of killing people for money, not liking the company it brings. Still, when pressed, he goes along with his mysterious boss for the second of two final "sanctions," which requires his return to the title mountain peak that nearly killed him. His \$100,000 will prove to be the toughest fee he'll earn - if he survives. Trevanian was the pen name for Rodney Whitaker, an American who exiled himself to the French Basque country. Perhaps "Trevanian" is Basque for "sneeringly brilliant" as this book gives evidence of a cagey man and gifted author with a deep contempt for his audience. While providing more than the usual share of thrills and adventure, he also presents us here with one of spy fiction's most dislikeable protagonists in Hemlock. How dislikeable? Well, beyond that killing-for-hire sideline, he's emotionally distant and probably sociopathic, though Trevanian doesn't tip his hand if he disapproves of his creation. "Niceness is an overrated quality," Hemlock tells someone early on. "Being nice is how a man pays his way into the party if he hasn't the guts to be tough or the class to be brilliant." Later on, when confronted with a jealous husband, we learn that "Jonathan experienced that uncomfortable combination of pity and disgust he always felt for the emotionally soft, particularly those who lacked control over their romantic lives." Trevanian gives Hemlock an adventure well-suited to his hard character, a twisting tale of betrayal and casual cruelty culminating in a deadly climb up the Eiger's friable, frosty face that showcases the author's ability to suck you into a world utterly alien from your own - that is, unless you climb dangerous mountains. As a voice of narrative authority, Trevanian is as unimpeachable as he is riveting. There's something else apparently at work here. Trevanian later claimed it a satire of Ian Fleming and those other authors of spy-yarn escapism. Hemlock is built up rather improbably as a master of many things, and there are also an assortment of funny names from the Pussy Galore school, like Randie Nickers and Cherry Pitt. His assassinations boss is named Yurasis Dragon and Dragon's secretary is Miss Cerberus. Generally, though, Trevanian keeps humor or engagement of any kind to a minimum. If there is a satire going on here, it seems directed at the reader rather than for the reader. That tetchy quality gives "The Eiger Sanction" both a uniqueness as well as a chip-on-the-shoulder hauteur that's hard to warm up to. Will spy fiction fans like it? I don't think it can disappoint on a truly plot-focused basis; the story has some very effective turns that can cross you up even when you expect them, and Hemlock's cold manner is bracingly effective. Watching him rough up a would-be adversary and even a messenger from Dragon proves startlingly rousing entertainment given how Hemlock is presented as being no better than anyone else. Maybe that's the satire Trevanian spoke of. Tongue in cheek or not, Trevanian delivers a very effective adventure story with hints of wider ambition. Realized or not, you will be engaged.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A book of it's time
By Dennis Bishop
Given the time it was written it can be seen as a jab at James Bond. A little humor by playing with the taboos of the time. A hit man with a love of art has women throwing themselves at him but he doesn't take advantage very often. Comical when he does.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining and captivating read
By Larry Good
captivating read. As an outdoors person, I enjoy the mountaineering parts of the book. Good pace of the story however a couple of parts in the plot should have been obvious to the main characters and they should have figured it out sooner. Would recommend this book and definitely read another Trevanian story.

Jonathan Hemlock lives in a renovated Gothic church on Long Island. He is an art professor, a mountain climber, and a mercenary, performing assassinations (i.e., sanctions) for money to augment his black-market art collection. Now Hemlock is being tricked into a hazardous assignment that involves an attempt to scale one of the most treacherous mountain peaks in the Swiss Alps, the Eiger. In a breathtakingly suspenseful story that is part thriller and part satire, the author traces Hemlock's spine-tingling adventures, introducing a cast of intriguing characters—villains, traitors, beautiful women—into the highly charged atmosphere of danger. The accumulating threads of suspicion, accusation, and evidence gradually knit themselves into a bizarre and death-defying climax in this exciting, entertaining novel that will keep readers on the edge of their seats until the last absorbing page.

"Superior suspense on almost every page...the hero is a masterpiece of conflicting qualities—something for everyone." —Anatole Broyard, *New York Times*
"Trevanian can write hoops around Ian Fleming." —*Boston Globe*
From the Inside Flap
Jonathan Hemlock lives in a renovated Gothic church on Long Island. He is an art professor, a mountain climber, and a mercenary, performing assassinations (i.e., sanctions) for money to augment his black-market art collection. Now Hemlock is being tricked into a hazardous assignment that involves an attempt to scale one of the most treacherous mountain peaks in the Swiss Alps, the Eiger. In a breathtakingly suspenseful story that is part thriller and part satire, the author traces Hemlock's spine-tingling adventures, introducing a cast of intriguing characters--villains, traitors, beautiful women--into the highly charged atmosphere of danger. The accumulating threads of suspicion, accusation, and evidence gradually knit themselves into a bizarre and death-defying climax in this exciting, entertaining novel that will keep readers on the edge of their seats until the last absorbing page.

About the Author
Trevanian's books have been translated into more than fourteen languages and have sold millions of copies worldwide. He lives in the French Basque mountains. His new novel, *The Crazy Ladies of Pearl Street*, will be released in hardcover in June 2005. Look for these other Trevanian classics from Three Rivers Press:

Shibumi, The Loo Sanction, The Summer of Katya, and The Main.