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Posted on 19 November 2017 By Sam Greenlee

This is one of my favorite books I read it at an impressionable age and in many ways tried to emulate the protagonist Now I m trying to emulate the author At first, I thought Spook was going to be a broad satire of racism in America in the 60 s, using caricatures as characters But then I realized it s only a broad satire for its enemies the white liberal do gooders, bourgeoisie black fakers and political hacks who remain cartoons throughout The rest is far fetched blue prints for Armageddon.The protagonist is a familiar character the cold, calculating, superiority driven mastermind who s an expert in martial arts, full of sexual virility, and a loner but a leader when push comes to shove in today s parlance, a one man sleeper cell He reminded me immediately of Ferric Jagger of Norman Spinrad s the Iron Dream, and I could easily imagine an alternate dimension blurb for this book Let science fiction virtuoso Malcolm X transport you to a far future Earth, where only Dan Freeman stands between the remnants of true black humanity and annihilation at the hands of the totally evil Whiteys and the mindless hordes they completely control In the final analysis, and as action and violence escalated, Spook became indistinguishable from a million right wing survivalist pulps I ve read over the years.Yet Spook is better than most of those it can be well written wall to wall drags with split level minds, control color TV souls and credit card hearts, another black baby with no future in the land of milk and honey, replete with goodies in white plastic cases for god s own children with white plastic faces, even though style is used only as a means

of propaganda, never to be style itself The book is likewise for the most part humorless, and casually sexist But the first half, before it becomes survivalist porn, seems deeply indebted to Invisible Man, and the protagonist, as he goes about his Machiavellian business, refers to the many masks he must wear to conceal his true identity and motives in ofay s world There is a self conscious at work in him often lacking in revenge fantasy novels, as he seems at times to see what he s doing as bad, but seeing it as the only way, the Final Solution He s an ends justify the means, egg omelet sort of guy, which I ve never been, believing in individual responsibility than groupthink, so everything he tries to accomplish by the way he tries to accomplish it basically disgusts me Rant on I never can understand why one oppressed people oppressing another group of people sounds like a smart move, or why scapegoating an entire group of people for evil done isn t seen as blatantly idiotic I could tell Freeman my grandparents were potato pickers in Ireland and besides what did I ever do to you but he would answer, you were born, honky, and I would say well fuck you then, asshole, and then we d kill each other and that would be the end of that only in Freeman s world I wouldn t be able to kill him because I m white I guess the point of race riots as used in Spook is to show righteous fury, and for those ignored to be ignored no But it still seems like an impotent and futile gesture, like a man punching himself in the nuts, and it effects people who live with you who want nothing have nothing to do with it And when you escalate into a full on war and use Us vs Them tactics you force people to pick sides they don t want and shouldn t have to pick in the first place Any time you judge someone for how YOU think they should live THEIR lives, and then create a one dimensional boogiemán out of them, in fact any time you treat a person as a group or type and not as a person is a bad scene as far as I m concerned, and it s one of the main reasons I hate politics, black, white, left or right Rant off But also in general I just can t stand satires or novels in general where the antagonist is shown no respect Whitey here is shown no respect, and neither are his Uncle Tom minions, or the liberal honkeys that try to integrate niggers, but only so far somewhere along the way integration became affirmative action You d think a race as stupid, lazy and arrogant as the whites described here wouldn t be able

shit straight, let alone enslave anyone for 300 years. Another major problem I had with the novel concerns its major plot point I know as much about black gangs in the 60s as I do about living in ghettos, but if the movie *The Warriors* taught me anything it's the tallest nail gets the hammer I can't believe for a minute a stranger could walk in and take a gang over without some resistance, or that there wouldn't be members in the gang willing to snitch on his plans for some cash. Also, where's the other race gangs during the race riots mass murdering? Where's the Mob? I don't think the notoriously racist Mob would let a small time black gang ruin their business any more than I think the USA government would let them ruin theirs. Once again, this novel seems to grossly underestimate the oppressing powers of the Man. But all that being said, Spook had the perfect alchemy of action and self-righteous anger to make it extremely readable. And Len Deighton is right on the back when he says, "Will cause many readers great annoyance and what can a writer ask than that? It's annoying doesn't sound like the greatest praise you can give a book, but as you can see by how worked up I've gotten, it works for the Spook." *Who Sat by the Door*. Probably one of the best books I have read in so long from start to finish it was the bomb, and what gets me is that *Urban Fiction* is hailed as this and that, but I am positive that if they got a hold of THIS book, they'd change their minds quick on what is good or not. But back to the book this book was published in 1969 by a brother who had similar experiences. Somehow, the book was made into a movie, which I also own and I had watched first before reading the book anyhow, you have a congressman whose voting numbers is quite low especially in the negro quarters. To boost them up, they come up with a query then expose on the CIA not having negro officers within their ranks and the CIA in turn decide to recruit a set of young men to go through but make it hard for them NOT to pass it and the games are on. They truly expected NONE to pass but one young man by the name of Dan Freeman DOES pass it and even pass by those who consider themselves of the black bourgeois class since he himself is not. He is an ex-marine of the Korean War and is looking for something better but underneath there is a serious agenda of Freeman's and that is to help his fellow brothers get over on whitey in his own game. Well, Freeman to the surprise of all, is the only one

to pass and is in charge of reproduction and copying Once they realize his value, they move him up the ranks and in a few years retires to return to Chicago and work for a social service agency but underneath, he s training the local ganglords the same techniques in order to overthrow the government In time, they are ready and things get hairy but I won t divulge only to say the book truly kept me riveted from start to finish worth the read. Now, mind you, the talk is 60s black talk and it is dated but worth it s salt just the same. the revolution will not be televised. Damn, but this was good and hell of enjoyable It moves fast, it s got that pulp feel where you always know the color of the whiskey label and the size of the man s lapels It made me think of Gil Scott Heron s The Revolution Will Not Be Televised and this is a tale of revolution pure and simple, taking everything positive in the biggest baddest gangs and turning them into a force for a racist government to reckon with For just a taste of the prose Drop those names doctors I have known, lawyers, judges, businessmen, dentists, politicians, and Great Negro Leaders I have known Drop those brand names GE, Magnavox, For, GM, Chrysler, Zenith, Brooks Brothers, Floorsheim, Johnny Walker, Chivas Regal, Jack Daniels Imported Beer, Dupont carpeting, wall to wall Wall to wall drags with split level minds, remote control color TV soulds and credit card hearts. Play who do you know and who have you screwed Blow your bourgeois blues, your nigger soul sold for a mess of materialistic pottage You have a ceiling on you and yours, your ambitions but the others are in the basement and you will help Mr Charlie keep them there If they get out and move up to your level, then what will you have 16 A brilliant caper of just what could have happened in the 1960s and 70s and didn t, though you wonder just where we would be now if it did And it s got heart too, and friends on two sides of the wall, and you know when they start quoting Billy Holiday that it ain t going to end well, but it s true that God blesses the child who has his own This book was exceptional because of the underlying humanity detailed by the main character, Freeman The author paints a very real dividing line between the desire to be accepted in the social norms of America and the desire to embrace one s own cultural and racial background This particular story is about an African American man that seeks to get into the system and learn America s political and military points of view in order to

turn that against the status quo This story plays on the fears of upper class america and the idea that the urban and inner cities will rise up against economic limitations to rebel against the government This is relevant even today as we face the fear of a declining middle class The middle class glues society together and creates the stability needed to keep the system going Regardless of race this book reminds us all what society is like when it is harshly divided by the haves and the have nots It is also a reminder of the mask we all wear as we become the employee or the guy at the club or even the college student These lines of social conduct that can't cross over because of the way it makes our peers uncomfortable The only reason this book was not 5 stars was the fact that at times there was glaring spelling errors and the grammar was difficult to overlook Granted this was a dated book first published in 1969. Saw the movie years ago this book does not disappoint I'm halfway through am thinking about how interesting it is in conversation with Django Unchained, the current political climate, and the bad ass protagonist cannon Can't wait to talk to someone about this book Can't wait to start giving the book to folks as gifts, Can't wait to finish it. Sam Greenlee's scope is amazing I am still trying to figure out how he got this published in the 60s. The Spook Who Sat by the Door tells the story of Dan Freeman, an intelligent and naturally athletic man from the ghetto who becomes the first black CIA agent, then resigns and returns home to Chicago to work with what would now be called at risk youth To his white bosses and funders, he appears to be tame and eager to please meanwhile, he is actually training street gangs to become a revolutionary insurgency, which launches during race riots near the end of the book As a middle class white male, born the month the book was published, I'm not in the target audience for this book but it was listed in Sacred Fire The Qbr 100 Essential Black Books, and I'd never heard of it and it sounded interesting As a work of art, the book suffers some of the same flaws as such other ideological novels as Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged The writing entirely lacks nuance the villains are cardboard cutouts In Spook, every time a white character has a chance to say something obtuse, racist, and patronizing, he does With one exception, black characters who have a view about race and racism that differs from Freeman's are made to look pathetic

as well. Meanwhile, the hero is a virtual superman, brighter, skilled, stronger, and a better lover than any of his opponents or rivals. That's not necessarily uncommon in the thriller genre, but it does work against any claim the book makes to depict the world as it is. At the same time, the bitter satire against whites both overtly racist white supremacists and white liberals and the scathing depictions of bourgeois blacks are hard to forget. As a historical artifact, the book is very much of its time and place. Its casual sexism is appalling. There are few female characters. Joy, the upwardly mobile young love of Freeman, is presented as shallow, unfaithful to her husband, and generally unworthy of respect and yet Freeman sleeps with her on an ongoing basis. The other major female character is a sex worker; all sex workers in this book are routinely called whores who Freeman hires regularly and teaches to respect her own beauty by showing her a picture of a Queen of Dahomey. The book isn't exactly homophobic, but it doesn't really grasp sexual orientation. Freeman is presented as such a skilled and respectful lover that the sex worker, although she's lesbian and in a relationship, lies to her partner to spend a weekend with him. The hollowness of the sexual relationships is revealing. At a critical juncture, Freeman lectures a young revolutionary about how it isn't meaningful to hate white people; it's essential to love black identity. That commitment to an abstract idea doesn't leave any room for a deep, intimate commitment to one other person, and it's part of what feels ultimately false or, alternatively, deeply warped about Freeman's worldview. In a way, the built-in misogyny coupled with a self-destructive ideological commitment reminded me of another revolutionary fantasy, Edward Abbey's *Monkey Wrench Gang*. The book was published during the Vietnam War, following a wave of nations declaring independence around the world, and following the disastrous riots and political implosion of the Democratic party in 1968. To read it now, though, is to recall the civil wars in Lebanon, ethnic cleansing in the Balkans in the 1990s, the Rwandan genocide and ongoing chaos in the Congo, the slide of Syria into anarchy over the last two years. That international view is appropriate. Author Greenlee wrote the book after leaving the US Foreign Service and living for several years in Greece. In 1969, the links between American imperialism abroad and American racism at home were obvious, and, in

one of the few passages offering a theoretical explanation of Freeman's strategy, Greenlee writes, We don't have to win what we have to do is get down to the nitty gritty and force whitey to choose between the two things he seems to dig than anything else messing with us and playing Big Daddy to the world 112 But it's much harder to see today how racial or ethnic insurgency ends in anything other than lasting bitterness, recurring violence, and the destruction of space for civil society to exist To be fair, it may not have been clear in 1969 either the novel ends with race war in progress across the nation, but no real indication of how it will end Ultimately, because of that indeterminacy, I think it's a mistake to call this a template for revolution It's much a projection of the experience of a particular kind of passing not, in this case, pretending to be white when one is black, but pretending to be fully invested in and committed to the success of the American Experiment, when one is also acutely conscious of deep historical and ongoing racial injustice, and of the likelihood that however much it changes, it won't change fast or far enough Of course it is possible to feel both loyalty and searing anger But for an author or reader who is carrying a heavy load of accumulated rage, Spook offers the fantasy that one can rise above and control that antinomy can wear loyalty as a mask while planning the system's immolation For anyone who has ever felt pulled in two directions black or otherwise such a fantasy has temporary power, and some value as a spur towards greater self understanding. Amazing Books, The Spook Who Sat By The Door By Sam Greenlee This Is Very Good And Becomes The Main Topic To Read, The Readers Are Very Takjup And Always Take Inspiration From The Contents Of The Book The Spook Who Sat By The Door, Essay By Sam Greenlee Is Now On Our Website And You Can Download It By Register What Are You Waiting For Please Read And Make A Refission For You

# THE SPOOK WHO SAT BY THE DOOR



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