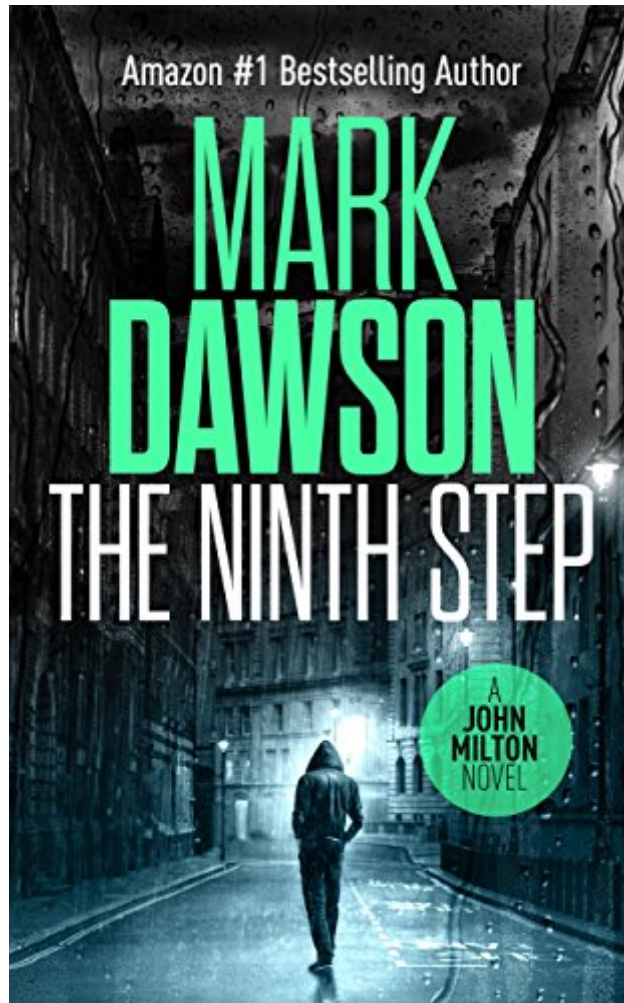


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The Ninth Step - John Milton #8 (John Milton Series)



Synopsis

John Milton is a former assassin for the British government. He is a ronin, trying to atone for his past sins by offering his services to those people who have no-one else to whom they can turn. Milton is keeping a low profile in London when he meets Eddie Fabian. Fabian confesses that he is considering suicide, and that the reason for his depression was the abuse that he suffered as a child. Milton offers to help, but, before he can, Eddie is found dead in circumstances that Milton considers suspicious. And then events take a turn that no-one could have anticipatedâ Miltonâs attempted good deed becomes a quest to unveil corruption at the highest levels of government and murder at the dark heart of the criminal underworld. Milton is pulled back into the game, and thatâs going to have serious consequences for everyone who crosses his path. Prepare yourself for another hair-raising, heart-pounding adventure from the new master of the thriller. With over one million downloads and thousands of five star reviews, if you havenât read Mark Dawson yet, what are you waiting for? Donât start this book at night if sleep is important to youâ |

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Customer Reviews

This eighth outing in Dawson's John Milton series, to me, is his most personal. Retired assassin John Milton has returned to London, still working on his self-imposed redemption for his bloody past. He is continuing to work through the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and, at one of the meetings, meets a fellow alcoholic, Eddie Fabian. Eddie is the adopted son of a British Mafia family and had an intensely troubled childhood before his adoption. He confides in Milton that he is working on the 9th of the 12 Steps, making amends, and asks Milton for support. When Eddie is found dead, Milton doubts that it was a suicide and begins a personal investigation. He is immediately drawn into two deadly conspiracies -- one involving a group of renegade ex-military men, the other involving Eddie's criminal family. Determined to finish Eddie's quest and finish making his amends for him, Milton devises a diabolically clever plan for justice. What follows is a wonderfully plotted, twisted tale that takes us further into the mind of John Milton than ever before. Each Milton novel exposes more of his inner core and humanity. He is slowly climbing out of his pit of self-loathing, but each step comes at a cost. When will it be too much? If you have not read a John Milton novel yet, you are missing out on a great literary treat. Mark Dawson somehow manages to imbue his novels with briskly-drawn-but-believable characters in settings so evocatively described you feel you are there. Please, do yourself a favor and become one of John Milton's growing army of fans.

I've all the Beatrix Rose books and the John Milton books and I thought this was the weakest so far. This book was rather slow developing. Milton has turned a corner here and his life has definitely changed to a slower pace and going to AA. Some things that distracted me were in the writing itself. This story takes place around London, yet distances are measured in miles, while other measurements were in meters and centimeters. I've been to Europe, but not England, but everything I've encountered was in kilometers. A scene that had me shaking my head was Milton was breaking into a bank vault and he had killed the power. He stated the emergency lights went out and they were using flashlights. I don't know about England, but when the power goes off, the emergency lights come on in the USA - battery backup. Then with the power off they are outside the vault door and he plugs in this big drill into the outlet and drills into the vault with this drill using water cooling on the bit. But yet the power is off. I don't know if Mr. Dawson rushed this book or what, but it needs some editing. I can't believe all the 4 and 5 star reviews. This is an average book at best.

There are a number of writers whose works fill my Kindle library; Mark Dawson is one of the authors whose books I treasure. I happily read this book through twice as a member of a group that reads

advance copies to ensure authors excise inconsistencies and errors from the published version. I own and have read every book in this series, the Beatrix Rose series and new Angel series, as well as the Soho Noire series. Echoes of this latter series form part of "The Ninth Step", a device that is particularly enthralling if you've read them, but isn't at all necessary to fully enjoy this story. This book is a complete stand alone thriller, but don't be surprised if you are enticed into reading the seven previous books. You would also enjoy his other series. Dawson has a wonderfully fluid, literate manner of developing his stories and the characters in them. The book opens and you are drawn into a compelling and exciting story that holds up after a number of readings. The characters are compelling and nuanced, with the usual human flaws and blind spots. Some are very sympathetic while others are repulsive, much as you find in your day to day life. Milton has an ongoing struggle with demons accumulated over his career as a government assassin; his struggles and the discipline inherent in his character make him a realistic and sympathetic hero. The settings and environment are also well developed in the story so the reader has a sense of "being there". The resulting atmosphere along with the story flow and character development combine to pull the reader into the action which includes unexpected twists and turns that enhance the enjoyment. I highly recommend "The Ninth Step".

Mark Dawson continues the John Milton series with another adventurous, exciting episode. Spending time with Dawson's Milton will inspire you to check your attitude and assess whether you have the courage to step up, assist and protect those who need help or walk away. In these political times, John Milton declares that doing the right thing means taking personal responsibility for the plight of those who cannot defend themselves either from treacherous bullies, systemic violence or greedy leeches. John Milton isn't always sure he is making the best decision, but he always makes the "right" decision when it comes to getting involved. Thanks Mark Dawson for creating John Milton and his "family" of accomplices who are just as courageous as Milton in their own way. Take a taste of Milton and I guarantee you will want to read about Milton and all of his friends. Trust me, the effort will be worth it. Long live Milton, the superhero without superpowers.

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