



The Intern's Handbook: A Thriller

By Shane Kuhn

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Interns are invisible. That's the mantra behind HR, Inc., an elite "placement agency" that doubles as a network of assassins-for-hire, taking down high-profile executives who wouldn't be able to remember an intern's name if their lives depended on it.

INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

Best of the Year—*Seattle Times*

JOHN LAGO IS A HITMAN. HE HAS SOME RULES FOR YOU. AND HE'S ABOUT TO BREAK EVERY SINGLE ONE.

John Lago is a very bad guy. But he's the very best at what he does. And what he does is infiltrate top-level companies and assassinate crooked executives while disguised as an intern.

Interns are invisible. That's the secret behind HR, Inc., the elite "placement agency" that doubles as a network of assassins for hire who take down high-profile targets that wouldn't be able to remember an intern's name if their lives depended on it.

At the ripe old age of almost twenty-five, John Lago is already New York City's most successful hit man. He's also an intern at a prestigious Manhattan law firm, clocking eighty hours a week getting coffee, answering phones, and doing all the grunt work actual employees are too lazy to do. He was hired to assassinate one of the firm's heavily guarded partners. His internship provides the perfect cover, enabling him to gather intel and gain access to pull off a clean, untraceable hit.

Part confessional, part DIY manual, *The Intern's Handbook* chronicles John's final assignment, a twisted thrill ride in which he is pitted against the toughest—and sexiest—adversary he's ever faced: Alice, an FBI agent assigned to take down the same law partner he's been assigned to kill.



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Editorial Review

From *Booklist*

Assassins must be invisible. And who is more invisible in corporate America than unpaid interns? That's the premise behind Human Resources, Inc., whose founder, Bob, trains children who are society's discards to be canny killers. HR's elite is John Lago, delivered prematurely, without much of a chance in life after his druggie mother was shot and died. At eight, he murdered his abusive foster parents, and when he was 12, he was recruited by Bob. Nearing HR's mandatory retirement age of 25, John gets his last assignment, to eliminate the person at prestigious law firm Bendini, Lambert, and Locke who's selling the names of people in the witness-protection program. John intends to use Alice, a new associate at the firm, to help him gain the necessary trust and access, but he doesn't count on previously dead emotions flaring up and derailing the job at hand. Written as John's handbook of advice for new HR recruits, with interspersed FBI memos, Kuhn's debut is a prime example of dark and mordant humor in the midst of a fast-moving, suspenseful, action-packed ride. Those who like *Dexter* will love John. --Michele Leber

Review

“All of the testosterone-bloated wisdom of Tucker Max mixed with the satire of *American Psycho*.”
(*Entertainment Weekly*)

“A sexy, darkly comic thriller with cinematic flourishes... Explosively violent and psychologically wily the way a good thriller should be.” (*New York Daily News*)

“This Handbook was made for the multiplex. . . . Faceless and forgettable, an intern's as invisible as a ninja in fluorescent lights—and, at least in John Lago's case, just as deadly.” (*NPR.org*)

“Imagine Dexter working in *The Office*.” (*Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*)

“Once I started reading *The Intern's Handbook*, I had a hard time putting it down. Over the course of three days, I spent any spare moment I had immersed in the book. The wit and humor had me laughing out loud at times; the twists and turns in the plot kept me wondering what was going to happen next.” (*The Coloradoan*)

“Just the kind of book we love to read. . . . On our short list for best debut of the year.”
(*Crimespreemag.com*)

“John is an appealing narrator, a hit man with his own code of honor about collateral damage that sometimes puts him at odds with his elusive boss, Bob, who may or may not have John's best interests in mind. Fans of Duane Swierczynski's Charlie Hardie trilogy and Josh Bazell's *Beat the Reaper* should enjoy this witty, deadly thriller.” (*ShelfAwareness.com*)

“Black humor and surprise twists distinguish Kuhn's highly entertaining debut, which puts a fresh spin on the theme of the hardened criminal planning one last job. . . . Not least of the charms of this likable and energetic, if amoral, character are the amusing swipes he takes at other killers in fiction and film.”
(*Publishers Weekly*)

“Kuhn's debut is a prime example of dark and mordant humor in the midst of a fast-moving, suspenseful, action-packed ride. Those who like *Dexter* will love John Lago.” (*Booklist*)

“A propulsive, well-written black comedy. . . . Believable dialogue, a whip smart and cynical central character, clever reversals and an entertaining amount of bone-crunching violence help wrap up this nasty package with a pretty little bow. An entertaining, ferociously violent romp about a morally bankrupt killer trying to find his way home.” (*Kirkus Reviews*)

“*The Intern's Handbook* is Tarantino funny and as tense as a Mexican standoff. Shane Kuhn has written a movie lover's thriller that's as entertaining as it is smart.” (Andrew Pyper, bestselling author of *The Demonologist*)

“*The Intern's Handbook* is *Dexter* meets *Office Space*—the blackest and goriest office comedy you could imagine, with an intern-slash-assassin in the starring role. Shane Kuhn's debut thriller crackles with dark humor, pyrotechnic action scenes and twists you'll never see coming. Just like the intern who's getting ready to snuff you out.” (Lisa Lutz, New York Times bestselling author of *The Spellman Files*)

“Being bad is seldom this good. Mercilessly entertaining.” (Christopher Brookmyre, bestselling author of *Where the Bodies Are Buried*)

“Dark, assured and utterly thrilling. Makes *Grosse Pointe Blank* look like *Goodbye Mr. Chips*.” (John Niven, bestselling author of *Kill Your Friends* and *Straight White Male*)

“An immersive literary experience.” (*Vogue UK*)

About the Author

Shane Kuhn is a writer, director, and producer with twenty years of experience working in feature films, documentaries, and advertising. He is a cofounder and executive board member of the Slamdance Film Festival, and a member of the Writer's Guild of America. He lives in Colorado and works as Vice President of Creative Services for a San Francisco-based media and special events company. He is the author of *The Asset*, *The Intern's Handbook*, bought for film by Sony Pictures, and *Hostile Takeover*, the second book in his John Lago intern-assassin thriller series.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Barker:

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Kimberly Wood:

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