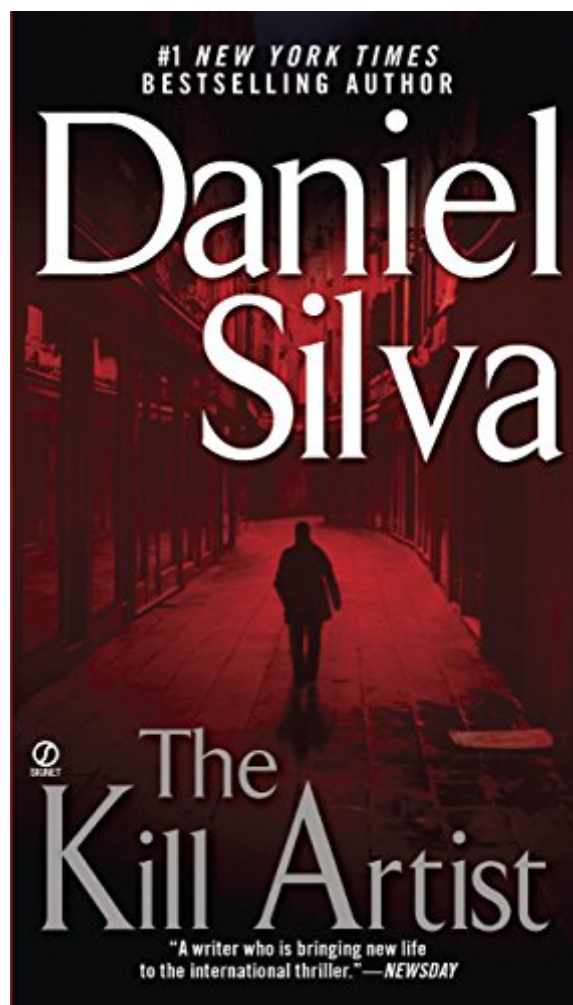


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The Kill Artist (Gabriel Allon Series Book 1)



Synopsis

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of House of Spies comes the first novel in the thrilling series featuring legendary assassin Gabriel Allon. Immersed in the quiet, meticulous life of an art restorer, former Israeli intelligence operative Gabriel Allon keeps his past well behind him. But now he is being called back into the game and teamed with an agent who hides behind her own mask...as a beautiful fashion model. Their target: a cunning terrorist on one last killing spree, a Palestinian zealot who played a dark part in Gabriel's past. And what begins as a manhunt turns into a globe-spanning duel fueled by both political intrigue and deep personal passions...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The first of a book series about spy, Gabriel Allon. The writing and storytelling in this series is excellent. Silva gives the background, as well as a good story, in this first book in the series. I like it that you get just enough background to understand and enjoy. And then the storytelling and plot are both so interesting. This was a "re-read" for me, as I just finished the last book out in the series.

While I was looking for my next book, I decided to go back and reread this first one. I enjoyed it as much as I did the first time I read it. That says a lot for the book and the author.

It has been about 13 years since I first read "The Kill Artist" and became addicted to what would become the Gabriel Allon series, and decided to revisit where it all began. I'm not sure, but I may have enjoyed it even more this second time around. This is the story that introduces the reader to Allon, a former highly successful Mossad operative who left the field due to very tragic family circumstances and now works alone and aloof as a person restoring art masterpieces. And, even in that field, he is considered one of the best. The once-retired, now active again, director of Israeli intelligence, Ari Shamron, needs Allon to come out of his self-imposed retirement in order to lead a team that must stop the deadly Palestinian, Tariq (the very man who caused such pain and loss to Allon), before Tariq's plans to destroy peace in the Middle East can be fully implemented. This is a serious international cat-and-mouse contest, with the two lethal combatants engaged in a life and death struggle to win at all costs. The operations undertaken by both sides in this politically-motivated and potentially catastrophic story are dynamic and the tension involved comes through to the reader. This earlier book by Silva has all of the hallmarks that make it a great read: excellent easy-to-read narrative that pulls you along, keeps you turning pages; wonderful main characters seen and developed through their deeds, their actions and their words; good secondary characters to round out the tale; a solid plot with various sub-plots and back stories that keep the threads complete. Highly recommended to those who enjoy espionage and political thrillers.

An art restorer. An unlikely cover for a spy. Yet, that is what the author Daniel Silva chooses for his protagonist Gabriel Allon. Gabriel Allon is an Israeli. He is also part of the elite team which uses all means to eliminate Israel's enemies. Now he is in retirement after a tragedy. But his former boss Ari Shamron closing toward his retirement due to old age and struggling with the internal politics coerces into accepting an assignment. Daniel Silva uses the backdrop of Israeli-Palestinian peace summit in NYC during the 90s to tell a story of espionage. This becomes interesting because he weaves in real incidents and real people in his narrative. Moreover, he uses an unlikely profession which needs a lot of patience and sharp eyes as the cover for his protagonist. How he links the cover job to the actual job of the protagonist is interesting. At the bottom line, this is an escapist fare. This is a good read if you enjoy fiction and you also follow the current affairs actively. Otherwise, it is a routine spy thriller. Be warned, this is a series and this book is the first one in the series.

I love novels that keep me in suspense and have surprise endings. This novel had one twist after another. An added bonus were the great setting descriptions. I felt like I was present in each of the places described in the book. Great read.

Terrific story. This novel is an excellent introduction to Gabriel Allon and treats both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute/rivalry with a careful touch. Silva's attention to detail can be disorienting because he's such a good story-teller that it's not clear which events in the story happened and which did not. After I finished this book, I'm now reading nonfiction that covers Israeli/Palestine history, both historical and modern. Fascinating characters in a gripping thriller. Highly recommended.

Sort of a Harlequin spy novel. Kept showing promise but ultimately sputtered. Very easy to put down, think I'll put off reading more of Silva's books, this one definitely disappointed.

It was a very negative story, full of foreboding and lacking any successes. I didn't enjoy reading it, found it to be very troubling with a lousy ending.

This novel introduces Gabriel Allon; Israel's assassin and avenging angel. Readers will enjoy this novel and I recommend it. Gabriel's avocation is art restoration and he is, according to the author, one of the three or four best in the world at restoring damaged Old Masters and religious art. His business is killing Israel's enemies. The novel spends an extraordinary time explaining the backgrounds and histories of Gabriel's superiors and colleagues. I suppose this necessary to familiarize the reader with these individuals, but it tends to be boring, and I would up skimming through many of these details. These details, however, should not detract the reader from what is a very good read.

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