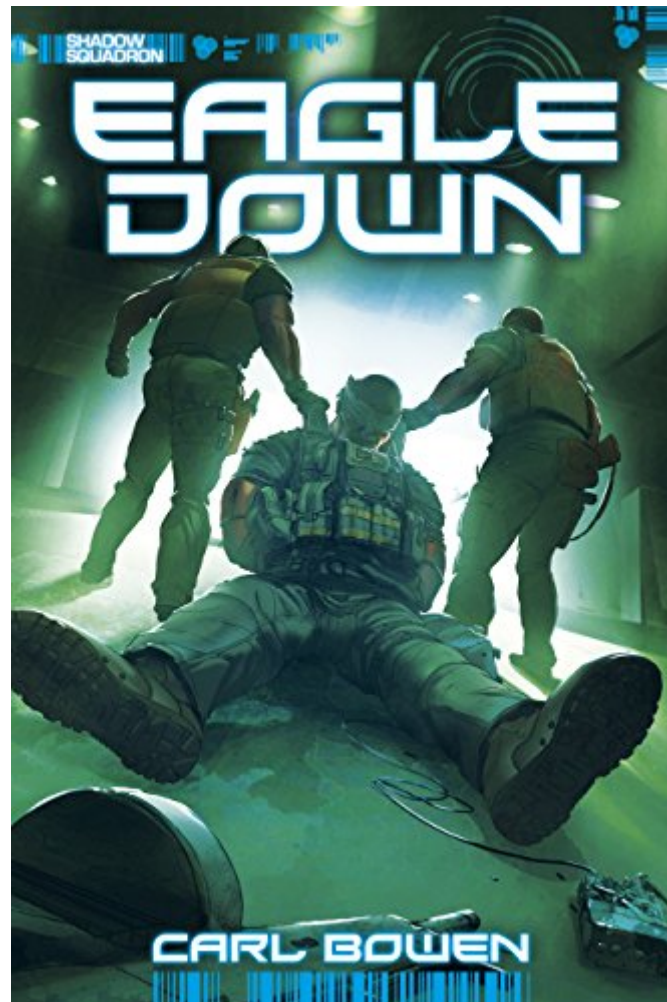


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Shadow Squadron: Eagle Down



Synopsis

Sergeant Edgar Brighton awakens to a pounding headache. As the blur of unconsciousness fades from his eyes, he sees an unfamiliar woman staring back at him. He tries to speak, but discovers that he's been gagged. He tries to stand and, but finds that his hands and feet have been bound. And when the woman begins to blindfold him, Edgar realizes that his troubles have only just begun.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Carl Bowen's Shadow Squadron is a Tom Clancy type military series written for young readers (third or fourth grade). He keeps the action true to life without the gore (there is killing but it's the clean shot/clean kill variety - shoot the bad guys, they fall down). His use and understanding of military weapons and nomenclature is good and will appeal to young readers wanting that kind of detail. Wilson Tortosa and Benny Fuentes (drawings and color in that order) provide great, colorful illustrations filled with action and suspense. Shadow Squadron: Eagle Down is a more personal mission featuring Eddie Brighton going undercover in Colombia. Things go badly for Brighton right off the bat after a parachute insert. He ends up in the hands of the bad guys and becomes the

plaything for a sadistic female torturer. This adventure is different from the first two because things are not ever within Brighton's control, nor is he ever in a safe place. He responds to things in a typical, tough guy fashion, but readers are given a glimpse of what soldiers are taught to survive such supreme conditions. This is a full-on military adventure because Brighton has to get himself out of the fix he's in and does so in true action hero fashion.

Son read the entire series we got him in less than a few days. Once he started reading them he couldn't put the book down.

I read this book before putting it in our school library, because of content concerns. I was impressed. Though the subject matter is all too real, it was handled with just the right amount of diplomacy. No violence is glorified, but it is touched upon and left to the readers' imagination from there. How do you include water boarding and other torture in a book for kids? I was concerned, but it was well-handled and my grandsons couldn't wait for the next in the series.

I understand the motivation behind the series of books. It is a child's version of Tom Clancy and other spy/cold war novels. However, in all honesty, I would not hand this book to a 9 year old to read. There isn't extreme blood and gore, but nothing is left to the imagination about the torture techniques, and there was a great description of how cocaine is handled. In fact, the mother of a student picked this for him to read, and a lead teacher heard us working on the novel. The lead teacher came to see me following the lesson and wanted to make sure I had the parent's permission to be reading that novel with the student (and yes, similar permission has been required on a student-by-student basis for Hunger Games, The Giver and Ender's Game novels). I am not a book banner; the very idea is abhorrent to me. However, I recommend this book be given to children age 12 or 13 and up. 9-11 year olds are too young for this type of book.

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