



Assumed Identity

By David Morrell

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From the author of The Covenant of the Flame and The Fifth Profession. Brendan Buchanan is an undercover intelligence operative who has impersonated more than 200 people in the last eight years. But now his multi-personality occupation threatens to destroy him.

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Assumed Identity By David Morrell Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The creator of Rambo and author of the bestselling *The Fifth Profession* has not lost his touch; this is a thrill-a-minute adventure novel. During his career as an undercover Army Special Operations agent, Brendan Buchanan has taken on more than 200 assumed identities. But when his cover is blown on a drug sting in Mexico, he is forced back on the identity he knows the least--his own. Buchanan receives a desperate SOS from Juana Mendez, the operative who posed years before as his wife. Determined to save her, Buchanan travels across the U.S. and ultimately back to Mexico accompanied by fearless, sexy Washington Post reporter Holly McCoy, who knows a lot about covert operations and is planning a feature on Buchanan. During their travels, they uncover a bizarre tale of a missing opera diva, her billionaire industrialist lover and his plot to destroy ancient Mayan ruins in order to exploit the world's greatest untapped oilfield. With all the action of a James Bond adventure and just a dash of the melancholy of John le Carre, this is a terrific suspense thriller, but it will probably be even more satisfying on the silver screen where the novel's lack of emotional or intellectual resonance will be subsumed in the highly kinetic adventure. Major ad/promo; movie rights to Universal; BOMC alternate.

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From Kirkus Reviews

Another bloated action-thriller from Morrell (*The Covenant of the Flame*, 1991, etc.), who once wrote lean and mean but now enfolds his still-clever ideas in overblown, often bombastic plots. Here, he takes a nifty notion--a top-secret agent losing his own identity amidst his many false personae--and goes nearly nowhere with it, fast. During the past eight years, Brendan Buchanan has been scores of men, playing each with the skill of a de Niro. His newest role is that of Ed Potter, renegade ex-DEA agent; his goal, to take down a pair of vile twin Mexican drug-dealers. But while meeting the twins in Cancun, Buchanan/Potter is spotted by Bob Bailey, an oil worker who knew him as "Jim Crawford" when the two were held hostage by Iraqi forces. Bailey's approach forces Buchanan to kill the dealers, leading to the spy's arrest, torture, and a head wound that exacerbates his growing confusion about his many roles. Bribe out of jail, Buchanan flees to the US only to be targeted for blackmail by Bailey, working with a sexy reporter; moreover, Buchanan is warned by his superiors that this time he'll get no new i.d.: He's out of the field. But after Bailey is killed by Buchanan's superiors, the agent is back in action when he gets a postcard from an old partner asking for help. Linking up with--and bedding--the reporter, Buchanan follows a twisty trail that leads him to the Mexican jungle, a billionaire's bloody oil conspiracy, and a fatal re-creation of an ancient Mayan gladiatorial game. Meanwhile, the insubordinate agent's superiors have marked him for death.... Morrell squanders his ace--his spy's acting skills (compare Jack Higgins's similar but more cleverly played premise in *Eye of the Storm*, 1992)--and too often substitutes noisy action for suspense. But the vile villains, gorgeous women, and manly doings, however silly, may still mollify the author's many fans. (First printing of 100,000) -- *Copyright* ©1993, *Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

From the Back Cover

The protagonist is Brendan Buchanan. He also goes by other names - Potter, Crawford, Block, Davis - in fact, over two hundred others. A member of a special-operations unit so covert it may as well be run by ghosts, Buchanan is a master of impersonation, a specialist in assuming false identities. But now his unique gifts - and desperate pathology - threaten to destroy him. The beginning of his nightmare occurs in Cancun, Mexico, where Buchanan's latest alias is brutally unmasked. Racing through a torturous escape route, he is shocked to discover that his controllers will no longer give him a new identity. For the first time in eight years, he will have to be himself. But after spending so much time assuming different identities, he no longer

knows who he is. Suddenly, he receives a mysterious postcard, a coded, unmistakable plea for help. Its source is Juana Mendez, a former partner who had posed as his wife six years earlier, countless missions ago. In his quest for Juana, Buchanan is thrust into a stark wilderness of mirrors and faced with a harrowing conspiracy. Yet he finds the unreadable maze of his own mind as dangerous as the harsh, chilling world that assails him from without. His partner in the search is Holly McCoy, a reporter whose beauty is matched only by her determination to penetrate Buchanan's multilayered psychological armor and write her subject's real story. Seeking one woman, while inexorably drawn to another, Buchanan relentlessly follows a seductive but deadly trail from Key West to New Orleans, from San Antonio to Mexico City. Ultimately, he will find the truth about Juana, and even the truth about himself - if he can survive.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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