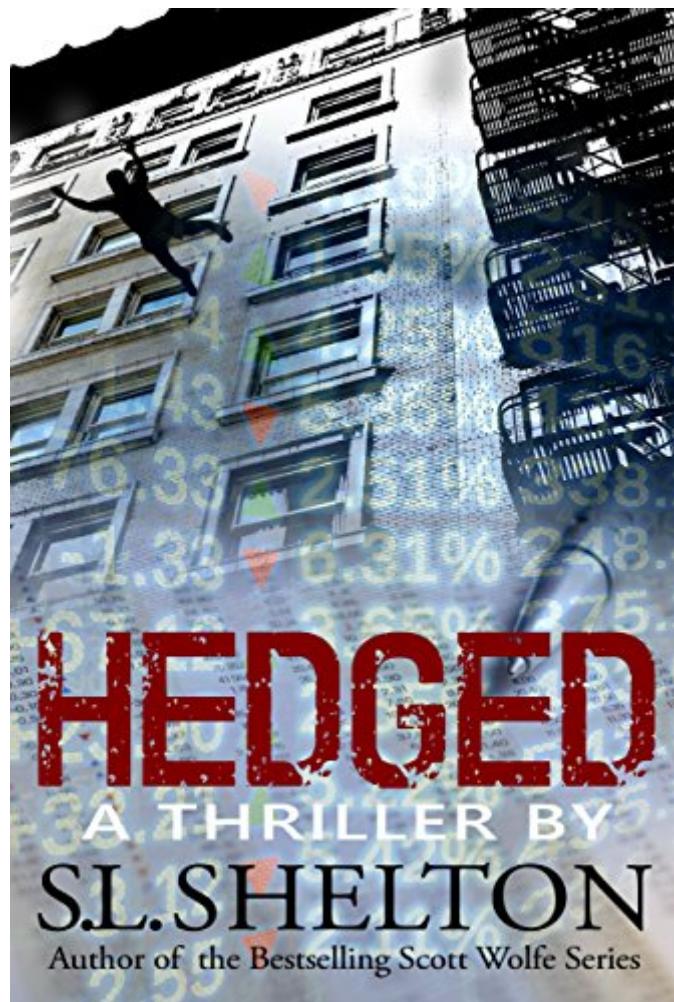


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# Hedged



## **Synopsis**

Chase Grant just said goodbye to his estranged father. He wasn't present as Chase grew into a man, nor as Chase's sister, Chloe, grew into a woman. "an absence with expected consequences. Both siblings have spotted pasts and have difficulties navigating life as many who are abused or abandoned do. There are two constants in their lives - Chloe is a good girl who doesn't understand what a bad guy looks like, and Chase violently defends her when it gets her in trouble. With small steps toward normalcy being taken by both Chase and Chloe, events take a violent turn when someone, for some hidden reason tries to kill Chloe. Chase, in protective big brother fashion, begins searching for the who and the why of Chloe's misfortune. His investigation drags him into a twisted and confusing drama involving police, drug cartels, confidential informants and his own job in a medium sized trading firm. What he discovers might just end up killing everyone involved

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Chase Grant's father is dying. Although it will be lung cancer that takes his father from this world, the truth is that Chase lost him a long time ago. As Chase sits at his unconscious father's

bedside, we learn what kind of man heâ™s become while he ticks through a mental checklist of his character flaws. Heâ™s emotionally unavailable, prone to violence and has a thick file with his name on it in the legal system. Growing up bullied and abused can do that to a person. Chase is also fiercely loyal, especially to his sister, Chloeâ™s "the only family heâ™s got left. The two of them have worked to get their lives on track, but just days after Chase says his final goodbye to his father, he finds himself back in the hospital. Someone has tried to kill Chloe, and Chase is determined to find out who it is that wants her dead. With *Hedged*, author S.L. Shelton has proven once again that he is a master story teller. These characters have been carefully and artfully developed. You think you know them well, until Shelton drops hints along the way that make you realize there may be more to them than meets the eye. The plot is well constructed, and the story moves at a swift pace. As with all of Sheltonâ™s novels, there are twists and turns and plenty of surprises that will hook his readers and keep them fully engaged until the very last page.

The exploits of antihero Chase Grant propel a narrative that begins with family history and moves quickly through corporate intrigue and cartel-related scheming. I like that technical specifics, radio traffic, and police procedural jargon are stripped away and the story stays at a personal level with the participants in each chapter - in all its realistic, unsavory flavors - yet never forgetting that family comes first. The bad guy hints are executed well enough for the genre (I figured who but was wrong on how/when) but I was pleasantly surprised by the ending reveals and dark angles throughout.

Another winner by S.L. Shelton, this book kept me up way past my bedtime. As usual in a Shelton novel, everything is not as it seems but there is nothing cookie cutter about this new novel. I knew I would love it when J.C. Wing recommended it, but wow!

As with other books by this author, *HEDGED* appears to lead you down a predictable path and then jumps in surprising directions. Entertaining, engaging, suspenseful and surprising to the very end. The characters are very well developed (as is usual with S.L. Shelton), with hidden traits and histories revealed at the appropriate (surprising!) time. Overall, a fantastic book from a very sophisticated author!

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Hedged

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