

I first encountered Chris Elgood with [Accidental Assassin](#). In it the reader met his main character Nshila Ileloka, a lady born in a remote African village who, against the odds, received a western education and the right to place the letters MBA after her name. This plot alone was worthy of a book. Chris had other ideas, using her education and assimilation into Western culture as a backdrop to the real story.

Nshila was a lady with secrets, dark foreboding secrets. Her mentor for extracurricular activity while growing up in that remote village had been the local witchdoctor. This placed her in an interesting and unique position. While it would be too strong to say she was feared by the villagers, they certainly treated her with respect. This was particularly true when a local cattle thief turned up dead following an Nshila intervention.

Chris Elgood had laid the groundwork for his character. Nshila was destined to become an assassin. But as you read his first book *Accidental Assassin* you begin to understand that this lady is not your regular street hood. Targets must deserve to die. I guess you could call her a killer with moral values.

Which brings us to *He Only Died Twice*. This book has such a great, twisted plot that it is hard to know what to say without spoiling the adventure.

Nshila is maintaining her aura of legitimacy, running The Rain Consultancy, a company specializing in localized weather forecasts. It is a perfectly legitimate enterprise employing two hard working people, Peter Grace and Gillian Harker. Neither suspect Nshila has an alter ego. Both know that Nshila is a little different from the average boss, but maybe that is just because of her upbringing?

*He Only Died Twice* finds Nshila with a conundrum. Sure, she is an assassin, but hardly one that seeks out a constant supply of contracts. Like most illegal activities the chances of coming to the notice of the authorities increase with the frequency of the deed. She also has a strong ethic that the person deserves to die. But suddenly she finds herself with two contracts, and both victims are deserving of the ultimate punishment.

One is a rich and successful businessman suspected of selling pretty young western girls into sex slavery. Grant Topley is both well connected and also a Member of Parliament. He is 'untouchable'.

The other target is Gerald Tetherman, an importer of hard drugs. A man that has ruined many lives, but he has managed to avoid official interest.

Nshila must make a decision, to take one, both, or none of the contracts. Certainly both men deserve her attention, but is it possible or practical to run two projects at the same time?

Chris Elgood has outdone himself with *He Only Died Twice*. He has developed a wonderful plot, and executes it with style and panache.

While it can be read as a stand-alone book, I personally recommend that you read [Accidental Assassin](#) first.