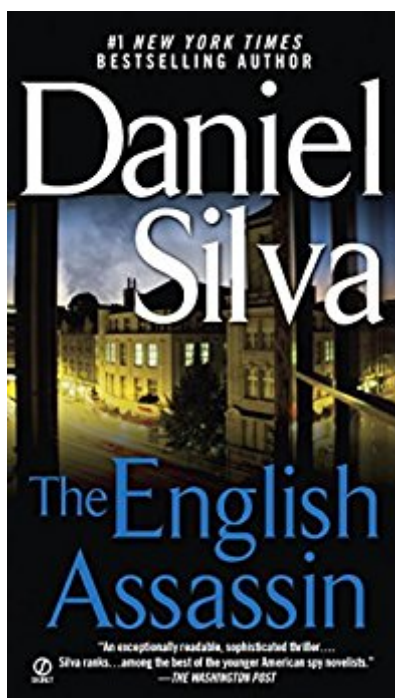


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The English Assassin (Gabriel Allon Series Book 2)



Synopsis

Spy turned art restorer Gabriel Allon finds himself accused of murder in this New York Times bestseller from Daniel Silva. An Israeli spy by trade and art restorer by preference, Gabriel Allon arrives in Zurich to restore the work of an Old Master for a millionaire banker and finds himself standing in blood and framed for the man's murder. While trying to clear his name, Allon is swept into a spiraling chain of events involving Nazi art theft, a decades-old suicide, and a dark and bloody trail of killings—some of them his own. The spy world Allon thought he had left behind has come back to haunt him. And he will have to fight for his life—against an assassin he himself helped train. From the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is part of the Gabriel Allon series. This is well written and edited but I didn't enjoy reading it mainly because I did not like the plot. I read 2 other books in the series which I did enjoy though. Others may enjoy it but I found the plot bland and too unbelievable for my tastes. This episode finds Gabriel on the case tracking down an evil cabal of Swiss bankers who are hiding fine

art, treasure and other assets stolen by the Nazis during WW2. Aided by certain corrupt Swiss security police officials this sinister organization also murders anybody who gets in its way. This far-fetched plot is far from what you would expect in an Israeli spy thriller. It's also predictable and formulaic. Two stars and I don't think it is worth the \$5.99 I paid for it. It appears that the author has an axe to grind with Switzerland for its alleged collaboration with the Nazis during WW2. If that's true he should have laid out his case in a non-fiction using facts instead of making a statement in a fiction novel.

Since I had just finished a novel that I thought ran wild with characters running amok throughout, it was a relief to read Silva's very clear writing style. Unfortunately, for me, I found that some chapters were wonderfully clear and direct while others just didn't capture my attention and I found myself drifting. Having traveled through most of the geographic areas described I enjoyed Silva's treatment of them and picking up on the culture of each. I had no idea of this episode in Swiss history. I had been raised and believed that they were totally neutral so haggling of the wealth of stolen art and wanting it kept in the country was enlightening. Having just seen the movie "Woman of Gold" it made it all the more believable. Silva is a great story teller and some chapters kept me on the edge of my seat.

If I could rate it a 10 star, I would! I have just discovered Daniel Silva's books. This is the third one that I have read, each better than the last one. I am hooked! As good as Frederick Forsythe, Tom Clancey, Nelson DeMille and all the other great espionage writers. I love his characters... Gabriel Allon is awesome. So glad that I have several more to experience! I haven't been this excited over an author since I discovered Greg Iles many years ago!

Imagine walking in on a murder scene and then being accused of committing it. And then learning that some of the important facts are more than 30 years old. That is where noted art restorer, Gabriel Allon, finds himself in this rich depiction of European intrigue and fine art. It isn't necessary to read the Gabriel Allon books in order but once you read one you'll want to read them all and The English Assassin has to be at the top of the list.

As with all the Daniel Silva books I've read there is a gross amount of action & intrigue. This another exciting book by this author. The excitement rolls from page to page keeping the reader interested to see what happens next. I highly recommend this to anyone who likes this type of book.

Silva is very familiar with the UK and Europe. His descriptions of the Euro countries makes the reader feel like he/she has an inside understanding of the culture and social structures of the various countries described in the book. For instance, I believe that Silva's representations of Switzerland are very accurate. The hero, Gabriel Allon, is just as strong mentally as he is physically and even though he has the unenviable mantle of assassin, he is a person with moral standards. A person who will (and can) do what needs to be done to overcome the malevolence of others. Greed is the driving force behind this tome and Allon is one of the people who can restore some semblance of propriety to the victims of WW II.

This novel starts off with Mrs. Marguerite Rolfe digging in her garden. She is actually digging her own grave because of secrets she'd found hidden in her husband's study. She lies down, picks up her husband's shotgun, puts the barrel in her mouth and pulls the trigger. Thus begins a novel filled with intrigue, danger, murder, double cross and romance. With a destroyed suicide note. With two assassins, Gabriel Allon and "The Englishman". A lovely artist who falls in love with Gabriel. A Murder in Munich. A secret list of art treasures stolen from Jews. An ultra-secret group that buys these treasures. Were it not for continuing, boring distractions where meaningless, boring facts required much skimming, I would have rated this novel higher. I still believe "The English Assassin" to be a very good read, and recommend it highly.

Wow never knew about the Swiss bankers role during the war. Very enlightening. I have a whole different view of that lovely land of "neutrality" and secret bank accounts. All of that wound up in the Gabriel mysteries.

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