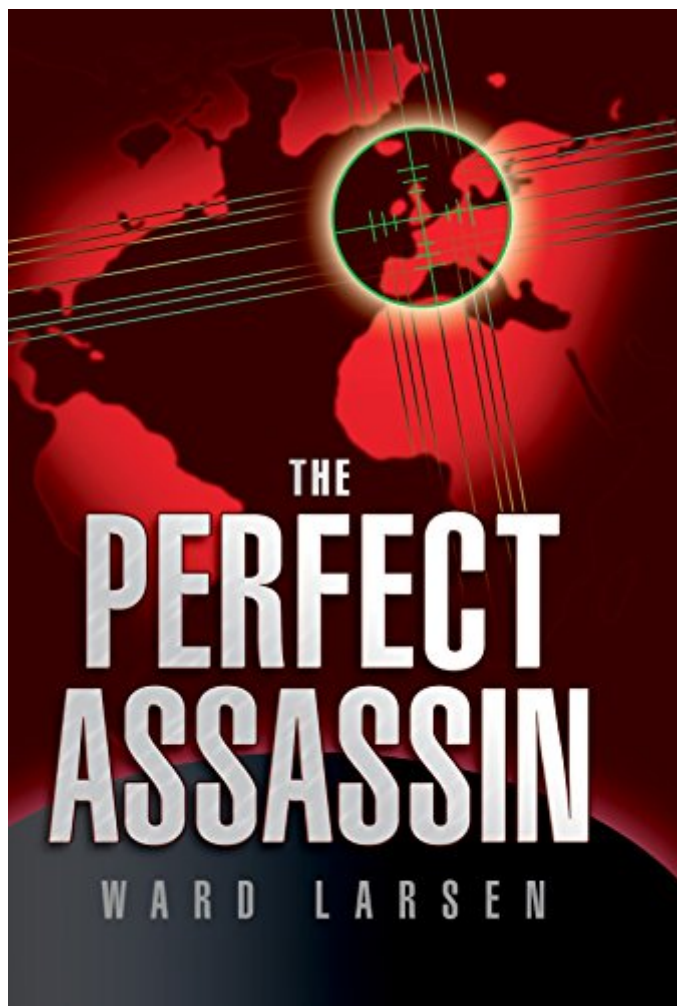


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The Perfect Assassin (A David Slaton Thriller)



Synopsis

Intrigue of the Highest Order
The Atlantic: A young woman sailing solo across the Atlantic makes an incredible discovery— a man narrowly clinging to life in the open ocean. But the desperate survivor is more than he appears. He is a Kidon— an Israeli assassin who forcibly commandeers her boat with a new destination in mind, England. There the two are forced into an uneasy partnership as they run from a secretive and lethal organization. The resulting wake of destruction brings Scotland Yard to the hunt— searching for an accomplished killer and a woman whose life has been capsized.
One Shot: The Kidon soon uncovers the true enemy— a manipulator responsible for the tragic event that shaped him to be what he is. There is only one solution. With deliberate, inescapable precision, he will hunt down the one who created... The Perfect Assassin.

Book Information

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Assassinations

Customer Reviews

I have to admit it. I caught the espionage bug. Maybe I've always had it? Between Tom Clancy's

Jack Ryan novels, and Jason Bourne starring on the pages of Ludlum's books, to Vince Flynn's Mitch Rapp character . . . (and I suppose it goes without saying, and yet, here I am saying it, there seems always to have been, and continues to be Ian Flemming's Bond). So for someone like me, someone with the espionage bug, there is little that is more satisfying than finding a new author. Ward Larsen is that new author. I was sent his latest novel to read and review. Thing is, I can't start in the middle of a series. So I went back and ordered his first three novels. The main character is David Slaton. He is a "highly trained Israeli assassin." THE PERFECT ASSASSIN is the first book in a thrilling, international spy series. A secret mission to move two nuclear weapons across the ocean doesn't go as planned. The ship sinks. There is only one survivor found floating out in the middle of the ocean. Little does Dr. Christine Palmer realize, her life is about to change forever. The sailing trek she set out on was meant to honor her father and a break from medical school. When she pulls on board, David Slaton, the man from the ocean, deadly chaos ensues. When Palmer pulled Slaton from the ocean, she inadvertently put her life in danger. Those responsible for the sinking of the vessel know she has an idea of where the ship went down. And, because she plucked a man out of the ocean, was any secret information divulged? When a slew of top agents turns up murdered, Slaton is the prime suspect. Mostly on his own, Slaton and Palmer have to work fast to unravel an international mystery. If they fail the stolen nukes will be detonated. Slaton thinks he might know who is behind the theft because it is the same person responsible for the slaughter of his wife and young daughter years ago. Amazing characters. I was worried I would have to take notes (like I do/did when I read Tom Clancy books), but this was not the case. Ward Larsen's smooth writing gently nudges the memory of who is who. The dialogue is spot on. The tension is constant and constantly builds. I really enjoyed Slaton and Palmer together. The way this book ended ... I can't wait to jump right in and read ASSASSIN'S GAME! Phillip Tomasso Author of the Severed Empire Series, and the Vaccination Trilogy

This is the first book I have read by this author, and I plan to read others in this series. A very good criminal chase with many twists and turns. We come to know a kidon, Mossad assassin, as a human with feelings and needs as any other. An interesting twist to find his wife and child, killed in one way as told by his superiors years ago, may have been a quite different story. Nice story as Israeli people, those in Mossad, seem to have many working against their true professions, by targeting fellow workers. Americans are only one group trying to straighten out the story, while a peace signing is set up . Good if you like Tom Clancy, Mark Dawson etc.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. A chance rescue in the Atlantic, an Israeli assassin, a plot involving rogue members of the Mossad, a Scotland Yard detective you will love, and a plot that holds your interest the entire length of the book. I can't wait to start on book two. Ward Lester writes in an unhurried fashion in the same manner as Lee Child. He allows the story to develop, introduces different characters, and the whole experience is excellent.

Ward Larson is an excellent storyteller, but this is not his best effort (I think that credit goes to "Passenger 19"). "Perfect Assassin" certainly has its moments, but much is implausible and the story sometimes gets bogged down in the background of its characters. Strangely, the most memorable character is neither the hero (Mossad agent David Slaton) nor the heroine (physician Christine Palmer) but to a Scotland Yard detective who doggedly persists in solving the complex case.

This is a first rate thriller, a bit of a love story, a decent amount of political intrigue and above all, a very readable and satisfying tale. For those who know about "spook" training at covert levels; high levels of weaponry security and personnel authorization, I suspect there will be gaps or flaws. But for me, an avid reader with a little knowledge about such things, the pages sped by. This would make a terrific movie.

The Perfect Assassin is a tightly woven book that manages to preserve emotional nuance in spite of its frenetic action sequences. The story telling is good enough that we can forgive the author for his historical anachronism -- the story setting includes a Libya still led by Muammar Gaddafi. If you find the characterization of a major political leader unlikely, you can still forgive Larsen for his literary excess. He draws you in, creating sympathy for his protagonist and anticipation for the resolution of his plot. I don't give many five star ratings, but this is one of them. Beside the Perfect Assassin, a lot of other first novels come across as poorly organized and creatively flat. I will look for Larsen's further books.

You might not expect a former US Air Force officer to be able to write convincingly about an Israeli spy. You would be wrong, because Ward Larsen does it very well in his debut novel. Many espionage writers will use the CIA as their "source" agency, usually as the heavy against which the intrepid protagonist must tussle in order to accomplish his mission and get to the truth. We don't often get to see Israel's Mossad portrayed this way, at least by an American author. Larsen posits a believable, and unsettling, premise: what if some elements of Mossad, and the Israeli government,

not only do not want peace with the Palestinians, but are actively working against it, even to the point of committing crimes against their own people? Now add a hardened but cynical Israeli agent, an American physician whose act of kindness throws her into peril, a hardnosed Scotland Yard detective, and two missing nuclear weapons, and you've really got something, as long as you can deftly incorporate those elements into a compelling story. And that is what Larsen does here, and he does it very well.

...I've read in a very long time. Well developed characters, complex plot, enough satisfying action to move it along, and enough depth and realism to make you think.

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