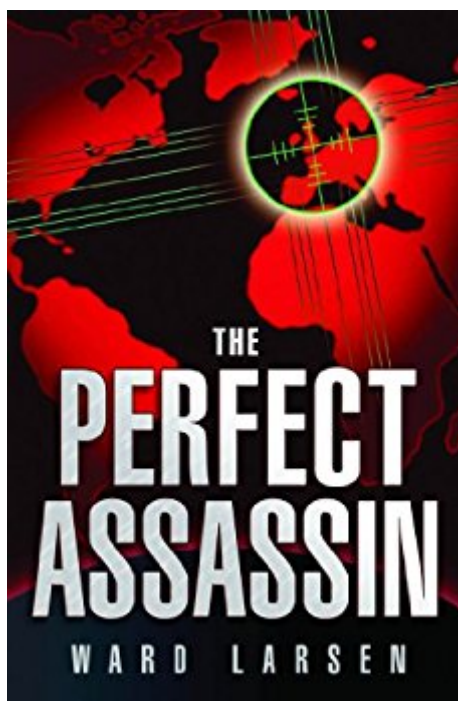


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The Perfect Assassin



Synopsis

One perfect shot will change the course of history. Christine Palmer, a young American doctor sailing solo across the Atlantic, makes an incredible discovery - a man narrowly clinging to his life in the frigid waters. But there is much more to this desperate survivor than meets the eye. David Slaton is a Kidon - a highly-trained, highly-precise, and highly-dangerous assassin. The Kidon is both the hunter and the hunted, and he and Christine are in grave danger. Will they win in this race against time? With the precision of a sharpshooter, author Ward Larsen weaves an intricate tale of espionage and intrigue.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ward Larsen's 1st work is great - Has all the components to please just about anyone - Spy thriller, assassins, romance, race to avoid disaster, redemption...Larsen's David Slaton reminds me a little of David Silva's Gabriel Allon - both have had personal tragedies in their lives, both are proud of their ancestry, both excellent agents. It also does, as someone referred to, remind me of a Tom Clancy work, without the detailsdetailsdetails - in other words Perfect Assassin is a complete reader's dream. You will enjoy it.

I do a lot of reading. I turn the news off after about 10 minutes and read for a couple of hours. If it's raining and I don't want to go anywhere, I read. I don't like paying a lot for my books and "The Perfect Assassin" was about at the top of the dollar amount. I usually depend on the reviews of others and in this case I was intrigued. I enjoyed the way the book started, he had you involved in the first few pages and it was never a put down book. I loved both characters. There were a couple of spots that weren't technically correct but they were easily overlooked by the story line. I highly recommend this book if you like spy novels. This one was well written I think I'll read some of his others. I read a bunch of Bob Mayers and enjoyed those also but then tired of his writing. So this was a nice change. Thanks for reading this and if you choose to buy this novel you won't be disappointed. Bruce

The Perfect Assassin

Sailing solo across the Atlantic westward from France Dr. Christine Palmer, just finished with her third year of residency, pulls aboard a man clinging to a cooler amid the flotsam of a shipwreck. Christine's stumbling across the man in the middle of the ocean is a bit of needle-in-a-haystack good luck that she comes to wish had never happened. Her unexpected passenger--whose name, we eventually learn, is David Slaton--soon commandeers the boat and orders her to sail to England. It is, for Christine, the unpleasant start of a harrowing adventure that will see the two of them running simultaneously from Scotland Yard and from rogue elements within the Israeli secret service. Ward Larsen tells his story from multiple points of view, his principal characters given just enough back story to make them sympathetic. Perhaps the most compelling of the lot is the Yard's Inspector Nathan Chatham, first introduced in chapter eight, a charming technophobe who is clever and quirky enough to anchor his own series. It is a pleasure, too, to watch our hero outsmart his adversaries using the training of a lifetime of service in Mossad. We certainly come to like Larsen's characters enough to want them to prevail, but it's also true that we are never really made to worry about them. Christine and David are placed in peril repeatedly in the book, but we never doubt that they will both come out safe in the end. Part of the reason for this may be that the bad guys never emerge as fully realized characters. There is no flesh-and-blood villain to root against. Larsen's debut novel may not pack the sort of suspense that will keep you turning the pages too late at night, but it's a solid spy novel and a good quick read. I'll look forward to seeing more from this author.--

Debra Hamel

The Perfect Assassin was a truly refreshing & enjoyable read. Just enough suspense & intrigue,

well written, & quite believable. I appreciated a book with less than a paragraph of sex and even less profanity. It seems some authors have a vocabulary limited to 4 letter words, which in my opinion totally detracts from a good story. Looking for more.

Larsen is a Daniel Silva wannabe but, unfortunately, he comes up short. But his miss is not great and perhaps this promising writer, after a few more efforts, will someday achieve the status he seeks. The problem with "The Perfect Assassin" is that it's one of those thrillers which essentially amount to a 300-page chase to capture a misunderstood assassin who is really a good guy. And it's one of those breathless books in which several months' worth of activity takes place in a few days. The thin plot is predictable and is laden with laughable coincidence after coincidence which enable the hero to survive throughout the book. One of those coincidences is the female character who JUST HAPPENS to be sailing a boat across the Atlantic when the so-called assassin is about to drown, and WHO JUST HAPPENS to be a doctor, which will enable her to save his life later on, and so on. You know the kind of book I'm talking about -- think a poor Robert Ludlum. However, I did enjoy the book and read it through to the very predictable end. Not the best thriller I've read, but not the worst, either.

I'm surprised as to how many 4 and 5 star reviews this book has received. I chose it because of these reviews expecting a thrilling book. Wrong! It starts off slow and stays slow. You expect it to pick up pace and become exciting but it never does. There is no moment when you think, wow that was an interesting few pages. It's very formulaic: good guy must stop nuclear bomb and get to the bottom of a larger conspiracy. One literary device that annoyed me was when the author would skip dialogue to make you think it was some big plot secret and then chapters later when revealed it wasn't even that good.

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