

Silver

Steven Savile

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Silver Steven Savile Book by Steven Savile

Silver Details

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From Reader Review Silver for online ebook

Bryan Schmidt says

In fairness, the author has talent. This just is not his best work. It is early work. And it shows. Character development is weak, with plot taking focus. And as a result, there's no one I know well enough to care about beyond the fact they are fighting on the side of justice against evil doers. The religious backstory was a bit silly and underdeveloped to me, and I thought the story felt rushed to an unsatisfying cliffhanger. Perhaps since it has sequels, the ending is intentional but I found it a disappointment. Also, the book is dated. In post 9/11 early days, it might have seemed fresh and intriguing but now it just feels cliche, like the by the numbers terrorist thriller such an event might inspire. Forgettable but do not miss PARALLEL LINES which is a brilliant thriller he wrote a decade later.

Monnie says

Flash back to the death of Judas Iscariot, the man who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Or did he? In a book that seems to channel Dan Brown (not quite as expertly, but close enough for horseshoes), the "fact" that he was a traitor is brought into question. The theory that he really did it as a "favor" to his friend Jesus -- without whose death on the cross there could be no resurrection and no Christian Messiah -- is far from a new concept. But the author makes it sound quite plausible, weaving a thrilling tale that for the most part kept me turning the pages.

The silver coins, it seems, were melted down and forged to become a dagger by the grandsons of Judas in a fortress in Masada, which was lost in 73 A.D. along with the "truth" about Judas's actions on that fateful night. Back to the future -- now -- 13 people burn themselves alive on the same day in 13 different cities throughout Europe. Their message? As in Biblical days, there will be 40 days and 40 nights of terror -- a message that's followed up by unexplained acts of terrorism against masses of people.

As details unfold, it becomes clear that the Pope is the intended victim; his death is sure to topple the entire Catholic Church, which of course has long denied the notion that Judas might have been a hero. A team of combat specialists known as Ogmios (who in true combat specialist tradition don't really exist and therefore have no official jurisdiction or protection should they find themselves in trouble), take on the task of stopping the worst from happening.

The book held my attention thoroughly until toward the end as the author began to wrap things up. Suddenly, everything started moving much too quickly, and -- maybe as a result -- too many of the situations seemed to stretch the imagination beyond its limits (although I suppose the argument could be made that if you buy into the plausibility that Judas wasn't a traitor, you won't have trouble accepting much else).

A villain who's described as morbidly obese and barely able to turn his head, for instance, doesn't seem one who would have his home office on an upper floor -- especially since he's filthy rich and certainly could afford to remodel a downstairs room. And what's the likelihood that the heroine who sets out to do him in just happens to wear the exact same size clothing as his dead wife? Then there's the issue of those 30 pieces of silver: Long ago and far away, they were forged into a dagger. So how, then (SPOILER ALERT!!), did they once again become silver coins (another resurrection, perhaps)? C'mon, gimme a break!

Despite a bit of a shaky ending, though, I enjoyed this book. According to the author's notes, the sequel -- *Gold* -- was to follow in 2011. As of this writing, it was to be released early this year, but so far I've not seen or heard anything about it. When and if it does, I'll give it a try.

Welzen says

Un libro que me ha gustado mucho, algo que me ha sorprendido bastante.

Alex says

There is tension, and there is action. The characters are credible enough. The storyline is gripping. But it fails to get more than 3 stars from me, because it's too violent, and especially the heroes are (you expect it from the villains). I'm also not a friend of open endings. This book stops in the middle of the story. The whole religious theme didn't really get to me, either.

All in all, worth reading. I have to say, i expected a different book. I usually read fantasy, and this is an espionage thriller. Misson Impossible all the way.

Ginger Nuts says

With Silver, we welcome another author into the world where Dan Brown and James Rollins are seen to rule as Kings. They had better watch out, if they don't pick up their gamer they are about to be dethroned.

The story concerns the true story of Judas and what became of the 30 pieces of silver. Starting with the simultaneous death of 13 martyrs across the world. The Ogmios team are thrown into a race to discover the truth behind these deaths. What follows is an extremely well paced, well written story, that manages to build a detailed world where all the main characters are well fleshed out. One main problems of this type of novel is the information dump. Sometimes you think enough already, not once did this feeling arise when reading Silver. The story and the conspiracy are revealed with deft hand, never once sacrificing the story telling for the sake of a reveal.

The story of a conspiracy to hide the truth as old as Christianity may seem like familiar ground. Yet Steven has produced a novel that is infinity more gratifying and well written than anything Mr Brown and Rollins have given us. There are no one dimensional characters, who can do no wrong. The heroes of this book make mistakes and have to live with the consequences. With other novels of this type you rarely get any feeling that any of the characters are in any danger at all, they sometimes seem more bullet proof than the A Team. Not here Savile has managed to portray the tension and sense of danger faced by the operatives, so much so that sometimes you think they are done for.

There is not much more that can be said about the story itself as it would give too much away, safe to say the ending will leave you shocked and hungry for the sequel. There are spies, secret meetings, action, gun play, mad crazy zealots, and almost every other staple of this genre, with every one of them handled so well they come across as a fresh new idea. Too many of these books have a strong American fell to them, even when written by a Brit. There is a strong sense of classic British espionage novels running throughout this novel,

which is a credit to Savile's writing skills.

If you enjoy this type of novel, then you need to go and read this, it really is one of the best.

pufford says

Really liked this, until about 20 pages from the end... I may well be missing something, but the grand finale is not there! The writing is good, the characters interesting, and the Dan Brown-esque religio-terrorism plot fun is well handled and not riddled with errors (I'm looking at you, Mr Brown!) but honestly, you need a good ending!

Maybe the next one in the series will pick up where this left off...?

Neil says

This book initially begins in Biblical times, and follows Judas Iscariot and the 30 pieces of Silver. It then proceeds to modern times, and whatever became of those Silver pieces. A series of suicides, in 13 different European cities, shocks the world. These in turn pave the way for the introduction of a shadowy organisation known as Ogmios, who battle to prevent even greater atrocities happening. The book follows the various agents, and gives a slightly disjointed read.

The plot is well thought out, and blends various prophecies with the events as they unfold. The characters are well crafted, although seem a bit prone to 'shoot first, ask questions later'. The main downside for me was the ending, it was almost as though I was missing part of the book. As this was the first in the series perhaps it continues.

For those who like their thrillers in the style of Dan Brown et al, then this is a book worth reading.

Stephen says

Interesting book on the premise of an alternative version of the Christ story and the basis that Judas was the true hero. A cult stemming from the child of Judas and Mary Magdalene has decided to rewrite the word's religion... through terrorism. A small group of British agents will be tested beyond their limits as they try to stop the oncoming tide.

Edward says

Great plot and very unique writing. I can't wait for the sequel. At times the inner dialogue was too much for a thriller but overall this was a cut above even most thrillers on the NYT bestseller list.

?eyma says

Bay?larak ba?lam??t?m bu kitaba, ana karakteri çok sevmi?tim. Y?llar oldu okuyal? ama hala baz? al?nt?lar hala akl?mda. Ama sonu pek iyi ba?lanamam??t?, belki seri oldu?u içindir bilmiyorum ama yine de 4'lük kitapt?. Ke?ke 2. kitap çevrilse.

Michele Lee says

I was given this book to review.

Silver is a tome, one hell of a book, in scope, complexity and power. Twinning a secret religious cult made up of the descendants of the misunderstood Judas and a handful of highly organized acts of terrorism that begins with 13 people burning themselves alive at the same moment in time across the world, Silver pits a team of secretive investigators against a worldwide religious-political threat.

Move over Dan Brown, Saville threads in more flavor, texture and dimension into a story than most authors dream of. Moving from the U.S. to Israel, Rome and Germany and including a vast cast that will make other international thrillers appear pale in comparison, Silver is a hefty read.

The pace is even, but not always speedy and the layered details might not be intriguing to all readers. The emphasis here is strongly on large scope character and world building. Silver would appeal to readers who enjoy more of a mainstream slant to genre fiction, such as those who find Stephen King and Michael Crichton's detail and character-oriented styles to their taste. Even readers who might find this storytelling method slow will have to admit that Saville backs it up with a lot of plot interest and intrigue and a twist on the Christian theological mythos that's edgy and new.

Stan Tremblay says

Where do I start with SILVER? It is a page turner, amazing read, and fast paced and with loads of twists and turns and some hellish surprises. Certainly at the top of my list for Book of the Year. The characters are flawed, the locales in the post-9/11 terrorist world, which adds a whole new tier to the DA VINCI CODE imitators (but this certainly is no copy-cat!), easily putting him in a league of his own, every bit as good as James Rollins and Steve Berry, in the genre. Not getting this book is a grave mistake.

Sharon says

I gave this book 3 stars, because it was hard to follow and spent a lot of time on religious stuff. I found it to easy to put down a lot of the times. I finally forced myself to finish it. I didn't really get to care about any of the characters.

i realize that some of the religious background was necessary to set the scene, but i think it was excessive. I also didn't appreciate the way it ended.

Otherwise it is an action adventure type of book which i like.

EJ Knapp says

Silver by Steven Savile is everything you could hope for in a thriller: a fast, exciting pace, a well wrought and fresh plot line, dynamic, well-rounded, well defined characters and some of the best writing I've seen in a thriller in a good while. If Dan Brown could write half as well as Steven Savile, The Da Vinci Code would have been a much more tolerable read.

There are six main characters in Silver: Sir Charles Wyndham, Noah Larkin, Ronan Frost, Orla Nyrén, Jude Lethe and Konstantin Khavin and, as Noah Larkin observes, each has his/her own story, each their own flaws. Mr. Savile manages to keep each true to his/her own unique voice, not always the easiest of tasks in a multiple protagonist story. Throw in some great secondary characters, a triple dose of bad guys, a backer's dozen worth of martyrs, an assassination or two or three and a whole lot of innocent dead people coupled with an interesting twist on an old Biblical tale, all of it woven together with some seriously great writing, and you've got a book that is hard, if not impossible, to put down until the last page is turned. Had I not just started my own third novel, I would have read this in a single sitting. As it was, it was one of those rare books where I found myself racing toward the end while at the same time not wanting to turn that last page.

You can read my whole review on my website: www.ejknapp.com

Julie Carter says

Just wow! Steven Savile writes such riveting stories, no matter which genre they are in. This is such a great read. The action was non-stop, the character development was amazing and the mixture of history and religion made for an interesting read. I need the next book to be finished this weekend!