



## **Two Shots**

*Joe Albert*

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When state game warden Tony Leach responds to an emergency call about a hunter who has been shot and killed at a deer camp in the woods of northern Minnesota, there's no way he can be prepared for the twisted web into which he's been thrust.

Five years removed from a stint with the Minneapolis Police Department, Tony Leach is a game warden for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Content to spend his days in the woods and on the water enforcing fishing and hunting laws, he thought he'd left violent crime behind when he left the city. But a single call from dispatch two days before the deer-hunting season opens changes that.

Now, he's pushed into working a case he really shouldn't be involved with, and digging for the truth in the death of a noted political operative that some high-powered people would prefer remain buried in the northern Minnesota woods. As Leach pursues those responsible, he finds people and things aren't exactly what they seem. And as the investigation goes on and the web unravels, it becomes increasingly clear the only way for it to end is with a killer's - or his - demise.

## **Two Shots Details**

Date : Published May 15th 2012

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Author : Joe Albert

Format : Kindle Edition 291 pages

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## **From Reader Review Two Shots for online ebook**

### **David says**

One of the few books I've read recently that kept me up until four in the morning reading. I really hope this is the start of a series because I'd be the first in line to get each new book! I got real comfortable with the characters and it felt like I was meeting again with old friends each time I started reading. Loved it!

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### **Pamella says**

Politics gets nasty, starting at deer camp near a small town Minnesota town. The local wildlife conservation officer gets pulled into the case. You expect that when you hear a hunter gets shot at deer camp but nothing is what you think it will be. GOOD BOOK! Now what else has Joe Albert written. He is sort of like Block...addictive.

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### **Amanda Nevins says**

#### **Great book!**

Being from Bemidji myself this book just kept my interest! Murder mysteries are always great to read! easy to follow book with many different people, all and all I really liked this one!

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### **Douglas Cook says**

I love outdoor mysteries. This is a good deer camp one. A bit of C.J. Box flavor.

#### First paragraphs

"CHAPTER 1 The cigarette burned bright red and crackled softly as the killer sucked down a deep drag. The smoke filled his lungs and he held it as long as he could. It curled like a staircase to the star-studded sky when he released it from his nose. A smoker since the first time he swiped a Winston from his old man as a teenager, nothing calmed his nerves like a heater. He'd never given much thought to quitting. And lately, he hadn't been thinking far enough into the future to ponder lung cancer or emphysema or any of that. This could change things, though. The killer wedged himself as close to the tall maple as possible. When last the leaves hung on its branches, they were brilliant reds and deep oranges. The forest looked like someone put a match to it. Now, he sat amongst the leaves, dead and lifeless on the ground. A poorly placed knot dug into his back. If he needed to be completely still, he may have found another tree. But his present location afforded him what he needed most: Clear sight lines and an easy escape. He wiped a bead of sweat from his face with his forearm, pulled down a black knit cap to cover his ears and forehead, and slid his coat sleeves over black leather gloves that extended just beyond his wrist. Steam rose from his mouth and nose as he breathed in and out, though the temperature – he thought, anyway – was still somewhere in the 40s. Still, it was time to wait. May as well be comfortable. Had the men in the cabin 40 yards away stared directly at the woods, they may have seen the cigarette's hot tip puncture the night's darkness like a

firefly. As it were, they were inside, finishing their meal."

Albert, Joe (2012-05-15). Two Shots (Kindle Locations 16-32). . Kindle Edition.

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### **Pete Hannon says**

Game Warden on the loose. Good crime story.

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### **Angie says**

This book would probably being more suited to a male audience , but being married to an avid hunter I really enjoyed it .

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### **Melody says**

nice read....character is a bit of an asshole tho.

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### **Elaine says**

No more books by this author! O stink!

I loved this! Love it!

I appreciate no explicit sex scenes.

As a favor, Conservation Officer Leach is asked to look into the death of a man who was with a group of his friends before deer-hunting season officially began. For no apparent reason, Jennings (not Waylon) was shot in the back while sitting around a campfire. This turns out to be more and more complicated as evidence comes to light and facts are established.

Leach is not portrayed as a macho hunk whom women swoon over but as a real man with real issues that will have the reader upset with him at times and wondering just what he's doing. Leach makes mistakes in his relationships and in his boss' eyes. He's not the best looking or the best at what he does. He listens to Waylon Jennings and other sappy cowboy music. His life consists mostly of eating, drinking, and working. He's not a man whom you'd wish in your life and that's what sets Joe Albert's "Two Shots" apart.

Probably not a page-turner but definitely not prosaic in any sense of the word.

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### **Jerry says**

Enjoyed the book. Would have given it a 5 but there were a few errors in the writing that should have been caught during a proof that distracted from the reading in several places.

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### **Joyce says**

I genuinely enjoyed this and much of it made me think of early Sanford. The protagonist is a Game Warden who is brought into a murder case because the rural Sheriff's Office is involved with a child's rape and murder. Leach, the GW, has a somewhat adversarial relationship with the Sheriff's Office. He is a loner, tough and looking for more. He is also a thinker. There is lots of procedural work in it. All in all it is a well put together thriller.

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### **Claire says**

I really enjoyed this book. There was no pressure to buy the next book in the series which was great. It had lovely short chapters which meant that I was not having to stay awake just to get to the end of the chapter.

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### **Jim says**

A book that I could really relate to. Suspenseful and a book that was hard to put down. Just an enjoyable book - love the outdoors and police work, so this book had me in it.

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### **Susan says**

Two Shots by Joe Albert isn't my usual genre — a thriller involving the search for who killed one of a group of hunters with, of course, two shots. But it was free on Kindle, and the reviews looked good, so I picked it up. I enjoyed it. It was fast-paced (mostly; it dragged a bit in spots), and I didn't guess the resolutions at the end until they happened. It read well, made me feel I really was in the midst of a remote Minnesota winter, and was a good who-dunnit. Recommended.

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### **Giacomo says**

Joe Albert has a style that reminds me a little of John Sandford, and that's a good thing. I love John Sandford.

But I have to say that I had a little trouble getting into Two Shots. I found a few mistakes here and there—mostly missing words or typos—but nothing so distracting as to make me put the book down. My bigger problem was getting into the main character. The character was written well but he just didn't click

with me.

Several times I felt as if the author went off on a tangent, especially about hunting or fishing, when I saw no compelling reason to go there. I have no doubt that Joe knows a great deal about hunting and fishing, and the back woods of Minnesota, but that's not something I need to learn about in a mystery.

To summarize, I found *Two Shots* a good read. Joe knows how to tell a story, and he writes well. His prose is good and his descriptions are good. He knows how to build suspense. If you're a hunter or fisherman and enjoy the outdoors, you'll probably like this a lot. Albert puts you right on the scene with his descriptions.

Overall I think Joe's a good writer and I believe his next book is going to be even stronger than this one. I intend to pick it up and give it a shot myself.

I rated this book 3.8 stars, which I rounded up to 4.

Specific ratings:

Overall Quality (Typos/mistakes)—3.5

Storytelling—4.5

Plot—3.5

Character Development—3.5

Dialogue—4

Overall rating—4

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**Louise says**

VERY GOOD READ

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