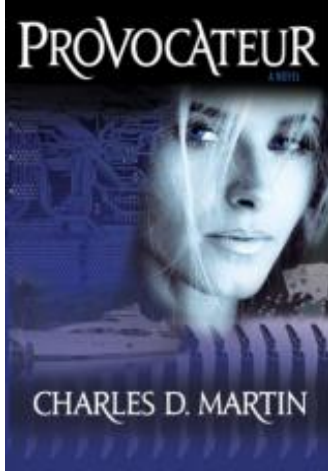


# Provocateur

by Charles D. Martin

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## About the Book

**Provocateur** explores the emergence of Alpha-females in today's society. The book is a thrilling look into the age-old contest between men and women, set around a complex, enigmatic woman of superior intelligence.

It is the story of Nadia, a young Russian woman who comes to America through a mail-order-bride program. She becomes employed in an enterprise operated by an ex-CIA agent named Olga, whose agency, through clever missions, extracts large amounts of money from wealthy men.

In her assignments, Nadia must get the best of powerful men that are at the top of the male order.

Nadia, born an orphan, rises out of a life of poverty and despair, where she had no experience with affection, to face her struggles and take on the challenges of her profession. She possesses a strong will, supreme confidence, and takes a must-win approach using only her finesse and feminine prowess.

## Discussion Guide

1. Nadia possess many remarkable attributes. Is there one that stands out as the key to her character?
2. The story explores many themes: the success of the underdog, weak versus strong, dominant male / subservient female, to name a few. What major emotion(s) did the story evoke in you?
3. Nadia operated in a world of extreme wealth and power. What were the strengths and weaknesses of her moral code?

4. Through a series of events, experiences and opportunities, Nadia evolved from a life of poverty and despair to that of alpha female in complete control of her life. What life lessons can be gleaned from Nadia's journey?
5. Nadia certainly crossed a number of legal / ethical / social boundaries to enrich herself and her employer. Were her actions justified? Did everyone get what he or she deserved? Were your attitudes changed in any way?
6. In her early life Nadia struggled to survive and had little experience with affection or ethics. How did Nadia's background impact her ability to conduct her missions?
7. At what point did you come to the conclusion that you identified with, liked or disliked Nadia? What helped make this decision?
8. As was the case with *Memoir of a Geisha*, a male author wrote this story from the perspective of a woman outsmarting men. Did this treatment work for you? Why or why not?
9. Name your favorite character the book. Your least favorite? Why?

## Author Bio

Charles D. Martin grew up in a small Ohio town. His parents were poor, but by working two jobs, he was able to put himself through college ? he studied 5 majors (physics, mathematics, chemistry, electrical engineering and business) at Ohio State University.

Martin has been fortunate to enjoy much success in life. He had a distinguished career in venture capital and private equity, founding two highly successful investment firms that he managed during the decades of the 1980s and 1990s. Currently he runs a hedge fund, Mont Pelerine Capital, LLC, and serves on the investment committees of prominent universities.

Martin has extensive background in finance and technology, and has travelled to the exotic locations featured in his debut novel **Provocateur** (August 2012). However, the novel itself is more about the intrigue in the story and the alpha female that takes on dominant males and conquers them.

Martin lives with his wife Twyla in a coastal town south of Los Angeles, California.

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