



## The Assassin

*Andrew Britton*

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## **The Assassin** Andrew Britton **New York Times Bestseller**

A weapon of catastrophic destruction. A nation on the brink of unspeakable disaster. And the ultimate enemy lies closer to home than anyone realizes.

Only maverick CIA agent Ryan Kealey sees the threat for what it really is--but Washington refused to listen. With the lives of millions at stake, Kealey has only one option: to take matters into his own hands. And the clock is ticking. . .

Supercharged and fiercely intelligent, *The Assassin* is an action-packed international thriller where no one can be trusted--and the final aftershocks are felt until the very last page.

### **Praise For Andrew Britton's The American**

"Brilliantly well-written with plotting sharper than a fence full of razor wire, a sizzling page-turner. . .even Washington insiders will be reading this thriller not once, but twice!" --Brad Thor, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Blowback* and *Takedown*

"A terrifying and gripping journey into the mind of a terrorist." --Stephen Frey, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Chairman*

"Like Tom Clancy. . .a thriller that makes current terrorist threats all too real. . .highly recommended."  
--*Library Journal* (starred review)

### **The Assassin Details**

Date : Published (first published March 1st 2007)

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Author : Andrew Britton

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## From Reader Review The Assassin for online ebook

### **Dave Nichols says**

Kept your interest and kept you guessing throughout.

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### **Joe O'Connor says**

Excellent; Continuing character: Ryan Kealey; an old enemy is working with one Middle East country to drive strife in another, with the master plan being a terrorist attack in America; Kealey and others work to catch their trail and stop it, bending or breaking rules along the way

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### **Henri Moreaux says**

Assassin by Andrew Britton is larger than your average thriller weighing in at 623 pages in the Michael Joseph/Penguin Books trade paperback edition.

Despite the seemingly large length once the story gets going it's a quick read, unfortunately, it's the start which leaves you wondering whether to continue reading or cut your losses and toss the book.

After about 150-200 pages the story ratchets up, you become more familiar with the cast of characters in your head and things start flowing, good action, well place scene cuts etc.

If the start was better it'd be a 5/5 but it's let down badly by its poor opening.

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### **Hans says**

2.5 stars. [And lots of spoilers.]

The character arcs become a little more apparent as they build from the first novel. Not bad follow-up, but I would have saved the main bad guy for book 3. But once Vanderveen was in the story, it was good that he was out by the end of the book. It was getting nearly to the point of one-too-many escapes that just couldn't be justified when our Big Bad has such depth and breadth in his evil training.

Being picky, I found the gag with the chapter headings mentioning the location to be a bit of a bother when the chapter break occurred mid-scene\* and also when the location didn't change for numerous chapters.

Not sure what to think about the surprises in the twist ending, but as a reading completist, I'll pick up the next book to find out what happens. It seemed like our lady assassin should have gone after Harper much sooner after the aftermath of the failed bomb in NYC\*\*. Not sure why she didn't simply go take care of the unfinished business the next day or even week, because I think that was supposed to be at least a month later. Oh yeah, and the secret daughter of Saddam Hussein who is pregnant with the conceived-in-violent-sex child

of the dead assassin...all that really should drop the book to 2 stars. Guess I'm feeling generous.

\*straight from the James Patterson school of novel writing.

\*\*I checked the spoilers box for a reason!

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### **Joshua Walcher says**

I liked this one better than the first one. So there's that. 8.5/10.

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### **Timtracy Seguinjohnston says**

It's really unfortunate that the author died after writing only 3 books. The stories were ripped out of the news headlines, were very well written, real page turners.

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### **Felix says**

I loved this better than his debut. The cat & mouse play between Kealey and Vanderveen is very entertaining. The ending was great!

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### **Linda Root says**

Good, but not as good as the first, third or fourth. The first book draws us into Kealey's personality. The second, with another female love interest, perhaps came too soon after the first one, and having villain Vanderveen targeting another female close to Ryan Kealey loses its punch. If there had been an intervening book, this one might have had more of an impact. Also, it reflects negatively on readers that the female baddie plays so small a part--nevertheless, her history as presented in book 2 (this one) rankles readers who may have read the books out of order, in that it is entirely different than the history of that creeps up in the recent book in which she is a very major player. A reader who followed the chronology might not have noticed, but I just finished The Operative, so the oversight was glaring. Overall I do like the series and will read the current WIP, but it will not be first on my list.

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### **Samuel says**

DEAD IN A NEW YORK MINUTE.

“There will be killing till the score is paid.”- Homer.

Interestingly enough, one of the antagonists in this book who is a real life person was killed in Syria this year by a air strike. However, in the appropriately titled "The Assassin", he dies a whole lot sooner by Ryan

Kealey's Beretta 92FS. The second counter-terrorist thriller written by Andrew Britton, "The Assassin" is superior in almost every way to its predecessor, rectifying several problems and marks the beginning where the Mitch Rapp deconstruction really came into play. Now to the review, How much would it cost you to get a second shot at the target which got away?

The novel begins in Baghdad. Similar to the previous book, there's a assassination. Only this time it involves the controlled demolition of a hotel Iraq's now former Prime Minister is visiting. The ensuing blast nearly flattens him, wipes out his security detail, but he barely survives. Meanwhile, in Syria, the remnants of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship are consolidating themselves and decide to make a gesture which will destroy the credibility of the Iraq government and America. In London at the American Embassy, an analyst comes across a photograph of a high value target she was involved in tracking down. And in Iraq, Ryan Kealey, plying his trade as a Special Activities Division officer botches what was supposed to be a problem free attempt at gathering intel. All these threads come together in a whirlwind of destruction, betrayal, crushed dreams and psychological degeneration.

In terms of plot, Britton learned from the limitations of the previous book and as a result, The Assassin has a larger scope than the previous book. From the seething low intensity warzone that is pre-Daesh Iraq to an investigation which takes the main characters across Europe, the novel sets up one of the better climaxes I have seen in the counter-terrorist genre, a chess match across New York, with Kealey and his adversary playing chess with the lives of their allies. Next, the research continues to be a highlight, with Mr Britton managing to integrate it into the narrative much more seamlessly than the previous book. From the banking tricks used in modern terrorism, to the tactics, ambushes and accurately described kit used by both heroes and villains, The Assassin strikes the balance between Clancy's insider depth, and Flynn's relevant broad strokes approach.

Now, characters, and there are a lot more stand-outs in this book. First Ryan Kealey, who finally embraces his role as the deconstruction of Mitch Rapp. At the beginning of the book, he's in a bad way mentally. It gets worse. When he tries to do the cowboy antics, unlike Rapp, he doesn't get off easily. Friends abandon him, enemies within the American government take shameless advantage of the collateral damage that ensures and near the end of the book he's almost completely cut off, with only a single ally and a Beretta for company. During the course of the novel, he once again falls victim to the idea that he can escape his profession. That light gets ruthlessly snuffed out, with him helpless and forced to watch.

Next, we have Naomi, Kealey's analyst associate from the previous book. A bit more savvy than in the previous book, she manages to keep up with the damaged Special Activities Division officer quite well. However, she gets sucked into the tragedy Kealey suffers throughout the series and does not leave the book intact, far from it.

Next, we have John Harper, Kealey's affable, smooth-talking "friend" and superior. He's fighting a political battle to the death with the second in command of the CIA, and is forced to take a massive gamble with supporting Kealey as his enemy sets her sights on him.

Speaking of Harper's political enemy, she also makes the cut. Her name is Rachel Ford, and she brings the SIGNIT HUMNIT conflict that intelligence agencies faced in the last decade to the forefront. Contemptuous of HUMNIT and killers like Kealey, she gets drawn into an obsessive quest to bring it all down...at the wrong moment.

Finally, we have Yasmin Ransin, a secondary antagonist. While she's evil, she's also a damn good female antagonist, one of the few who have featured in the counter-terrorist genre. Badass, and with the cunning of a viper, she's just as capable as her partner in crime and damn near steals the show from him, till she's forced to flee from British law enforcement and disappear.

Now, I consider The Assassin the best of the Ryan Kealey books. However, there are two things I really don't

like. The characterization of the female characters apart from Mrs Ransin. It seems that they're either, arrogant, unpleasant and petty in their interactions with the main characters before Mr Kealey humbles them around to his way of thinking. Secondly, there's a token romance in this book that's not well developed. While plot relevant as it's another catalyst for Mr Kealey's descent into his hell on earth, it's not well developed or realistically portrayed. I've seen better. Hell, Vice Flynn took the time to develop the love affair between Mitch Rapp and his wife Ann over six books. The romance here on the other hand is badly executed.

Apart from those problems however, I recommend "The Assassin" very much. Ryan Kealey slips into the role of the anti-Mitch Rapp, forced to suffer the consequences of his cowboy actions and endure the destruction of his hopes and dreams. It makes him a more rounded and fascinating character psychologically than Mr Rapp and pity him as he falls further into the darkness. Combined with a supporting cast whom do their jobs well, a plot which balances all the elements perfectly and another decent well researched narrative, "The Assassin", is an excellent counter-terrorist thriller that you will enjoy.

VERY RECOMMENDED.

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### **Alisha Kennedy says**

Usually not a fan of this type of stories or movies, especially since I am not familiar with weapons (which is referred to a lot in this book); but I fell into the story hard and found I couldn't put it down.

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### **Steve says**

book on tape.

It was OK but not my favorite espionage/thriller/ CIA story.

I agree with some reviewers who said that this story contained one too many escapes.

Sorry to hear the author died at such a young age. RIP

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### **Seth Kaplan says**

Read the first in the series a long time ago. This would did not grab me nearly as much as the first. Perhaps it's because it is based so much on current events that are not quite so current anymore. Perhaps it's because of the overreliance on technical detail that seems unnecessary especially in the first half of the book, which moves extremely slowly. Perhaps it's because of the many errors in details, such as the description of using I95 to get from the Canadian border through upstate NY (last I checked, that was I90, not I95). The final 150 pages do move quickly and are quite enjoyable. I'll keep reading if only for the fact that the subsequent manuscripts are published posthumously after Britton's unfortunate early death at the too young age of 27. This certainly provides an interesting perspective on how the later manuscripts may have been updated to continue to keep up with current events.

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## **Jenny says**

The Assassin is book two of the Ryan Kealey Series by Andrew Britton. Ryan Kealey was called back to Washington DC because William Paulin Vanderveen who killed his fiance is still alive. With the help of Naomi Kharmai, Ryan Kealey started to track down William Paulin Vanderveen. The readers of the Assassin will go on a rollercoaster ride trying to keep up with Ryan Kealey and Naomi Kharmai and will start to wonder if they will fall in love.

Andrew Britton is brilliant thriller writer and it's sad that he died so young. The Assassin is the second book I have read in this series, and it did not disappoint. I was glued to my chair from the first page of the Assassin. I like the way Andrew Britton portrays his characters and allows them to have faults. Also, I like the way Andrew Britton entwines his characters and plots.

Readers of The Assassin will learn about working as an agent for the CIA. Also, about the problems and issues that Law enforcement have with each other in the USA. The way Andrew Britton describes the cities and countries that his characters visit ensures that his readers feel they are visiting the areas as well.

I recommend this book.

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## **Joe says**

The United Nations is slated to be ground zero for the next major terrorist attempt on American soil. Or is it? There is conflicting intelligence coming from an Iranian FBI source that does not coincide with the information gathered by Special Forces in Iraq, and beneath the surface is a cunning enemy that was presumed dead. For Ryan Kealey, the threat is not confined to a faceless enemy abroad. Someone in his own agency wants him put out of action.

For me the plot hovered between a 3.5 and a 4. After the adrenaline of The American I picked up the second book fully prepared to get back on a roller coaster. Alas, you have to slog through several chapters of careful planning to start getting into the meat of the plot. It's not enough to discourage you from finishing, but it comes dangerously close.

If you've read Tom Clancy, you'll be disappointed with the deception and denial element. It's not fully developed, but then, after a thousand pages Clancy had better fully develop the damn thing, right? Britton does not deliver the massive tomes Clancy did, but he succeeds at weaving an intricate plot just tight enough to make you want to turn one page, then another, and son of a gun before you know it you're ascending to the climax that makes your time investment worth it.

Yes, you must read The American to fully appreciate this second installment. If you read them out of sequence, the characters run the risk of feeling flat and two-dimensional. I think Britton struggled with this one, but as most Britton readers can attest, the author is sufficiently good to keep you coming back for one more round.

Again, the Ryan Kealey series is a natural fit for anyone who enjoyed reading Mitch Rapp's adventures.

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Maybe, just maybe, this series is a little better.

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### **Denise says**

It's been a year since Ryan Kealey was instrumental in stopping a major terror attack on US soil and lost his fiancée as a result. Now he's back in the field, though considered damaged goods, with his at times ruthless and reckless behaviour raising eyebrows back home. When he comes across evidence that not only is his nemesis William Vanderveen still alive, he might also be planning a major attack in New York (to be conveniently blamed on the Iranians), nothing can keep Kealey from going after him, employing extreme measures if necessary. Back in Washington, he finds himself once again partnered with Naomi Kharmai, who discovered some more pieces of the puzzle in her new job in London. Their mission is hindered, however, by someone close to the investigation apparently leaking information to Vanderveen, keeping him one step ahead of Kealey and Kharmai as they chase him across the globe.

Another entertaining, action-packed read, though just like the first one occasionally too predictable and involving a great many lucky escapes. I'm not a fan of the romantic development, though at least Naomi has become a little less useless and annoying in this one.

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