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Floating City: A Nicholas Linnear Novel

By Eric Van Lustbader

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Eric Lustbader, who delivers electrifying suspense in the #1 bestsellers featuring Robert Ludlum's™ Jason Bourne, sends an honor-bound Ninja on a death-defying mission deep in the Vietnamese jungle.

A ruthless American killing machine named Rock rules over a secret, blood-soaked empire of riches and murder: Floating City. At his command is the Torch—the tool of ultimate evil that one man can destroy: Nicholas Linnear. But only when he faces the harrowing truth about the Yakuza—the Japanese criminal underworld he despises—and about Koei, the woman he loved as no other, will he find the inner strength to annihilate Floating City and honor his family's debt to the dead of the Yakuza, the Kaisho. While half a world away, his longtime friend and ex-NYPD detective Lew Croaker hunts the Kaisho's would-be assassins, Linnear infiltrates a vast web of terror, crossing the line that divides good from evil, sensuality from death, and love from betrayal.

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Floating City: A Nicholas Linnear Novel By Eric Van Lustbader Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #212804 in Books
- Published on: 2015-03-03
- Released on: 2015-03-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 1.20" w x 5.31" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 480 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Lustbader fans will herald the coming of this latest adventure in the astonishingly turbulent life of half-Asian, half-Caucasian, all-hero fighting machine Nicholas Linnear. Newcomers to the author's idiosyncratic work, however, may have trouble getting with this sequel to *The Kaisho*, which not only features the usual heaping doses of violence, sex and Japanese mysticism but requires pages of difficult exposition to recap the story thus far, which hooks on high-tech shenanigans. The novel opens with a trademark example of Lustbader's eroticized violence, as a Vietnam vet in 1983 Burma struggles to maintain his foothold among the nation's drug lords and exacts a deliciously nasty vengeance against a bitter enemy. Leap to the present and Linnear, soon trapped in Saigon's famed underground tunnels with only his "tanjian eye"--some sort of sensory enhancement that is mentioned all too often--to guide and protect him. Meanwhile, back in the U.S., Linnear's old friend, ex-NYPD detective Lew Croaker, is also on the case, unleashing his prosthetic hand, complete with retractable claws and powered by lithium batteries, whenever the occasion arises. And so the wildly improbable but amazingly energetic action goes, from Washington to Tokyo and back to Vietnam, with periodic flashbacks thrown in, as well as a mobster nicknamed "Bad Clams" and a drug-lord named "Rock," until it reaches not a conclusion but a setup for the next Linnear thriller ("So it's not over, Vesper thought. It's just beginning"). This is the kind of novel that fans of the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* read when they grow up--and no one does it with more punch than Lustbader.

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From Library Journal

Nicholas Linnear is back on a manhunt for the killer of Vincent Tinh, a director in his company, Sate International. At the same time, he is looking for his friend Okami, head of a Japanese underworld clan, who has asked for Linnear's help. Assisted by pal Lew Croaker, Linnear probes the underbelly of Southeast Asia, focusing on the Floating City, a secret empire where Tinh's murderer is hiding and where the key to Okami's trouble lies. In an action-packed finale, Linnear avenges Tinh's death and narrowly escapes a nuclear blast. Full of passages describing Japanese culture and history, this work continues the saga of Linnear, a man as comfortable in the East as he is in the West. The numerous Japanese terms will confound neophyte Lustbader readers, but veteran fans will appreciate this richly detailed, if slow-moving, novel. Public libraries of all sizes will want this best-selling author's latest offering.

-- *Grant A. Fredericksen, Illinois Prairie Dist. P.L., Metamora*

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From [Booklist](#)

What do you get when you mix the Mafia, Yakuza, warlords of the Asian heroin industry, political scandal and economic disaster in Japan, ninjas and meganinjas, corrupt governments, stone killers left over from Vietnam, and even a bit of mysticism and telekinesis? An Eric Lustbader novel. Once again Nicholas Linnear and his private-eye buddy, Lew Croaker, dash around the globe attempting to thwart the murder of the Yakuza boss of bosses and stop the development of a terrible new weapon and a supercartel bent on world domination. Lustbader may have reasoned that borrowing a figurative page from Robert Ludlum, Mario Puzo, Trevanian, Paul Erdmann, Tom Clancy, and every other successful thriller writer of the last two decades is the recipe for best-sellers. Judging by the ubiquity of his books, he's been right, but *Floating City* isn't compelling. There are too many characters to keep track of and too much over-the-top, mystical-meganinja nonsense. There's also too little mayhem, and what there is is written more flatly than in earlier Linnears. Even so, Lustbader fans will come to the library seeking it, so you better have it. *Thomas Gaughan*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kelly Cohn:

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