



The Bancroft Strategy

Robert Ludlum

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This edition has another cover

In the tradition of such Ludlum classics as *The Chancellor Manuscript* and *The Icarus Agenda*, *The Bancroft Strategy* is a compelling novel of intrigue, where two figures find themselves facing a shadowy organization working to twist global politics to their own unsavory ends.

When Todd Belknap - a legendary field agent for Consular Operations with a reputation as something of a cowboy - is cut loose from the agency after an operation goes wrong, his best friend and fellow agent is abducted in Lebanon by a militia group with a vicious reputation. When the government refuses to either rescue him or negotiate for his release, Belknap decides to take matters into his own hands.

Meanwhile, hedge fund analyst Andrea Bancroft gets a surprising call - she is to receive an unexpected bequest of six million dollars from a cousin she never met. With one condition -- she must agree to sit on the board of the Bancroft family foundation, a charitable organization that is run by the family patriarch, Paul Newton. Having never been involved with, or even met, the family - her mother was briefly married to an Bancroft and cut off all contact many years ago - Andrea is intrigued. But the foundation, which is dedicated to doing strategic good deeds, appears less and less benign the more deeply involved she gets. What exactly is their involvement with the "Genesis" - a mysterious group working to destabilize the geopolitical balance at the risk of millions of lives?

As events escalate, Todd Belknap and Andrea Bancroft come together and must form an uneasy alliance if they are to uncover the truth behind "Genesis" -- before it is too late.

The Bancroft Strategy Details

Date : Published October 17th 2006 by St. Martin's Press

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Author : Robert Ludlum

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From Reader Review The Bancroft Strategy for online ebook

Ada Iaboni says

OMG!!! This book, at the start, showed a lot of promise. But it went on and on and it was so mixed up and complicated that I almost stopped reading it a couple of times. But, I had to know the ending so I kept on reading. Did not enjoy it too much!

Michaell Baumler says

1/2 sometimes was very confusing

Tessa Varon says

The Bancroft Strategy explodes with excitement. The characters are very good, the story excellent, and the details well attended. According to my list, it appears that this is a rereading of this book. It must have been on my Shelfari list dated 2016 and transferred to Goodreads.

Bev Taylor says

todd has been a cia operative for over 20 years and has a best friend, jared

andrea has just been given 12million \$ to join the board of the bancroft foundation - her family. their aim is to improve lives all over the world, using money, intelligence and computer savvy

but at what cost and who is genesis.

nobody is whom they seem and are on different sides to how they appear

andrea and todd form an uneasy alliance to get to the truth of the matter - at great cost

couple of questions. surely todd, with all of his experience, would not have failed to notice trail at least 3 or 4 times

no suspicion was raised as to how the bancroft foundation seemed to know where andrea was heading. did it not occur to them that they may have placed a transponder in her mobile?

you have to concentrate on this one

bev

Andrea says

Don't know how I missed this when I was in my Robert Ludlum period.

I found this in a used book store and didn't recognize as having read before so I picked it up.

The book was published in 2006, 5 years after Robert Ludlum died. This book is written by Robert Ludlum TM (trademark), and is attributed as a "posthumously published novel". It's a long book (708 pages) due in most part to the complex plot with world-wide locations. The main characters are Todd Belknapp, a field agent for Consular Operations-US, Andrea Bancroft, hedge fund analyst and newly designated member of the super-mega Bancroft Family Foundation, Jared Rinehart also with the ConOps, and Paul Bancroft, the head of the Bancroft Family Foundation. The novel refers to him variously as a philosopher, a savant, and (implied)international philanthropist.

Todd Belknapp was on a mission in Rome when a powerful Arab arms dealer, Ansari, is suddenly murdered in his home by an Italian servant, who conveniently disappears. Belknapp was set up to detect and follow the network, but the trail suddenly came to an end in Rome. At the same time, Belknapp's close associate, Jared Rinehart, undercover in Beirut, is seized in a raid and disappears off the radar. ConOps supervisor blames Belknapp for the Rome debacle and refuses to mount an operation to find Rinehart.

Through a Deus ex machina shift in plot, Andrea Bancroft, examining old telephone records of the Bancroft Family Foundation, makes a call to a cell phone that Belknapp has taken from a death squad leader in Dubai after the murder of the Italian servant. The two lead characters are suddenly and firmly connected. Belknapp also found a list of international players, which a friend in ConOps identifies as a list of people who have suddenly been taken out, either by overt crime or "apparent natural causes". Andrea Bancroft is backtracing through the Bancroft Foundation records looking for evidence of her mother's sudden demise and also the history of Inver Brass, Belknapp follows a lead to an Omani prince Habib Almani who, after being confronted by Belknapp about the Italian servant and disappearance of Jared Rinehart, discloses the name Genesis as being behind the murder of arms dealer Ansari. Almani describes Genesis as "being everywhere and nowhere". "He rules of a shadowland the encompasses the globe, yet remain forever out of sight."

Back in the United States, Belknapp asks a retired agent to look into putting surveillance tracking devices in Andrea Bancroft's home, but the agent finds that the home is already thoroughly bugged. The agent is killed and Belknapp is convinced that Andrea is behind many of the killings attributed to Genesis.

This novel may have resulted from an incomplete manuscript found among Robert Ludlum's papers. Its completion is not attributed to any co-writer, which is just as well as better editing could have produced a much tighter novel that resisted the urge to conclude the story with a view to the dark side.

The book brings to mind the novels of

Sridhar Babu says

Author :ROBERT LUDLUM

CHARACTERS: Todd Belknapp, Andrea Bancroft, Jared Rinehart, Paul Bancroft, Brandon Bancroft and others...!!!

LOCATIONS:Rome,Beirut ((Lebanon)),Oman, Dubai ((United Arab Emirates)) Raleigh ((North carolina))Washington DC, Tallinn ((Estonia)),Cyprus, Lower Manhattan, New york.

GENRE : Thriller

PLOT:

As a Junior member of the ultra-clandestine branch of the US.State Department known as Consular Operations,Todd Belknap had always gained a reputation for finding men who sought not to be found. Like most of the trackers he worked best of his own.

When his close friend and Agent Jared Rinehart was kidnapped in Beirut by group of terrorists after an Cons-Op operation gone wrong,Todd's superiors refuses to help Jared, quoting some confidential protocols. This makes Todd very wild and he was forced to take matters into his own hands.

Because Jared Rinehart was not only his best friend and fellow agent, he was everything Todd had in his life. When Todd's wife Yuvette was murdered, when Todd was held at gun point in an undercover operation ((for tracking a lost Agent)) at East Berlin, When Todd was about to blown in to pieces while at an operation against drug mafias at Colombia, Jared was always there for mourning, rescuing and fighting for Todd Belknap.

Since Jared Rinehart was kidnapped in Beirut, Todd was forced to look back into his operation while he was in a mission exposing the contacts of illegal arms dealer Khalil Ansari ,waiting secretly at Khalil's luxurious Villa in Rome. To his surprise Khalil was murdered by his female servant, an Italian based Lucia Zingaretti.After murdering Khalil with a deadly poison, she disappears from the scene leaving no clues. Todd assumes that whoever abducted Jared was the new masters of Khalil network and they might have done this as a revenge for Khalil's murder. Todd goes back to Khalil's villa at Rome for finding the answers. By entering the Villa from the basement of the building, Belknap attacks Yusuf Ali, the head of security in the torture chamber of the villa,from him Belknap gets the residential address of Lucia in Rome. From the phone call made by Lucia to her parents, Belknap traces the origin of the call and finds that she was a call girl in a western style palace hotel at Dubai .

Kees van Duyn says

De Bancroft strategie. Een boek gebaseerd op de laatste manuscripten van Robert Ludlum. En het was er weer één die de moeite waard was om te lezen.

Geheim agent Todd Belknap gaat op zoek naar zijn vriend Jared Reinhart. Laatstgenoemde is ontvoerd en Belknap beweegt hemel en aarde om hem uit de handen van de ontvoerders te bevrijden. Dit gaat niet zonder slag of stoot want Belknap komt voor erg moeilijke situaties te staan, die hij soms ternauwernood weet te overleven.

Tijdens zijn naspeuringen stuit Belknap op Andrea Bancroft, de nieuwe voorzitter van de Bancroft Stichting. En samen gaan ze op jacht naar Genesis, een onbekende 'macht' die de wereld in zijn macht wil hebben.

Het boek leest in feite als een film die, althans wat mij betreft, veel doet denken aan James Bond. Het boek blijft grotendeels boeien en naarmate het eind vordert wordt het ook sneller en verrassend. Een klein minpuntje vond ik de epiloog. Typisch Amerikaans.

Toch is De Bancroft Strategie een aanrader die zeker niet verveelt.

Sheri faulk says

When Todd Belknap--a legendary field agent for Consular Operations with a reputation as something of a cowboy-- is cut loose from the agency after an operation goes wrong, his best friend and fellow agent is abducted in Lebanon by a militia group with a vicious reputation. When the government refuses to either rescue him or negotiate for his release, Belknap decides to take matters into his own hands.

Meanwhile, hedge fund analyst Andrea Bancroft gets a surprising call--she is to receive an unexpected bequest of six million dollars from a cousin she never met. With one condition--she must agree to sit on the board of the Bancroft family foundation, a charitable organization that is run by the family patriarch, Paul Bancroft. Having never been involved with, or even met, the family--her mother was briefly married to a Bancroft and cut off all contact many years ago--Andrea is intrigued. But the foundation, which is dedicated to doing strategic good deeds, appears less and less benign the more deeply involved she gets. What exactly is their involvement with the "Genesis"--a mysterious group working to destabilize the geopolitical balance at the risk of millions of lives? As events escalate, Todd Belknap and Andrea Bancroft come together and must form an uneasy alliance if they are to uncover the truth behind "Genesis"-- before it is too late.

Ramakrishnan M says

Interesting. The book is supposed to be written by Robert Ludlum; the cover merely mentions "Robert Ludlum"... no "and XYZ"...or "inspired by Robert Ludlum" etc. Yet, when I do a simple google search, I discover that Ludlum apparently started this work, but did not finish it. The Ludlum estate found a "qualified author and editor" to complete the work.

Well what the hell...give the devil it's due. This is a pretty good "Ludlum" (irrespective of who really wrote each page). It has all the hallmarks of a Ludlum classic - a global conspiracy, a rogue agent, Consular Ops, a close friend turned foe (or is he ?), a rich and powerful group...in short, the works!!! The pace is really good; the action, the murders and the suspense keep the reader on his toes. A darn good entertainer.

The story revolves around 2 protagonists; the first is Todd Belknap - a rogue agent (written off, but not "beyond salvage" yet) part of the Consular Ops. His best friend has been abducted and the government refuses to do anything; so Todd must take things into his own hands and search the world around to reach his goal. The other character is Andrea Newton; she unexpectedly receives a huge sum of money bequeathed by her ancestors, and becomes a part of a wealthy and powerful family. She starts snooping into the so-called-philanthropic activities of the group and the shit starts to smell. As expected, the paths of the hero and heroine cross, and they need to save the world together....as I mentioned earlier, classical Ludlum material.

Highly recommended to anyone who loves a nice action thriller....more specifically a Ludlum thriller.

Patrick says

I found this an exciting, edge of the seat novel. I had no idea about who was Genesis to the very end. This

book was started by Robert Ludlum and finished by someone else after his death. I will say I could not tell by the quality of writing who was who. It was an enjoyable book.

Andrew says

Bancroft Strategy is a fairly typical Ludlum book. After having ready a few dozen of his books, I've become quite familiar with his formula...

Pros: Interesting twist on the battle of ideas as applied to geopolitics.

Cons: Typical Ludlum plot. If you've ready any of the Bourne books, you can probably skip this.

1) The hero is chased by his enemies. His own people think he has gone rogue and are also out for his blood. CHECK. (Bourne Identity anyone???)

2) A global conspiracy must be defeated. CHECK

3) The hero meets someone in the field, (a woman) who becomes his allie, confidant, and lover. CHECK

Let's face it, Bancroft Strategy isn't exactly "Crime and Punishment" and Ludlum isn't exactly Dostoyevsky. Still, here is what I liked about this book.

Pros: Did you study any philosophy, in particular ethics? If you did, you'll appreciate the fact that the book is just as much about the clash of philosophies as well as men with guns. Two of the antagonists in the book follow Utilitarianism of Mill (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utilitarianism>) and Deontologism (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deontology>) of Kant.

Skipping all of the philosophical babble, the characters battle over the question, "Do the ends justify the means?" especially in terms of solving geopolitical problems?

I've never seen ethics applied quite in this way and this becomes a novel idea.

Actually, this is a very important question that we must all ask ourselves because, it applies to our current events directly.

President Bush most likely lied through his teeth to the American people about WMDs, Saddam's connection to 9/11, etc... (even one of Bush's former aids said so. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/29/washington/29was.html>) But, I have no doubt that both he and the neocons who supported the invasion of Iraq said that the *ends* of protecting American national security justified the *means* of lying to the American people.

Ahem, please excuse my brief jaunt off on a tangent. But anyway, my point is that this is NOT just an abstract philosophical notion. It actually has a profound effect on American foreign policy as well as on our daily lives. Ludlum does a skillful job incorporating this battle of ideas into this novel.

Bill says

Everyone one else seemed to enjoy this thriller, so why not me? Ludlum was one of my favorites back in the day of spy and detective thrillers but I found myself saying, "No way, not possible, are you kidding me?" Everything started out just as I liked or expected, then the action sequences, the international trips, the tracking, the entry into high security offices, the escapes from multiple assailants all became too unbelievable.

James Bond I can understand the plot being a spoof. Same with Mission Impossible. However The Bancroft Strategy does not appear in that genre and the sequences of events and action just became too unbelievable.

Warwick says

OK, a bit far fetched, gets out of every impossible situation, but moves along well for a 700 page book.

Bat713 says

Same old Ludlum.

Trilby says

The 16 CDs in the audio version of this book kept me awake while driving all 1,200 miles from Pittsburgh to Grand Marais. For that, I thank Ludlum. However, I would never have finished this book in paper form. The muscle-bound, clever spy! the adolescent with the 150+ IQ! the slimy villains! the unspeakably beautiful and clever heiress! the romance! the treachery! the numerous international locales! Is there a cliche that Ludlum doesn't like? I enjoyed the Bourne series on film, but listening to hours and hours of (in Theater professor Frank Staroba's phrase)"dialogue that never happened or would happen" made me irritable.

Why does the hero always respond to everybody with a threat--most of them threats he could never carry out? Why doesn't he shut his pie hole for once? Why does the heroine always do stupid things, actions that are bound to get her into a jam that Threat Man will have to rescue her from?

The best part of the book was the ironic twist at the end. But it saddens me that I had to wade through 14 hours of this drivel to get there. Ah well, it's better than crashing the car. Or not.
