



L'Assassin: A Thriller

Peter Steiner

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"When political intrigue drove Louis Morgon from a successful career at the State Department, he moved to a cottage in France, far from Washington and what he called "the sordid world." He took up painting. He grew vegetables and flowers. He ate long, lovely meals on the terrace overlooking fields of sunflowers. He thought that he had found happiness." "Then one day Louis's past lands squarely on his doorstep. It does so in the shape of a dead man. His throat has been slit. He wears a cap with Liberte embroidered on it. Except for the local cop, Jean Renard, the police are strangely uninterested. This seems peculiar to Renard, but not to Louis. He knows who the murder is. He also knows that he is likely to be the next victim. And there is very little he or Renard or anyone else can do. Each clue they find raises more questions than it answers. Nothing is as it appears." "Louis's best hope is to turn the tables on his murderer. Instead of knowledge, he has only his intuition and his intelligence. Instead of power or influence, he has only his own past. Louis finds himself on a lonely and dangerous journey of self-discovery. He thought he was beyond surprises. But every turn of the road reveals new mysteries, and the resolution is a shock." A French Country Murder is a story of political intrigue, corruption, and jealousy. It is also a story of love and friendship and, of course, France.

L'Assassin: A Thriller Details

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Author : Peter Steiner

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From Reader Review *L'Assassin: A Thriller* for online ebook

Clay Stafford says

Today's Book of the Day comes from fellow University of Miami alum (had to plug it) Peter Steiner. Peter was first known to me as a cartoonist for *The New Yorker* for 25 years before he turned novelist. If you've read a copy of *The New Yorker*, you had to have seen his work.

"*L'Assassin*" is set in France and is the second novel in the Louis Morgon international thriller series. The first novel was fantastic. This one is even better. Are we so obsessed with terrorism, we frame an innocent man for personal revenge? This novel gives a plausible, "Yes."

It is a smart series. There is incredible plotting and a cast of unforgettable characters. Here are the elements: Ex-CIA officer, terrorist accusations, Osama bin Laden associate, a traitor to the U.S., mass manipulation, cat and mouse. I think you have the picture. I don't want to give too much away in case you want to read it. All is not as it seems, though. It starts as a simple burglary, but it is never simple, is it?

Reading this, you can tell that Steiner enjoys what he is doing and the fun transfers irresistibly across the page.

From the publisher:

"In this exceptional follow-up to the highly praised *Le Crime*, ex-spy Louis Morgon is in France living a quiet life of good food, good wine, and good friends. When his house is burglarized, he thinks nothing of it. But neither the burglar nor the motive for the burglary is as simple as it seems. And the consequences of the seemingly trivial break-in will lead Louis and his loved ones to the ends of the earth – and quite possibly to the ends of their lives."

L'Assassin on Killer Nashville
My Other Reviews on Killer Nashville

Deb says

Excellent

I've been looking for a book like this one. A book that holds a story I want to swallow all at once and taste slowly at the same time. Very few writers know how to cook up such a story. Here is one who has done so and serves it with the promise for seconds.

Dave says

Louis Morgon is an intriguing hero, a former CIA operative living in a small French village who really just wants to be left alone. Unfortunately, he once got crossways with Hugh Bowes, a former U.S. Secretary of

State who carries a grudge a long, long way.

What seems like a minor burglary at Morgon's country house turns out to be a scheme mounted by Bowes to make American anti-terrorists believe Morgon is allied with Osama bin-Laden. The suspense builds as Morgon uncovers the outlines of the plot in increasingly-frightening detail after detail.

While Morgon and his friend, local gendarme Jean Renard, unravel the diabolical plan, his lover Solesme Lefourier struggles with terminal cancer. Their poignant relationship serves as the perfect counterfoil to the nastiness coming his way from Washington, DC. It's a fast-paced novel of intrigue that reflects the dangers of our modern, terrorism-obsessed society.

Michel says

Wonderful in its evocation of rural France: 4-stars.

Weak as far as plot is concerned (too much suspension of disbelief is needed): 2-stars.

Whoever is as powerful as the villain in the story has a so many opportunities to settle scores (for instance simply hiring a hitman) that the convoluted way in which he coaxes governments to exact revenge (revenge for what, btw?) is, well, just too much.

Skip says

A former aging spy, run out of the service for unexplained reasons, is living quietly in France. His longtime girlfriend is dying of cancer when his nemesis, who has since become Secretary of State, tries to set him up for assassination as a terrorist. However, the tables are ultimately turned. First half of the book quite slow. Nice depictions of life in desolate, western France.

Margaret Dee says

This is a fascinating series which I highly recommend. You will never look at the news in the same way again.

Cynthia says

Not tightly plotted like an American thriller, but atmospheric and thoughtful, like the best new Euro mysteries such as Fred Vargas and Pierre Magnan. The author is also a painter, and it comes through in his descriptions. You feel like you're traveling to the south of France, the Brittany coast, Algeria, Washington DC. There are occasional sour notes where something doesn't feel or sound right but they're rare and brief. I found the plot believable and the characters seemed like real people to me, for the most part. Worth reading.

Ken Fredette says

I've read all the books by Peter Steiner in reverse order. It seems like the right thing even if it doesn't make the kidnappings in the correct sequence. I like all of his books even though "The Terrorist" should have been the last book. It's nice that a 67 year old is spry enough to do the things he has done.

Brenda Hawley says

Louis Morgan, retired from the CIA, lives in a small village in France and wants nothing to do with his past life, until a dead stranger shows up on his doorstep. Fraught with mystery, compassion and wit, this series continues Louis' fight with an old adversary through the next two novels, involving his estranged children in the USA as well as his friends in France. Well written and definitely worth the time to get acquainted with Peter Steiner.

Kay Churgel says

A light, interesting read. Mystery in France and the US. Intrigue and murder. I couldn't put it down for the last 5 chapters.

Jim says

L'Assassin: A Thriller (Louis Morgon #2) moves at a much faster pace than #1 [*Le Crime*]. *Le Crime* introduced Louis Morgon, his friends and enemies and lays a good foundation for what follows. I liked it well enough to give *L'Assassin* a chance and I'm glad I did. *L'Assassin* is almost all story and very little background. What background there is concerns Louis' time in the CIA. *Le Crime* casts Louis as a liason between the State Department and the CIA. *L'Assassin* hints at Louis doing fieldwork for the CIA. The story moves from Louis' home in St. Leon sur Deme to Algiers, Brittany, the USA, Canada and back to Brittany. Louis' old nemesis, Hugh Bowes, has set Louis up to appear as an important terrorist and sicced several anti-terrorist government agencies on him. I found Louis' escape from the United States pretty amusing and his final (?) meeting with Hugh Bowes, under the guns of the CIA and French authorities, was inventive to say the least. Give this pair a try.

Michael Martz says

With *L'Assassin*, Peter Steiner has penned a spy-vs.-spy novel of a different sort. The key players used to have a working relationship as parts of US intelligence, but they're now much older and they didn't necessarily part on good terms. That would be an understatement.

Louis Morgon is an ex-CIA field guy, old, long retired, and living as an ex-pat in a small village in France. In his past, he'd experienced a career-ending blow-out with (now ex-) Secretary of State Hugh Bowes. Bowes carries a grudge about it, to say the least, but Morgon doesn't realize the extent of the hatred until a

seemingly minor burglary occurs at his house in the village. The real cat & mouse occurs when the burglary is eventually seen as the beginning of an elaborate plot by the still-powerful Bowes to identify Morgon as a terrorist and an enemy of America.

L'Assassin is my first Steiner book and it's good enough to have made me into a big fan of his writing. His narrative has a real 'literary' feel to it, deftly painting pictures of Morgon, his family, his lover, acquaintances, the village, his travels, etc. The dialogue is very believable, especially in the passages where one or more characters is speaking in English when it's not their native language. It's a pleasure to read a thriller that takes its time (in under 300 pages) not only developing an interesting plot but also fleshing out characters that you come to care about. That's pretty good writing!

Kay says

Another fine French-set intrigue, and the motivations of the highly placed and totally evil guy is so chilling at the end of 2016. Louis Morgon is still paying for the past, for a deed he does not remember doing, and facing loss, too. The book made me think, made me reflect, and, yes, kept me turning the pages. Spy/counter-spy taken to Algeria, too, which I loved reading about!

Rune says

Second book about Louis Morgon, and we get to know the characters a lot better. The plot thickens, and even though a bit of it is far fetched in a contemporary crime novel, the story never falls apart - even though it involves the President of the United States.

marin says

what a nice break from novels about affairs! Louis Morgan, an ex-pat in France, is wrongfully accused of terrorist activity by his arch-nemesis. wished that the son and daughter weren't such stock characters and the ending hadn't taken on a completely different pace from the rest of the book. otherwise, a neat little thriller.
