



The Helpers: An international tale of Espionage and Corruption

S.E. Nelson

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On the surface, Congo seems to be having the usual rebel conflict. Behind the scenes is a different story. The Helpers, a very powerful underground organization whose members include international businessmen and high priests are determined to maintain a stronghold on the natural resources of Congo. When American journalist, Jenny Osborne, and her photojournalist, John Spencer, arrive in Kinshasa to report on the rebel situation, they soon discover that things are not as they seem.

Monsieur Lance Lemmand, a veteran French Intelligence Officer in DRC suspects the hand of "The Helpers" in the current political unrest. He enlists his protégé, the brilliant and handsome Pierre-Jean Philippe, to help him investigate. When Kai, a local schoolgirl, who is hiding a deep, dark secret, decides to take action, she seeks out Jenny for help. Kai gives Jenny damaging information that could bring down "The Helpers." Can Jenny's fulfill her duty to Kai and fight her feelings for Pierre, while trying to achieve her greater goal?

"The Helpers" find out that Jenny has obtained damaging information about them and will stop at nothing to prevent her from exposing them. Jenny finds herself on the run, caught in a web of intrigue, espionage and assassinations, spanning from Congo to Europe, and as far reaching as the United States. Her only hope is Lance and Pierre. But will they find her before it is too late? Or will "The Helpers" silence them once and for all.

The Helpers: An international tale of Espionage and Corruption Details

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From Reader Review The Helpers: An international tale of Espionage and Corruption for online ebook

Joan says

Hard to put down. A Good Read for sure!

Jishnu Nair says

The helpers is a very good suspense thriller on espionage, corruption, romance and civil war in Congo. Generally on reading thrillers you will be able to predict the story at one point. but in this case your predictions will go haywire. Story begins when Pierre, a French militay intelligence captain came to know that a missile has been smuggled to congo by some seniors officials in the army. He immediately informs the same to his chief Lance and together they start the investigation to neutralize the threat. If someone is assassinated with the missile, civil war in the country will worsen. so finding the missile is crucial for them. At the same time Jenny Osborne a freelance journalist and John (Jenny's friend and cameraman) comes to congo to cover the civil war. She and John accidentally records the missile box and they are being pulled into this mayhem. They found out that a very dangerous organization called the helpers are responsible for all this. Helpers starts to monitor and eliminate almost everyone who comes to know about the missiles. At one point, Pierre and jenny got acquainted with each other and they help each other to stop the missile. an young girl named Kai informs jenny about a man named Gaston who is behind all this. meanwhile Lance travels to France to inform the smart to his superiors and is being targeted by the helpers. Lance and pj soon realize that helpers have deep rooted connection in French intelligence also. will they be able to stop the Helpers?? The story also shows the divide and rule policy shown by the colonizers. you will feel sorry for the poor African nation's who are exploited for the resources present there. the story is lengthy and there are lot of characters in this. you have to read careful otherwise you will get confused with some characters. But story is really interesting and I am sure you will all like this very much.

Heather Vern says

Amazing book Suzanna Nelson sucked me right in from the beginning and kept me on the edge of the pages. So many twists and turns that I did not expect kept me wanting more. A page turner story about a world where there's war and what a reporter goes thou to get the story uncovered. I loved it because it showed everyone's side of the story and what was going on with each person. Not just one but all. Very different!!! Amazing book cant wait for the squeal.

Books About says

Helpers delivers a thriller that readers will enjoy. This is a book packed with intrigue, suspense, and romance. The story begins in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Jenny Osborne, an American journalist is reporting on the conflict between the government and the rebels. For Jenny it is obvious that the few government officials she interviews have something to hide, a suspicion that is further reinforced when

John is harassed for taking photographs. As Jenny tries to dig deeper, a series of high profile murders take place in the city; and the rebels are fast advancing to the city. When the fighting intensifies, and Jenny is about to give up; she receives a note from Kai, a young girl, claiming to have very important information concerning Gaston (a professional assassin) and The Helpers. Could this be the lead she's been looking for all along? Who are The Helpers? And what is their interest in the DRC?

Captain Pierre-Jean Phillippe and his boss Lance work for the French Military Intelligence in Congo. In the fight to bring about reconciliation in the deep-ethnic-hatred population, they receive more perturbing information that a missile has been imported into the country. Who imported it and who is it meant for? This is a story about espionage, corruption, assassinations and murder that takes readers on a whirlwind world tour; from Kinshasa to Paris, Spain, Brussels, and New York. Lance is one remarkable character- it was exciting reading about his schemes in dodging The Helpers and trying to expose them at the same time. And one can't help but admire Jenny's courage. And her feelings for Pierre, thrown in for good measure, make for one interesting read.

Chantale Canadian Book Addict says

I am so glad I read this book. It is the second book by Suzanna E. Nelson that I have read and I think I may have found a new author to put on my list of favorites.

I got sucked into the story and didn't want to put it down and I very much can't wait for the sequel . This fast-paced book is full of suspense and is very well written. I highly recommend this.

Foresight Literary Lounge says

Caught in a web

The Helpers: An International Tale of Espionage and Corruption takes us deep into the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo. Captain Pierre-Jean Philippe and his boss, Monsieur Lance Lemmand, work for the French Military Intelligence. Despite their efforts for a ceasefire, the pair receives troubling news that a hand-held, surface-to-air missile has been imported into the country unbeknownst to them. With looming domestic and international implications, it becomes imperative that the source be uncovered. Secrets begin to unravel when American journalist, Jenny Osborne, goes to Congo to cover the war situation. While on assignment, she uncovers the existence of a very powerful, underground organization - The Helpers. Jenny soon finds herself on the run. Will Pierre and Lance be able to find her before it's too late?

The Helpers, by Suzanna E. Nelson, is a fast-paced story of espionage, corruption, romance and death. Be warned - this novel is not short of words or characters. Despite the length, Nelson manages to weave a tale that keeps you hanging on her every word. The events unfold effortlessly. Her diverse characters and colorful prose transport you clear across the globe. The author obviously has a firm understanding of the political climate of Congo. Coupled with her vivid imagination, the novel almost forces you to stop and do your own research as the speculations seem so plausible. I highly recommend this title for those who have a fascination with international espionage.

J'son M. Lee, Reviewer

Sly Silverstone says

'The Helpers' is a book about a secret group that controls Congo DRC behind the scenes, but no one knows who they are, although they are in plain sight. Things start to unravel when a determined young American journalist goes to Congo to cover an unrelated story about the ongoing war. Instead she uncovers the existence of the secret organization of The Helpers and all hell breaks loose. The Helpers start chasing her all over Kinshasa and abroad determined to retrieve the damaging information she has obtained.

The book is big and has too many characters which can make it a bit daunting but I couldn't wait to pick it up everyday and read more. With this book, what you see is very different from what you get. The way the author started with a simple story which evolved into a complicated plot with a secret society was amazing. The characters were so well cultivated and the setting was so vivid that I was transported into the story. Great writing and fantastic execution. I learnt so much about DRC's history that I didn't know. Obviously the author did a lot of research. If you love thrillers, this is a great book to read. I hope there will be a sequel to this book.

Kerstin Vollbrecht says

This is a book about an apparent civil conflict in Congo, but behind it is a group of power hungry people who use governments and people as puppets in order to fulfill their own interests.

When Jenny, an American journalist, and John, her photographer friend, travel to Congo to cover the conflict between the rebels and the local government, they get involuntarily involved in something bigger than they thought.

This is a very tension loaded story, although it started quite slow, but it was absolutely worth it to keep reading. The plot is well developed, as well as the characters, and tv's reader gets to know the "versions" of the events from different points of view. All in all, it has been a very interesting read.

Bill Thibadeau says

Espionage and intrigue in sub-saharan Africa I enjoy books that I can learn about different cultures and areas of the world. This book is centered on Kinshasha Congo. There is a struggle between the government and ethnic rebels. The story is generally well written with a diverse cast of solid characters. I think the plot flows very well. I have heard of the ethnic issues between tribes in Africa and enjoyed reading about how it is manifested. The title literally does tell the whole story. Throughout the entire book there are numerous stunning examples of espionage and the associated corruption. Fortunately this is a fairly long book. I say fortunately because the author needed the space to develop each of the many characters and tie them into the action. I do caution readers to take their time to make sure they understand the complex storyline as they go. The storyline is very thorough and it is worth the effort to immerse yourself into all that is on the page. It is very clear that the author understands the culture she writes about and how the African cultures tie into colonial trappings of France and Belgium. This is a very good and well researched book. It was not written by an author that can just sit down and flow words onto a page. This is a deliberate literary work. I very highly recommend everyone give it the read it deserves.

David King says

“The Helpers” by Suzanna E. Nelson is an interesting and complex thriller which follows the attempts of a secret organisation’s attempts at maintaining control in the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, when an American reporter unexpectedly uncovers elements of their latest plot she is drawn into a dangerous game which puts her own life at risk.

Without doubt this is a fun thrill ride of a story with a complex plot that takes the reader across three continents and through a multitude of characters. The story does start off quite slowly but the pacing quickly ramps up and the plot begins to whip the reader from one element to the next. In the latter half of the novel I really enjoyed watching Lance, one of the French Intelligence agents travelling around the world trying to expose the villains as it was exciting, fast paced and entertaining.

In regards to the cast of characters, I really enjoyed seeing Nelson create a broad tableau of different people here who crossed various different national, racial, and gender lines. She also managed to avoid creating the usual archetypes seen in this type of thriller, there were no infallible spies or fearless reporters in this book. I basically found myself believing that these people could be real because most of them had their own flaws and hang-ups which were there for everyone to see.

There are some issues however with the novel which became pretty clear very early on. For example, the number of characters itself can make it quite hard to fully grasp what is going on as the narrative jumps between them all. I found that this along with the slow initial pacing to the novel meant I struggled initially to really get into the novel. The other major issue I had is that the conversation between the characters just didn’t flow naturally. It was all very formal and stilted which didn’t feel right in many of the situations we witnessed.

The only other stand out observation for me was in regards to the romance plotline. I just didn’t get it to be honest. I don’t know if this stemmed from the stilted dialogue I mentioned earlier but personally I didn’t see any natural or obvious sign of attraction to each other. They just appeared to talk together a few times and then suddenly decided they had feelings for each other. It almost felt like the author believed there should be some sort of romantic element to the story and forced it in.

Overall, this was an enjoyable and entertaining thriller which explores a part of the world I never normally read about. There are some weak elements to the novel in regards to the dialogue etc. but if you are after a complex conspiracy based thriller then you may find that this novel does a good job at passing the time.

Bill Thibadeau says

I enjoy books that I can learn about different cultures and areas of the world. This book is centered on Kinshasha Congo. There is a struggle between the government and ethnic rebels. The story is generally well written with a diverse cast of solid characters. I think the plot flows very well. I have heard of the ethnic issues between tribes in Africa and enjoyed reading about how it is manifested.

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Clyde Jack says

A true thriller

This book was captivating and very well written. If you like good suspenseful espionage books; with happy endings. This one will serve you a good dish of that recipe. Enjoy.

Ruth Ballings says

I picked up this book after seeing it listed on Africa Book Club as the editor's pick. I was not disappointed. What a ride. An American journalist goes to Congo to report on a war situation and finds out that there is a hidden organization behind the scenes which controls the country and all hell breaks loose after that. She ends up on the run. I won't give up more but the detail in this book is out of this world. I didn't even mind that the book was so big. It kept me interested from beginning to end. The research that must have gone into making a story like this is to be respected. I enjoyed the author's first book, but this one blew me away. I am just waiting for a sequel.

Rob King says

This is the type of book I like to read. Non-stop action from beginning to end. Exciting, original, informative, and a lot of fun. High intrigue and suspense with interesting charismatic characters who take the reader on a high speed chase from Kinshasa, to France, to Brussels and New York City. True Espionage. Very difficult to put this book down. Looking forward to the sequel.

John Day says

The story opens with drama, the way a good thriller should and continues unabated to the end. The writing flows and contains the right balance of description so the pace remains strong. I felt immersed in the story, just like I was there. Some authors seem to pad out the covers with pointless description and irrelevant dialogue, ruining the pace

and reader experience.

Characterisation was excellent and the touch of romance added good contrast to the tension.

The plot was clear enough and I will look forward to the sequel to this story.
