



The Icarus Agenda

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Colorado Congressman Evan Kendrick is trying to live out his term quietly when a political mole reveals his deepest secret: Kendrick was the anonymous hero who freed the hostages held by Arab terrorists in the American embassy in Masqat, and then silently disappeared. Now, brought into the light, Kendrick is a target, pursued by the terrorists he once outwitted. Together with the beautiful woman who saved his life, Kendrick enters a deadly arena where the only currency is blood, where frightened whispers speak of violence yet to come, and where the fate of the free world may ultimately rest in the powerful hands of a mysterious figure known only as the Mahdi.

Praise for Robert Ludlum and *The Icarus Agenda*

“[Robert] Ludlum is light-years beyond his literary competition in piling plot twist upon plot twist, until the mesmerized reader is held captive. . . . Ludlum pulls out all the stops.”—*Chicago Tribune*

“[An] intricate story of conspiracies within conspiracies . . . Once you start reading you just can’t stop.”—*Library Journal*

“Readers will be hooked.”—*The New York Times*

The Icarus Agenda Details

Date : Published February 1st 1992 by Bantam (first published February 20th 1988)

ISBN : 9780553278002

Author : Robert Ludlum

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From Reader Review The Icarus Agenda for online ebook

Mark Speed says

So much for the suspension of disbelief. An unbelievable character in an unbelievable plot doing unbelievable things. I could only get through this novel by treating it as satire, and laughing with the author and publishers who conspired to make the critics believe it was a thriller.

Tahazen says

I lasted about 50 pages (approx. a tenth of book). Had to mercifully put it down. It's bad.

The writing is static, the characters are asinine (the protagonist is a Caucasian US Congressmen who 1. speaks a foreign language, 2. speaks Arabic fluently, and 3. represents a rural Colorado district -- because you know rural Colorado districts always elect junior politicians that are fluent in Arabic. And to top it off, the protagonist literally dons skin coloring to look like an Arab and then infiltrates the country of Oman -- ridiculous).

The characterization of the Arab World is appalling. The author tries to validate this by scattering transliterated Arabic words throughout the text showing that he did his homework but it's the same depicted Arab world that's been regurgitated time and time again: a backwards society, engulfed in religious fanaticism, the backdrop of oil and shady business sheikhs. blah blah blah.

Don't read this book.

Nick Lo says

My first Ludlum, which at 900+ pages, was a meaty start (in fact I read a few other books while reading this one). I was a little nervous there'd be a jingoistic undertone to the story but nope, there is a lot of exploration of all sides, particularly with regards to character development. Like a few other reviewers I was fairly ho-hum that the blue-eyed lead character, US Congressman Evan Kendrick, would've made a convincing Arab, but I ran with it and I'm glad I did. It became one of those books where as you get to the end the world has to just stop while you find out what happens next.

I'll be reading more Robert Ludlum...

Shaked says

Has to be one of the most idiotic books I've ever read.

It twists historic events, antisemitic at some points, the dialogues are not natural, the sotry line is not believable, it's not funny when it tries to be and fails to create even for a second.

I abondoned it the moment I got my hands on a different book.
This book is comparable to reality TV. It's THAT stupid.

David says

I haven't read all of Ludlum's output, only four (this, the Chancellor manuscript, Trevayne and The Road to Gandolpho). But of those I've read, this is my favourite. Interestingly, the only other one that I've read that he wrote under his own name (the Chancellor Manuscript) was also about Inver Brass, that shady organization of high-minded people who intervene when necessary to make the world right.

I read this some time ago (it was published in 1988) and the only thing I remember is that was incredibly fast-paced from the get-go - so fast in fact that it ruined other books for me, including those of Ludlum! I tried some of the others but I just couldn't get into them. They didn't have the pace of this one.

Carol says

maybe 4 & 1/2.

The first half left me wondering how well the author portrayed the Arab world, but it moved quickly. The last half was so intriguing and thought provoking that I couldn't put the book down, and it's a very long book! I kept stopping to discuss some of the ideas with my sounding board, my husband. It's disturbing to read that there could be a government within the government (so to speak) that causes us to pit ourselves against ourselves. So often we believe what we read in the news, or possibly WANT to believe, that we miss the disturbing manipulations of hidden people in control. I see our own government being manipulated by the rich and powerful and feel hopeless in any good resolution.

This was a very, very good read.

Deathbysexiness says

I read this for the first time over ten years ago. Its a quite dense tome, and my copy had very tiny type-script lettering but I remember thinking that R.L. must be really smart to have written something like this, I was so impressed by his depth of imagination and flair for the dramatic (what can I say, I was 13). Now years later, I'm still impressed, by his flamboyance and blatant over-the-top hero!

I keep returning to this book every couple of years, and its like its new again..and I can't help but cast the characters I think should play it because it reads like a movie - albeit an old, Hollywood, CIA-Espionage movie.

Sophie says

I keep forgetting that I need to concentrate if I'm planning to read a book by Robert Ludlum. Seem to spend half my time confused about what is going on.

Enjoyable book in 2 halves - 1st half concentrates on a crisis in the Middle East and then the 2nd on the repercussions when the hero returns home and is catapulted to the top of political life.

Brian says

This novel is frustrating, insubstantial and very very improbable. A caucasian US Congressman dons dark makeup to pass for an Arab, infiltrates a terrorist organization in Oman, convinces them he is a fellow terrorist, and somehow foils their plot. All this despite his obvious non-native accent which isn't even mentioned by Robert Ludlum. He then keeps the entire caper a secret until one covert agent recognizes him from a photograph.

The only interesting plot involves a secret star chamber-like organization scheming to select the next US President. Once again logic holds no sway in this universe because the secret organization is apparently risking their lives and reputations for entirely altruistic reasons, with no personal benefit expected or desired from the new administration.

Please stay away unless you enjoy smacking your forehead with the palm of your hand every 20 pages.

Michael Kubat says

Good writing (of course, it's Ludlum). But... Amazingly convoluted plot, and so loo-o-ong. By the time I reached page 400, I was crawling on the floor from sheer exhaustion, checking every 30 minutes how many pages I still have to battle through. (The total in this edition is 678.) More than once, I considered dropping the book, but that would probably have put a hole in the floor (just kidding). By the time I finished, I was seeing double and my tongue was hanging out of my mouth.

Not that it's not a good story with a credible plot and totally believable characters. But it should really be two separate books.

Tom says

12/23/09 This looks like my next read. Mom got me an autographed copy a number of years ago -- well before I appreciated the value of reading. I'll let you know what I find.

12/26 I wouldn't have recognized the names of most of the places in this book 30 years ago, when it was written, but with the new world order, I'm becoming too sadly familiar with terrorism and its locales. Even 20 years later, terrorism hasn't changed much!

1/11 This is a long book! I hope to finish by the end of January! Good though!

1/27 Finished! Awesome read. Great story about international terrorism that is even more relevant today than it was 30 years ago. This has the suspense that you'd expect in current mystery thrillers and perhaps even more depth. I definitely would recommend this one.

Frederick Tan says

Good read.

Kip says

Airplane fodder...

Ludlum writes great thrillers. Picked up this oldie but goodie on the cheap at a yard sale or something.

As I was reading this I thought, "Hmmm, this could make a good movie. Maybe two movies given the depth." When I finished it I looked around to see if there was a sequel. Imagine the representative from Colorado as the president... What I found was the prequel, currently in production as a movie! Leo DiCaprio as the lead. Ugh.

A little dated by today's standards in terms of technology and communications, but well-written and fast-paced. Kept me up well into the night after my plane trip :)

* Couldn't finish

** I had nothing else to do

*** Passed the time, would be **** for genre / author fans

**** Everyone could enjoy this book

***** Everyone should read this book, I'll read it again

Marc Diepstraten says

I'm re-reading Ludlum. He's often copied, borrowed from, outright stolen from, but nobody comes close. He crams more ideas in one book, than any other writer out there. Story unbelievable? Who cares! It is a fun, well written wild ride of a book, and at 770+ pages over all too soon. Nobody does (did) it better. Highly recommended.

Bev Taylor says

the past's brutal vengeance

kendrick sold his business that had made millions in the middle east after an enemy, known only by name, destroyed one of his buildings and withing it over 70 of his employees and their children whom he considered his family

remaining anonymous, with the knowledge of the american govt. but no recognition, he returned to masqat, living and befriending the locals and eventually helped free the hostages being held in the american embassy

by arab terrorists. his last act was to have killed the man responsible for his 'family's' killings
fast forward and he is now a congressman but with no intention to stay one. however an undercover group
have other ideas and he finds that his past is being manipulated into the limelight

tgis has devastating effect on those he knows and is close to and also opens a way for him to correct the
corruption being caused bu greedy people and arms dealers. blood is the name of the game

great characterisation - u will love manny! - and obviously a lot of research has been carried out in the
making of this novel

book one i fund my attention drifting as there were so many characters and it was not clear who was whom
and on what side

book two i found dragged and i was surprised on 2 points - i would have thought the computer was the
obvious place to look especially as it could be hacked. also nobody seemed to have mobile phones

strange use of punctuation marks - usually describing the activities kendrick was in. almost childish - think
of enid blyton!

bev
