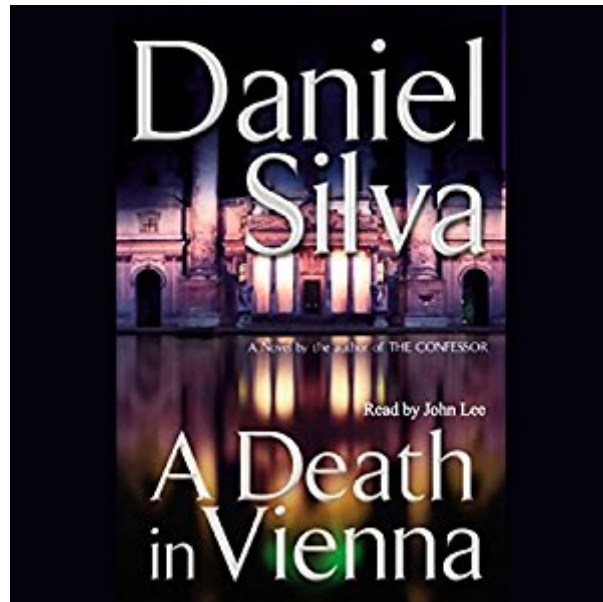


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A Death In Vienna



Synopsis

The sins of the past reverberate into the present, in an extraordinary novel by the new master of international suspense. It was an ordinary-looking photograph. Just the portrait of a man. But the very sight of it chilled Allon to the bone. Art restorer and sometime spy Gabriel Allon is sent to Vienna to authenticate a painting, but the real object of his search becomes something else entirely: to find out the truth about the photograph that has turned his world upside down. It is the face of the unnamed man who brutalized his mother in the last days of World War II, during the Death March from Auschwitz. But is it really the same one? If so, who is he? How did he escape punishment? Where is he now? Fueled by an intensity he has not felt in years, Allon cautiously begins to investigate; but with each layer that is stripped away, the greater the evil that is revealed, a web stretching across sixty years and thousands of lives. Soon, the quest for one monster becomes the quest for many. And the monsters are stirring... Rich with sharply etched characters and prose, and a plot of astonishing intricacy, this is an uncommonly intelligent thriller by one of our very best writers. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I like all of Silvia's other Gabriel Allon novels but this one just read like a history lesson. Granted, there was a lot of history I didn't know (I knew the broad strokes, of course, but not the fine details that turn a sketch into art), but a spy novel just isn't the place for that. Maybe a few juicy details here and there but there was page after page, chapter after chapter of Nazi minutiae that took away from

the story line. Look, I'm not trying to be like that episode of Seinfeld (where Jerry and his date get caught making out during Schindler's List), but if I wanted a history lesson, I'd go find a history book. This whole novel felt like the plot was just a cameo role. Yes, WWII was horrific. Yes, the Nazis are the worst thing to ever surface as a geopolitical force (although trump may end up giving them a run for their money). Yes, the crimes they committed are mind-bogglingly awful but we already know that. Silva used his power as a bestseller to launch this history lesson and that's the problem with this novel. The writing is still good but it felt, to me, like Allon's character got lost along the way in this one, taking a backseat to the author's personal rant. And again, I'm not diminishing what the Jews went through, in any way, but this is supposed to be a spy novel, a work of fiction, and there was way too much non-fiction thrown in. I hope Book 5 is better...

I know I am late to this party, but this is an amazing author who has created an amazing set of characters. These books may not appeal to everyone as it deals with the Jewish condition and the Middle East (and Terrorism et al). While it is told from the Jewish perspective, it is balanced and gives the Arab and Palestinian side of the story. These novels are violent but not particularly graphic, and the hero, Gabriel Allon, is not a "super hero" - he bleeds and gets tired. These books are full of historical perspective and the author paints vivid imagery in the descriptions of the various settings in the story. Like an hour television drama, the mystery is concluded within the 400 or so pages in the book. You are not left hanging and required to read the next book - you don't even have to read the books in order but I recommend you do. As in most novels, no one ever has to use the restroom and the realities of life are simplified, but the plots are well thought out, the characters brilliantly developed and current events are expertly woven throughout.

This is a novel but it actually tells a lot of things that happened during the Holocaust and things that people have forgotten or did not want to face. Episodes like those described in this novel were not unique. Growing up we had the benefit of being alive right after the war, and the Holocaust was taught to us as a reminder of what could happen. If you've ever read this Gabriel Allon series, you will note that the author tries to present both sides of the debate and gives you insight as to why they believe the way they do. Thank you to all who made this book possible and the understanding of underlying evil that could come again in our time. One point that the author did not make was about all those with disabilities who were first chosen by Hitler to be murdered. They were Germans and it was his pursuit of a perfect race. Sound familiar today?

This is a story that everyone should read but it must be read as part of the trilogy of "The English Assassin", "The Confessor", and "A Death in Vienna". It is especially meaningful to the sons and daughters as well as the grandsons and granddaughters of those who died in the Holocaust and of Holocaust survivors. It is a masterful series and Silva paints his characters and the background of a great master painter. Riveting, poignant, fast-paced and interesting. Having been in Israel and Europe on many occasions, I found myself totally immersed in the story. I found not put this book down and finished it in one day.

I have read the first 4 books and each have been so well written that I hated to see them end. I have also read his 16th book and suggest that you start at the beginning of his novels as he develops so many of his characters along the way. I have never read an author so consistent in his ability to take the reader on a high octane journey time after time...and I'm only on #5!

This novel starts with a strange man following the head of an organization called "Wartime claims and inquiries". An explosion follows, with the death of two beautiful girls. A terrorist organization claims responsibility. During the novel, Gabriel falls in love with a new, and beautiful girl. After the explosion, Gabriel proceeds to Venice, where "Mario Delvecchio returns to the restoration of a Bellini painting. A new assassin appears, this one is called "The Clockmaker". A CIA spy appears, called "The American". The novel continues, with music, intrigue, violence, death and Nazis. It is a wonderful and exciting novel, and I recommend it very highly.

This third in a series of Holocaust themed books is the most intimate and powerful. Six million systematically murdered and yet only a tiny fraction of those responsible have been found and brought to justice. The most horrific complicity to my mind is that of the Roman Catholic Church and its role during and after the War enabling and then actively hiding those responsible.

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