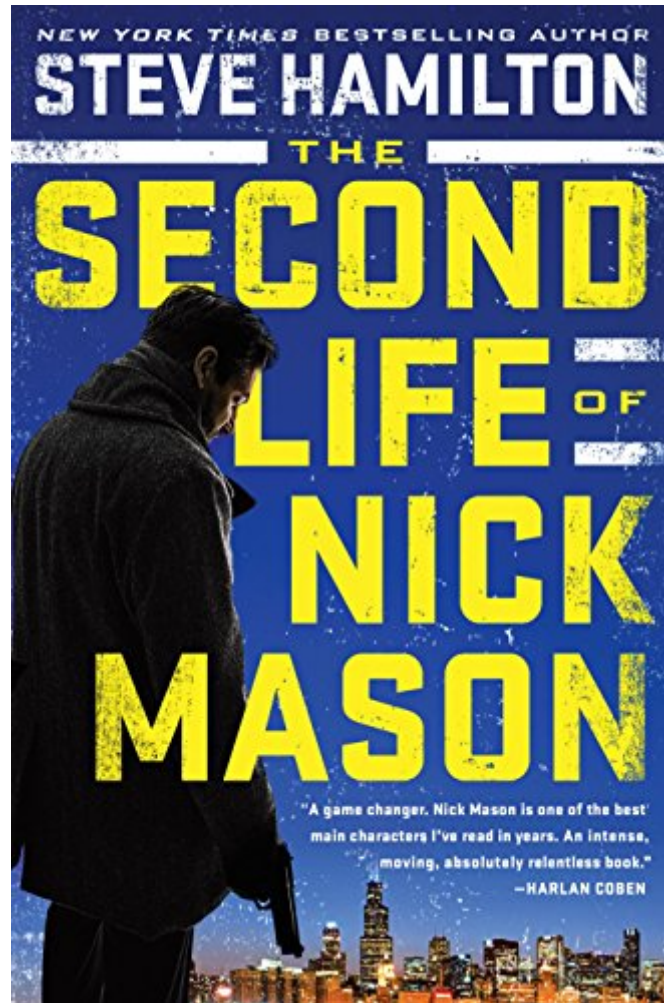


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The Second Life Of Nick Mason (A Nick Mason Novel)



Synopsis

“Steve Hamilton amazes me. Every time I think he’s going to zig he zags.” Michael Connelly
“A gamechanger. Nick Mason is one of the best main characters I’ve read in years.” Harlan
Coben From New York Times bestselling, two-time Edgar-award-winning author Steve Hamilton
comes an unforgettable new hero, a man who will walk out of prison and into a harrowing double life
that is anything but free. Nick Mason has already spent five years inside a maximum security prison
when an offer comes that will grant his release twenty years early. He accepts -- but the deal
comes with a terrible price. Now, back on the streets, Nick Mason has a new house, a new car,
money to burn, and a beautiful roommate. He’s returned to society, but he’s still a prisoner. Whenever
his cell phone rings, day or night, Nick must answer it and follow whatever order he is
given. It’s the deal he made with Darius Cole, a criminal mastermind serving a double-life term
who runs an empire from his prison cell. Forced to commit increasingly more dangerous crimes,
hunted by the relentless detective who put him behind bars, and desperate to go straight and rebuild
his life with his daughter and ex-wife, Nick will ultimately have to risk everything—his family, his
sanity, and even his life—to finally break free. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

File Size: 1406 KB

Print Length: 300 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam’s Sons (May 17, 2016)

Publication Date: May 17, 2016

Sold by: Penguin Group (USA) LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B014EQUONU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #17,119 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #42 in Kindle
Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Crime Fiction > Organized Crime #100
in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Crime > Organized Crime
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Customer Reviews

i don't understand the wildly positive reviews on 's website for Steve Hamilton's "The Second Life of Nick Mason." True, there is a lot of fast-paced action in the last part of the story and Hamilton writes well, but other aspects of this book are pretty mediocre and a few are downright disturbing. I'm a huge fan of Hamilton's Alex McKnight series. I've read them all and hope he writes many more. The characters are funny, interesting and likeable. Alex makes mistakes, errors in judgment, gets beaten up in almost every imaginable way but he's basically a good guy who tries hard, has a pretty decent sense of right and wrong and is like a bulldog in the pursuit of his objectives. I've always been interested in what Alex does and what he's going to do next, which is to say I care about the character. He's credible. Even when the Alex does something I think is ill advised or foolish, I understand where he's coming from. Not so with Nick Mason. Mason is not a "terrific new hero," as Kirkus Reviews suggests. Nor did I see him as some poor victim of circumstance or even a particularly likeable guy. He starts out as a small-time criminal who spends time and effort perfecting his 'craft' and who is later imprisoned for getting caught. Through a strange twist of fate, a pretty unbelievable one, he graduates to much more serious crimes and ends up a killer. I see Mason as a maker of bad decisions who lacks the usual traits of character that go into the making of a hero. The only honorable act he performs in the first part of the book is to take the fall for the other men who committed the crime along with him in which a federal agent is killed. While that kind of sacrifice is definitely no small thing, Nick Mason is still a criminal.

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