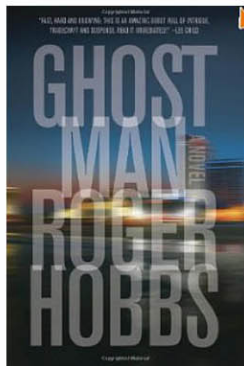


GHOST MAN

by Roger Hobbs



Roger Hobbs' *Ghost Man* came highly recommended by owners of the Edmonds Bookshop, where I had a book event of my own a month back. Both owners had high praise for Hobbs, comparing his writing to Lee Child's and were surprised by the author's apparent youth. I packed *Ghost Man* into my carry-on and took it on vacation with me and the family to Disneyland. I am most pleased I did.

During my forty-five years in police work I have commanded Homicide, Robbery, CSI, Fugitive, Internal Affairs, Task Forces, and much more, and I was pleased to find Hobbs' technical and tactical knowledge to be spot on. Hobbs' unnamed protagonist, with the ghost like ability to disappear, has his own moral/amoral code he lives by. He's flown into Atlantic City by private jet to fix a brutal robbery gone bad. If the job weren't nearly impossible already, a ticking explosive device heaps on more tension. When the action slows enough that the ghost and reader can take a quick breath, Hobbs' man remembers, in flashback, the botched robbery in Kuala Lumpur that put him in the position of owing the jug marker a huge favor, like fixing a botched robbery and recovering the missing, booby-trapped money. Essentially we have two stories interweaving and layering upon each other. Some readers might complain that Hobbs gets lost in technical jargon, including gun porn, but I found his technical knowledge accurate, fascinating, and this to be a very satisfying escape novel. I'm hoping for another haunting by this clever ghost! I give this read four out of five stars.