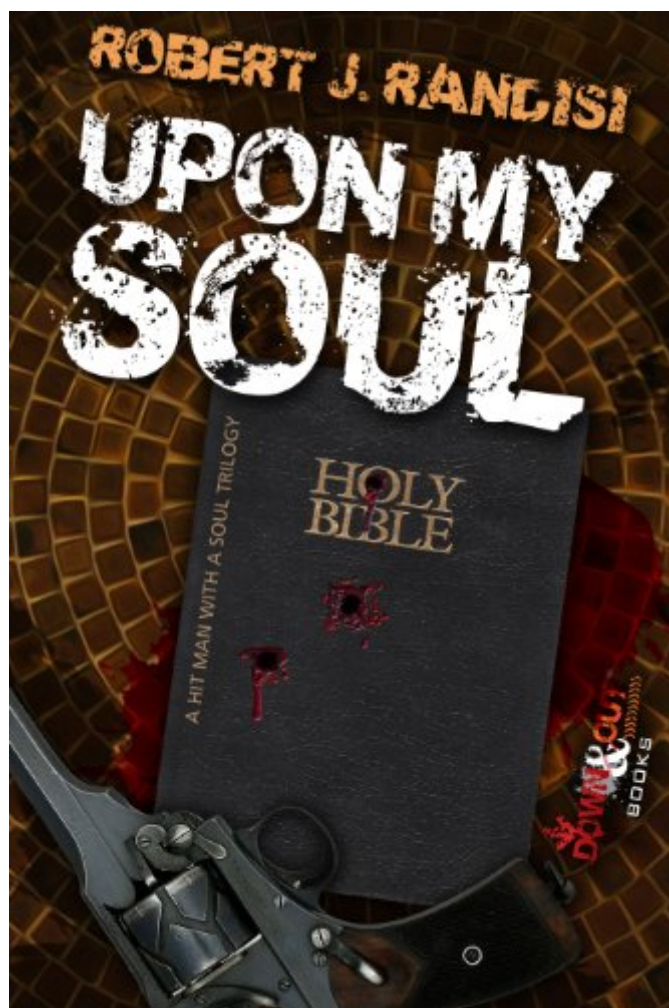


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Upon My Soul (Hitman With A Soul Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

Three years ago, Sangster, a hitman, woke up and discovered he had a soul and decided to retire to New Orleans. Now, his former life has finally caught up with him. And they want him back or the alternative is his death. To truly escape his past, Sangster must decide between saving his soul or eliminating the threat the only way he knows how. "Leave it to master-storyteller Robert Randisi to come up with a soulful new spin on the hitman genre. Sangster is a unique addition to the ranks of killers for hire." —Max Allan Collins, creator of QUARRY "Randisi is a masterful writer . . ." —James W. Hall "Randisi is a master of the genre. He's one of the best." —Michael Connelly "A skilled, uncompromising writer, Randisi knows which buttons to press and how to press them." —John Lutz

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Customer Reviews

Robert Randisi is one of my absolute favorite living authors, right up there with Silva, Connelly,

Sandford. Randisi's mysteries and crime books are always easy, adventurous reads, hard to put down once you've started. My favorite of his works is the Rat Pack series. Don't know how I noticed the Hitman With a Soul trilogy. But now that I've finished the first one (thanks St. Louis County Library Inter-Library Loan Dept.!), I've got to get Books 2 and 3 and see what else happens with "retired," conflicted hitman Sangster. This book goes from New Orleans to Brooklyn, IL (across the city from my St. Louis home) to Las Vegas ... and Mr. Randisi knows a road trip like that is hard for me to turn down! Great, fun book; fantastic characters; well-crafted story. Read it! Meanwhile, I'll be shopping for someplace/someone who sells the three Hitman books as a set ... inter-library loans can take too long sometimes when you're dying to read!

UPON MY SOUL is an ambitious, fast-paced thriller that plunges readers headlong into the world of professional hit men. It certainly isn't the first time this particular crime fiction subgenre has been explored, but author Randisi promptly throws some fresh twists into his tale that amp up the excitement and suspense all the more. You see, Sangster, the protagonist here, after having been considered the top man in the trade for a long time, suddenly discovered he had a soul. This revelation caused him to retire and drop out of sight, seeking a life of mostly isolation and contemplation in order to try and come to grips with what he had been, measured against the realization of now having a soul. But his past --- namely in the form of Primble, his former "handler" --- won't leave him to try and sort things out in peace. Primble, after going to great lengths to find Sangster again, wants him back on the job, back working for him. And he's unwilling to take no for an answer. Not as long as Sangster is alive. In order to try and entice Sangster into seeing things his way, Primble sics a pair of newer, younger hit men onto the former legend. If one of them is able to kill Sangster, then the one who succeeds will assume the vacated "top" position; and Sangster's absence won't matter because his skills will be proven to have eroded. And if Sangster manages to thwart the attempts on his life --- imaginable only if he kills the killers --- then he will have broken his vow not to take human life again and will be primed to resume his old duties. Sangster's struggle to deal with this dilemma --- how to stop the killers who are after him without resorting to once again becoming a killer himself --- becomes the central plot thrust. Just to crank up the tension a bit more, Randisi tosses in death and threatened harm to innocents for good measure. The action shifts back and forth between New Orleans and Vegas, with a nice array of colorful secondary characters and snappy dialogue along the way. The suspense builds steadily throughout, interspersed with effective action scenes. All in all, an enjoyable, exciting read that will leave readers "like me" wanting to see more of Sangster. Recommended.

Nice tale of a hitman named Sangster that wakes up one morning and finds he has a soul, a conscience, and retires, disappearing. Three years later his old handler finds him and wants him to come back to work, not believing the retirement story. A refusal and an attempt on his life angers Sangster, though not as much as the death of a friend. Now he has to make a decision on whether to break his vow never to kill again, believing it might take his soul back. His soul searching takes him to an unorthodox religious person for advice. Sangster worries that killing will take him back to a world he left. But to do nothing won't work. The old handler won't stop. A fine novel by one of the best in the business. A lot of inside jokes for those in the know. One alias he uses is Richard Stark. Another Westlake. There is a character named B. Good who has an Elmore working for him. First of three and I look forward to the next.

As many excellent hitman novels as there have been over the years—Lawrence Sanders' Keller series and Max Allan Collins' Quarry series come to mind—you wouldn't think there would be much left to do with the sub-genre. But you'd be wrong, as Robert J. Randisi's new novel *UPON MY SOUL* proves quite handily. Sangster, the protagonist of this novel, was an efficient, highly skilled killer for hire until the morning he woke up and realized he had a soul. This discovery led him to retire from the business, and he's spent the last several years leading a quiet, peaceful life in Louisiana. But people at that deadly level of the underworld usually aren't allowed to walk away, as readers of Peter Rabe's Daniel Port novels and Ennis Willie's Sand series (not to mention the Butcher men's adventure novels) know very well. Sangster's past catches up to him in bloody fashion, and he's forced to choose between preserving his new-found soul by honoring his vow not to kill again or avenging several brutal murders for which he feels some responsibility. It's a dangerous conundrum, and Randisi uses it to ratchet up a considerable amount of suspense. As usual in a Bob Randisi novel, *UPON MY SOUL* is very fast-paced, but it's not quite as dialogue-driven as some and is a bit more reflective, which works very well. Sangster is an interesting and sympathetic protagonist, despite his ruthless background, and the supporting cast is good, too, especially a Jamaican cab driver in Las Vegas who becomes an unlikely ally and an elderly butler who is more than he seems. There are some nice twists in the plot as well. *UPON MY SOUL* is a fine crime novel, and I'm glad to report that it's also the first in a trilogy. I'm looking forward to reading more about Sangster's continuing struggle for his soul.

Boring

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