



The Wolf of Sarajevo

Matthew Palmer

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A riveting novel of international suspense from acclaimed author and veteran diplomat Matthew Palmer.

Twenty years after the Srebrenica massacre that claimed the life of his friend and colleague, Eric Petrosian is back in Sarajevo at the American embassy, and the specter of war once again hangs over the Balkans. The Bosnian Serb leader, who had for a time been seeking a stable peace, has turned back to his nationalist roots and is threatening to pull Bosnia apart in a bloody struggle for control . . . and behind him is a shadowy mafia figure pulling the strings. As Eric is dragged deeper into the political maelstrom and uncovers a plot of blackmail and ruthless ambitions, Eric is faced with an impossible choice: use the information he's uncovered to achieve atonement for the past or use it to shape the future.

The Wolf of Sarajevo Details

Date : Published May 24th 2016 by G.P. Putnam's Sons

ISBN : 9780399175015

Author : Matthew Palmer

Format : Hardcover 400 pages

Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Suspense, Historical, Historical Fiction, Mystery Thriller, Adult, Mystery, Crime

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From Reader Review The Wolf of Sarajevo for online ebook

Randi says

In order to be great, an historical novel needs (1) robust history and (2) a compelling narrative that are (3) woven together in a way that 1 moves 2 forward. Otherwise you end up feeling like there are history lessons just inserted into the story. This book was outstanding with 1 and OK with 2, but fell very far short with 3

Bettie? says

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/31/boo...>

Penny Margaret says

Super fun vacation read. Just wish the publisher had included some kind of map. But my husband and I loved it!

Christine Zibas says

Excellent, this former Foreign Service Officer can write, and make something as complex as the Balkans manageable for the reader, a feat in and of itself. I also recommend his other books.

Shelley Fearn says

Having served in a diplomatic post in Belgrade during the Bosnian War, Palmer is well suited to pen this espionage novel set in current day Bosnia.

Protagonist Eric Petrosian worked as a journalist in the during the Bosnian War (1992-1995). Now he's working for the State Department in Sarajevo. Assisting the European Union in a plan to head off a resurgence of conflict in the region, Petrosian is on the hunt for the shadowy mafia figure who is forcing a right-wing leader away from the proposed initiative. With insight into the region's ethnic cleansing, the paramilitary forces in the region, and the region's political machinations, Palmer has written a thriller that some might find more interesting than exciting. Recommended for fans of Alan Furst.

Sam Soule says

Picked this up on a lark and I'm glad I did. Totally solid political thriller that doesn't spend much time on

being "thrilling" (thankfully) that provides loads of historical context for one of the bloodiest conflicts in history. The story, set in present day Balkans, is very much a "spy story", though the MC is a diplomat. Best of all, it feels real, and given the credentials of the author, it should. So much in this genre comes off as juvenile bang-bang. *The Wolf of Sarajevo* is serious stuff.

Amra Pajalic says

Matthew Palmer uses his experience as a US Foreign Service veteran to create a taut and suspenseful thriller. In the *Wolf of Sarajevo* the Balkans are once again on the brink of war and Eric Petrosian, a diplomat based in the American embassy of Sarajevo is trying to avert the slide into another war against the backdrop of the Srebrenica massacre. The suspense was well constructed with Eric struggling to discover who he can trust as he works to support peace talks that are Bosnia's saviour.

My favourite parts of the book were multiple flashbacks that depicted the history of the Balkans, the story of two Serb cousins who were prisoners in Jasenovac concentration camp in 1942, imprisoned by Croatian Fascists Ustashe, and Mostar 1566 the night before the famous bridge is to be opened to the public, Sarajevo 1914 and the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand that started the war and many others.

The Wolf of Sarajevo is an engrossing thriller, while also being a multi-layered story giving an insight into the history of the region, and more importantly its current state of unrest.

Lisa C. says

Not as good as I was hoping, but that could be because I found it difficult to understand the political relationships and conflicts among the characters. And, well, it just wasn't as interesting as I thought it would be.

Ray Palen says

It is evident early in Matthew Palmer's politically charged thriller *THE WOLF OF SARAJEVO* that he understands his subject matter. As a veteran diplomat, Palmer is able to place readers directly in the middle of Sarajevo and an explosive situation that harkens back to the Srebrenica massacre that occurred twenty years prior.

Eric Petrosian is at the American embassy in Sarajevo as the threat of war once again places its' shadow over the Balkan region. What is uncovered is a plot between Bosnian Serbs and a ruthless mafia crime-lord.

Lee Parker says

I received a copy of this for free through Goodreads First Reads.

Very well written spy thriller. I really enjoyed this and I dont generally like thrillers that take place in a

different country as I dont understand the nuances. But with this you can tell the author did a great job of making everything flow and understandable. I would definately recommend this book to anyone who likes the genre.

Nathan says

Thanks to the publisher for an early release of this book! It was a decent fictional suspense novel woven around the history and fall out from the Srebrenica massacre and the conflict in the Balkans. It is particularly dense in the way of detail regarding what was once Yugoslavia, but Palmer does a decent job of pacing it well with story. The characters were a little flat, idealistic Dept of State/UN people at their most stereotypical, but the story clips along enough to keep it interesting.

A good beach read, especially if you have and/or want something of a 101 history of the Balkan conflict.

Doug Norton says

In prose that strikes as powerfully as a sniper's bullet and in granular detail that reminds us that Palmer isn't only imagining, he's remembering, *The Wolf of Sarajevo* races through the twisting, booby-trapped pathways of ethnic conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. The reader is immediately made a spectator to genocide. Within ten pages the book's opening epigrams have been transformed from detached observations into self-appointed executioners and victims whose still-warm bodies disappear beneath cascades of bulldozed earth.

The plot propels readers like a Formula One engine at full throttle. As its threads twist and entangle, only to separate and rejoin, Palmer treats us to memorable characters, suspense, and surprises. Occasionally he turns aside to comment deftly on the craft of diplomacy and its uneasy partnership with espionage and on the foibles of various nationalities, including his own. This is a novel with attitude, both the characters' and the author's.

Palmer's characters are memorable and they range from inspiring to entertaining to chilling. A CIA covert ops team is a merry band of thugs, whose leader is more Butch Cassidy than Mitch Rapp. But there's a Bosnian Serb sniper who is as devoted to the art of killing as some are devoted to God or their children. For him, killing from a distance is an act of worship. "Wolf" delivers the righteous-feeling use of violence and the smack-downs of bad guys by good guys that are part of the attraction of a good thriller, while also reminding readers of the actual genocides of the past century and this one. Preventing yet another genocide is the quest of the hero, Foreign Service Officer Eric Petrosian and this is clearly more than a plot device to the author, Foreign Service Officer Matthew Palmer.

As in his other books, Palmer keeps us in the gray area where much of diplomacy and, indeed, life operate. There are few situations where good and bad are separated by a straight, bright line. Petrosian and his co-protagonist, CIA field officer Sarah Gold, are keenly aware that both the state department and the CIA want foreign policy rewards without risk and that's not possible in the Balkans. They appreciate the irony that individual acts of decency may in some cases undermine the greater good. They butt heads when their differing views of morality and law collide.

I enjoyed this book so much that I raced through it and then immediately read it again, savoring the complexity of the plot and the power of the author's descriptions of settings and people. When I finished I had collected gems overlooked in my sprint. One example: Searching for clues, Petrosian tracks down a Serbian Orthodox priest, in youth a political firebrand, now a quiet keeper of souls and bees. He finds the priest near "an apple tree that was too old to produce fruit but that could still make good shade." Only at second reading did I appreciate that this phrase is not only an evocative setting of scene, it's also a metaphor for the priest's life journey.

Thrillers don't come any better!

Kate says

As often happens with fiction it brings to life the realities of history. This is a story where an American who was once a journalist in the Balkans who has moved professionally over to the foreign service. The Balkans are showing signs that the weaknesses in the Dayton accords are causing enough rifts to lead the RS back to a war setting that is likely to be as bloody and violent as the war that brought America in to force peace talks in the past.

It also involves a CIA officer who was once his lover and a UN negotiator who is trying to bring these desperate groups together to make changes to the Dayton Accords that would allow they parties to resolve some of the differences that would relieve the building pressure before the Serbs trigger a conflict.

While totally fictional it covers the emotions and feelings of grievance that have defined the long history in the Balkans where Serbs and Croats and Muslim have held onto past injustices real and imagined over their long subjugation of many occupying forces over centuries. To say more would give away too much of the plot. Well crafted and engrossing.

Jennifer says

Matthew Palmer's newest release, The Wolf of Sarajevo, is a complex mix of history and international suspense fantastically written to keep the reader actively engaged and yet not bore those, like myself, who already know the history behind the Srebrenica massacre. The Wolf of Sarajevo takes place twenty years after the massacre where the reader is introduced to Eric Petrosian, who finds himself once again stationed in Sarajevo, at the American Embassy, in an unstable Balkans, where stability is hanging by a thread. As Eric works to uncover why the Bosnian Serb leader is suddenly changing his stance of peace, as well as ascertaining who the the main players are behind the political scenes, the more knowledge he collects, the more dangerous his situation becomes and he is forced to make a pivotal choice, personally and professionally. I have mentioned before, being a political scientist, I find Palmer's works to be exceptional and on the mark. His writing is solid, the suspense is palpable, and I find myself unable to put down the book. I truly hope people are not put off by the deep historical backgrounds given in Palmer's works, they are essential and it is history, I admit, a favorite subject of mine. I thoroughly enjoyed The Wolf of Sarajevo, and once again find myself once again eagerly waiting for Palmer's next book. I would not hesitate to recommend his books to anyone who enjoys a very well thought out book of international suspense.

Viviane Crystal says

Few people remember the horrific Srebrenica massacre but the aftermath of that tragedy continues to haunt an unending conflict among Serbs, Croatians and Bosnians. Eric Petrosian lost a good friend, Meho Alimerovic, in that war and now he's back on a mission to find out what the Bosnian leader is up to twenty years after Srebrenica. Eric is serving at the American Embassy in the Balkans. He has heard that the Bosnian Serb leader, who had sworn to live and influence his country toward peace, is now back to his old violent acts. Another war is looming, a continuation of hundreds of years of ethnic hatred.

Why is Zoran Dimitrovic turning to activities that will build and eventually explode in more war and ethnic cleansing? It turns out that another Mafia connected leader, Marko Barcelona, interested in only money and power, has some evidence that could turn Zoran Dimitrovic from a leader into a prisoner before a war tribunal trial.

Eric is approached by a former lover and now EUO diplomat, Annika Sondergaard, who knows that Eric has connections and in-roads that she can never hope to match. She begs him to become involved in finding out the reason for Dimitrovic's change of heart.

The rest of the story is a historical thriller that probes the history of this conflict and an international thriller as Eric and Annika get closer and closer to the truth of the matter which just might put a halt on more pain and historical tragedy. For every decent act of these two investigators are other rabid characters who love to kill, who love the hunt for the sake of the violence, and those who love to enter the fray to increase the already simmering tensions waiting for the spark that will inflame the area into new civil war.

Matthew Palmer has his finger on the pulse of Balkan history and a keen understanding of the major personalities literally creating history in this part of Eastern Europe. The reader has to pay close attention, however, to keep pace with all the different names and which group each belongs to. Succeeding in that endeavor, the reader will enjoy this fast-paced, somewhat stereotypical, but all too real battle for the future of this part of the world. Very good historical fiction for sure!
