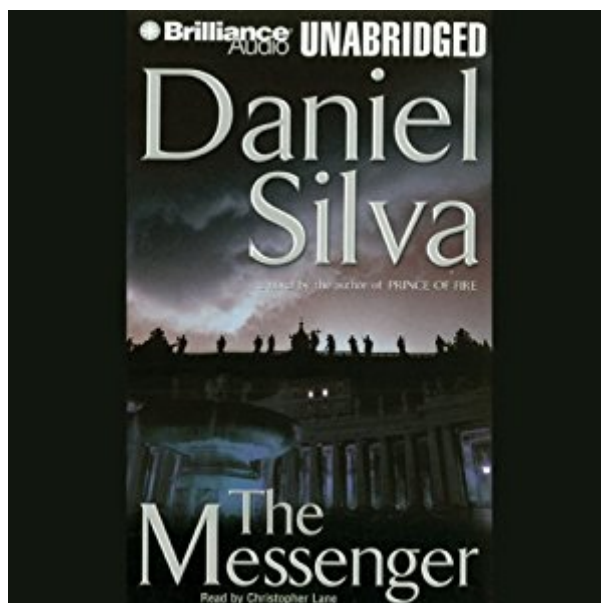


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The Messenger



Synopsis

Gabriel Allon, art restorer and spy, is about to face the greatest challenge of his life. Allon is recovering from his grueling showdown with a Palestinian master terrorist, when terrorism comes to find him once again. An al-Qaeda suspect is killed in London, and photographs are found on his computer — photographs that lead Israeli intelligence to suspect that al-Qaeda is planning one of its most audacious attacks ever, straight at the heart of the Vatican. Allon warns his old friend Monsignor Luigi Donati, the pope's private secretary, and rushes to Rome to assist in security, but what neither he nor Donati knows is that the Vatican has been thoroughly penetrated. An extraordinary enemy walks among them — and he's just getting started. In the days and weeks to come, Allon and his colleagues will find themselves in a deadly duel of wits against one of the most dangerous men in the world — a hunt that will take them across Europe to the Caribbean and back. But for them, there may simply not be enough of anything: enough time, enough facts, enough luck. All Allon can do is set his trap — and hope that he is not the one caught in it. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

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Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Espionage

Customer Reviews

THE MESSENGER REVIEW It would appear that Daniel Silva is the apple of the Charbonneau Book Club's eye. We read "The English Woman" less than a year ago and "The Messenger" is our new assignment. It was written about seven years earlier than "Woman" but, with Silva,

there's no worry about staleness seeping in. He's always a refreshing read. In this Gabriel Allon adventure the intrepid Jewish spy is assigned to find an elusive al-Qaeda bigwig who is planning an assassination attack on both the Pope and the president of the United States. After already devastating parts of the Vatican and killing hundreds of people with an audacious daytime bombing, the terrorist operative is continuing his rabid campaign against his sworn enemies. Cloaked in anonymity and possessed of great wealth and power, this dangerous fanatic must be rooted out and eliminated before he strikes, although Allon knows the search will be extremely risky and complicated. He plans a trap using bait the operative can't resist. Once again Silva demonstrates incredible knowledge of his subject, this time the complexities of mid Eastern religion terrorist activity, and Roman Catholic convention. His plotting is intricate and unassailable. His characterizations are immaculate and their realism resonates with the reader. Event after event keeps unfurling as the author assaults the reader's mind with inventive and adventurous ideas. Silva employs spotless grammar and writing skills in his books. One always feels more intelligent after reading him because of the information he unveils and the respect he gives to the reader's brainpower. He is a true master at creating the very quintessential adventure novel, entertaining and full of fascinating detail. Silva has a tried and true formula by which he operates. Allon's skill is paramount to his stories. The attractive female agent who faces death with aplomb is always present. Immensely skilled associates handle details that would befuddle lesser mortals. But it all works and each new novel is eagerly awaited by his plethora of fans. It's difficult to rank Silva's books by which is better. Each one has its own ingenious subject matter. Some ideas might register better than others, depending on the reader's interest, but none will disappoint. Schuyler T Wallace Author of TIN LIZARD TALES

Like many spy novel fans, I have long considered John le Carré the master of the genre. But, Daniel Silva has surpassed even le Carré in my opinion. My wife agrees. She and I are almost finished reading all of Silva's Gabriel Allon series and we would give 5 stars to all of them. The first of Silva's novels I read was one of his most recent. I was so impressed with his writing that I wondered if his skills had improved during the more than twenty years he's been a spy novelist. Nope! His first was also superb! If you like spy novels with a LOT of verisimilitude, I think you'll love Silva's work.

The Messenger has more suspense than all its predecessors in the series combined; I confess I

was on the verge of biting my nails when Sarah Bancroft was on Zizi's entourage because his security personnel didn't allow her to wander off without them and they were always making those edgy threats that curdle the blood. Even though the book is great, the first part titled "The Door of Death" referring to a door in St Peter's Basilica, feels somewhat disconnected from everything that happens after. It is that after the investigation took flight I almost forgot that an attack in the Vatican had taken place. The character of Zizi al-Bakari is the father of Nadia al-Bakari, the woman with "impeccable jihadist credentials" at the center of the installment Portrait of a Spy. So many things happen in The Messenger, one of them being an attempt on Ari Shamron's life. It was heartbreaking for me because, together with Gabriel and Julian, Ari is my most favorite character in the series. Thank God "he is eternal" as they all so often say. Another important sub-plot is that Gabriel's cover is blown for good so he can't accept to head Special Operations, and finally he gathers the courage to tell Leah that he is in love with Chiara and wants to marry her. In summary, nail-biting suspense and international intrigue of the highest order are the hallmarks of The Messenger.

Once again the master writes about the Masters, not only in the spy and world and the art world but on the world stage. Of course "the names are changed" as the disclaimer says at the end of every book he writes. But he as usual draws a beautiful mind tapestry of the colour of our world today. I was raised Irish Catholic and am 3rd generation, my father fought in WW2. The characters in this and every book are from that passionate generation all of his books are. I had never read a "spy novel" before I started reading Mr. Silva. Before I knew it was a series I read The Black Widow and was hooked do yourself a favor and go on these journeys with him, trust him he will, paint you a masterpiece every time !!!!!!!

The consequences of hatred run so deep and long in the psyche of some and nurtured by further teaching of hatred by the next generation. The cycle can only be broken by love. Some would say never, I would say "why not". Right prevails over wrong and love is in the middle.

I have enjoyed all of the others and will read the entire series. Love the characters, plots and overall writing.

I do not normally have a lot of time to read. But when I travel on international flights I can usually finish or almost finish a book. The Gabriel Allon series are not books you will readily put down until finished. With the time frame Daniel Silva was writing these books and what is happening now he must not only be a good writer but psychic.

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