



The Confessor

Daniel Silva

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Dark secrets are revealed in Vatican City in this Gabriel Allon thriller from #1 New York Times bestselling author Daniel Silva.

In Munich, a Jewish scholar is assassinated. In Venice, Mossad agent and art restorer Gabriel Allon receives the news, puts down his brushes, and leaves immediately. And at the Vatican, the new pope vows to uncover the truth about the church's response to the Holocaust-while a powerful cardinal plots his next move.

Now, as Allon follows a trail of secrets and unthinkable deeds, the lives of millions are changed forever-and the life of one man becomes expendable...

The Confessor Details

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From Reader Review The Confessor for online ebook

Tim says

I admire Mr. Silva's writing more with every novel he pins that feature Gabriel Allon. I realize I have not appreciated them all the same, but that's because some are better than others. 9 of 10 stars

Karen says

I don't normally go for thriller spycraft fiction, but I confess I am totally addicted to Silva's spy novels about an Israeli assassin/spy and part-time art restorer named Gabriel Allon. The first book was written in 2000 and the latest in 2012 and in that time span, Silva draws a geopolitical arc starting with Nazi wartime crimes and the complicity of the Vatican and the Swiss in Nazi wartime looting. Then to the Palestinian conflict, Black September and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. And after that, the end of the Cold War and the emergence of the Russian oligarchs. After that, 9/11, the war on terror, and the Arab Spring. Even the IRA had some chapters devoted to it. Probably the only incendiary current event not touched is North Korea, but that's because Gabriel Allon is a Europhile at heart.

I read all 12 books completely out of sequence but it wasn't a problem as each stood on its own. In fact, by reading the books completely out of order, I had the added pleasure of discovering the genesis of relationships between various characters after bonds were formed later on in the series.

Gabriel Allon is way sexier than James Bond.

Kitty Red-Eye says

I think it's interesting how each book treats one subject important to the world's (or Europe's) Jews and/or modern-day Israel. The last one was about the Swiss banks' role in and after the Holocaust and its plundering of Europe's Jews (along with the Nazis' physical elimination of them), this one about the Vatican and Pope Pius XII. I also liked the general plot of this one, although there are some parts I find a bit hard to believe in. They're details, but still annoying. Like, towards the end, when the two assassins get away on a motorcycle. Hard to believe they'd waste time on changing the driver only in order to have "less important character" ride on the back so that she could be killed instead of "more important character", who was made to drive the bike... of course, it serves the plot, but it makes no sense.

And again, not enough detail in the final chapter, when "most important assassin" gets his due. How did Gabriel find him? Did I miss something? I want to know. Spy novels should be like good caper movies: lots of details, no unsolved "how did they do that" questions, they don't need to be realistic, but I need to believe in the story within its own fictional universe. Sometimes, Silva fails in the latter. Shame, because with a bit more working-out, making his novels perhaps 50 pages longer, he'd earn an extra star from me.

It's still decent entertainment, and the characters are enjoyable, although the "yet another beautiful girl falls in love with Gabriel Allon" theme is getting a bit old now. He's not James Bond. I want to see HIM fall in love with a girl who doesn't want him. Or something. Just give me something I can't guess on first sight.

Ana says

Eu tenho sempre um problema com este género de livros e com estes autores a quem eu, carinhosamente, apelido de "Dan Browns" (apenas porque o código foi dos primeiros livros que li deste género). Isto porque são livros que muito dificilmente fogem dos mesmos lugares comuns. Ou seja, depois de se lerem dois ou três do género, acaba por ir tudo parar um pouco ao mesmo.

Mais uma vez com a igreja católica como "vilã", este foi o primeiro livro que li de Daniel Silva e, infelizmente, não terei sido feliz na escolha, penso eu. A história inicialmente torna-se um pouco confusa e mesmo enfadonha porque o autor "cospe" umas personagens atrás das outras sem grande exploração das mesmas nem fio condutor. Ao longo do livro a história vai tornando-se mais interessante, até porque o tema (o apoio da igreja à Alemanha Nazi no extermínio dos Judeus) é por si também bastante polémico.

Gostei de conhecer Gabriel Allon, um anti-herói assassino, um pouco diferente de outras personagens principais deste tipo de livros, mas com parecenças a James Bond e Jason Bourne. A sua história não está muito desenvolvida neste livro, até porque é o terceiro da saga com esta personagem, mas provavelmente terei curiosidade de o conhecer melhor em outros livros.

Provavelmente darei outra oportunidade a Silva.

Gostei, não adorei, nem me tirou o sono (ao contrário do que diz a crítica do washingtonian)

Tim The Enchanter says

Excellent Intellectual Intrigue - 4

Gabriel Allon is not the typical spy and assassin. I have enjoyed the intelligent tone of these books and the complex political, social and racial matters the stories discuss. The third installment of the series continues in this vein.

I enjoyed this nearly as much as the last book in the series but the subplot and resolution of the story was far too similar to the previous installment. Because of this, the book lost a star in my rating. Additionally, there has become a pattern in the stories of new love interests with each subsequent book. After a while this will become tiresome. Here's to hoping that does not happen.

Early in the book we learn that underlying intrigue in the story will focus on secrets in the Vatican. Ever since the Da Vinci Code, everybody and their dog has written a story dealing with the catholic church and their lies/cover ups and secrets. For what its worth, this book was published one year before the Dan Brown novel. That said, the involvement of the Catholic Church in the story is much different that the recent novels and deal with real, historical issues between the Jews and the Catholic Church. Here is an excellent

Brian says

"He wanted to be a statesman when what the world needed most was a priest."

I tore thru this novel. Read it in a day or so. This is the third novel in Mr. Silva's Gabriel Allon series, and the best of the three so far. Don't get me wrong, this is not great literature. However, it is decently written, has a great premise that has some basis in historical fact, and brings together facets of the Jewish state, the Holocaust, and the Vatican. There is a lot of hay to be made from those ingredients.

When it comes to thriller's Mr Silva is one of the best I have come across for pacing. I found this text less eye roll inducing than its predecessor, although it is just as formulaic as the first two. But if the formula works for its intended purpose is there a need to redo it? A Jewish spy has to save the Pope from those within the Church who would hurt him. Come on...that's fun.

I will continue to read through the series. I guess that says enough.

Karl Marberger says

Very terrific! This series does well with the exploration of wounds of people through history and the deception and violence used to keep the past buried. As a Catholic, I felt particular empathy with this particular case of Allon's. My view of the Holy See has always been one of benevolence, and although I always knew that it had some skeletons in its closet, it was never something I went out of my way to read up on. Although this was fiction, it was in a way pretty eye-opening and introduced me to a newer perspective on the Church. A magnificent series!

Phil says

Daniel Silva

Interesting and very informative; a current day Israeli agent tracks the killer of a close friend and colleague, uncovering the sins of The Vatican during WWII. A fictional story with factual history. The story is not so much an indictment of the Vatican, but a revelation of how any religion can put politics and greed above the church's (any faith's) mandate.

Ana says

Segunda guerra mundial, o extermínio dos judeus e o papel da igreja católica em tudo este contexto, será este o cenário de mais um livro de Daniel Silva e do tão conhecido restaurador de arte israelita, Gabriel Allon. Como sempre são livros com muita acção e mistério que nos prendem deste a 1ª página

Filipe Miguel says

Terceiro Allon

Livro número três da saga de Daniel Silva, utilizando os predicados do seu antecessor, focado naquilo a que se propõe, sem divagações excessivas.

Recorre-se de um enclave extremamente explorado, quiçá ao quase ponto de exaustão, mas de alguma forma afasta-se dos lugares comuns. Talvez por isso, para mim, tenha resultado numa leitura agradável com (esporádicas) passagens surpreendentes.

Não será certamente o melhor livro de Gabriel Allon, nem tão pouco o seu pior. Cumpre.

Apenas um homem destroçado poderá ser um verdadeiro restaurador (de arte).

Nota: 3.5/5.0

Judy says

Daniel Silva's third novel in his Gabriel Allon series takes place mainly in Rome, where a new (fictional) Pope has plans to reveal the complicity between the Catholic Church and the Nazis during WWII as regards the Final Solution. It is a gripping and well-written thriller.

I am enjoying this series because it gives me insight into the Jewish point of view, at least as regards the Israeli secret service. Truthfully, as I have learned in the many spy thrillers I have read, the secret service of any nation at any time is about as reliable as the governments of the countries served. Dirty deeds and assassinations, carried out in the interests of power and domination, not always based on completely accurate intelligence or good foresight, make for moral ambiguity by the bucketload.

As it turns out, a controversy has been raging for years in real life between the Catholic Church and Israel as to the role of the Vatican in forwarding the aims of Hitler's Third Reich. The official line of the Church, to this day, is a denial of any complicity in the Holocaust while certain Israeli officials work to expose it.

Naturally, Daniel Silva has told the Israeli side of the story. Given that the persecution of Jews has gone on for centuries, I am inclined to believe his version. Read it and decide for yourself if you are interested.

Scott Rhee says

Thousands of Jews were saved from the Holocaust by Catholic priests, nuns, and laypeople who, out of the goodness of their hearts, offered safe harbor and protection at the risk of being caught and killed by roving gangs of Nazis. These were people simply following their hearts. Imagine, however, the dramatic turn in history if the Catholic Church, as led by the Vatican, had issued an official decree to all Catholic parishes to open their doors to Jewish refugees. Imagine if the opposite had happened: the Vatican decreed that Jews must be turned away or, worse, reported to the nearest Nazi authorities.

The truth is, in some ways, far worse. The Catholic Church made no official decrees either way. The Vatican essentially did nothing, favoring a policy of closing their eyes and ears to the Holocaust in the hopes that it would all just go away.

(view spoiler)

This is the premise of Daniel Silva's 2003 novel "The Confessor", the fourth book in his series featuring his extremely human hero, Gabriel Allon, a former Israeli spy now turned art restorer who is reluctantly called back on occasion to do jobs that no other operative is willing or able to do.

The plot: When a Jewish college professor named Stern is murdered in his home in Munich, Allon is sent in undercover to investigate. Stern was, like Allon, an Israeli agent, so Allon immediately doubts the veracity of the official police report. The crime scene was made to look like a hate crime perpetrated by Nazi skinheads, but Allon suspects something more.

His investigation eventually leads him to an old church in the countryside that may have played a vital role in the war. Allon discovers links to both Germany and Vatican City, a conspiracy that, if discovered, would have ramifications for both Catholics and Jews around the world. Standing in his way are assassins that are part of a secret society within the Catholic Church, one that is so secret it is considered a myth.

If you think this sounds familiar, it's because it has eerily similar earmarks to Dan Brown's novels, "Angels & Demons" and "The Da Vinci Code", both of which were published prior to Silva's novel (2000 and 2003, respectively).

Apparently, Brown opened the door for a whole slew of books that were highly critical of, and in some cases, downright unfairly vicious towards, the Catholic Church. Arguably, some would say the church deserved the criticism.

In the case of Silva's novel, the criticism is valid. Although it is fictionalized, the issues the book raises are issues that the church are still dealing with--the "neutrality" of the church during World War II, the actions (or inactions) of then-Pope Pius XII, the heroic actions of thousands of Catholics but the equally horrific Anti-Semitic and Nazi-sympathetic actions of many other Catholics. Silva is not trying to cruelly excoriate the church. He is merely pointing out an inconvenient truth that many Catholics within the Vatican hierarchy would like to see swept under the rug.

As always, Silva's book is suspenseful, action-packed, and thought-provoking.

Maria João Fernandes says

O terceiro livro da série do charmoso Gabriel Allon, tal como os anteriores, leva-nos numa viagem pelo mundo. Desde Veneza até Roma, de Munique até um palacete de luxo na Suíça, de um convento ao pé do lago até Londres e França, o livro tem um ritmo extraordinário e a leitura decorre com naturalidade. E pronto, aqui terminam as minhas observações positivas.

Em relação às personagens, Daniel Silva não as apresenta com sucesso. Limita-se a bombardear o leitor com nomes e cargos profissionais e afins, com descrições superficiais e desprovidas de conteúdo interessante, tornando difícil sentir empatia por quem quer que seja, tendo me sido indiferente a linha de ação de cada uma delas. Afinal de contas, não as conhecia de lado nenhum!

O Gabriel Allon é bastante atraente e sedutor, já percebemos que é hábil com o sexo oposto, seria desnecessário, na minha modesta opinião, ter uma nova mulher em cada nova missão. Afinal de conta, a sua

esposa encontra-se internada e mesmo não se lembrando dele acho que aos seus casos amorosos se chama "traição". De qualquer forma, Daniel Silva poupa-nos a descrições exageradas de cenas de sexo. Quem diria! Mais um aspeto positivo (estava camuflado este!).

Todas as personagens já mataram e vão voltar a matar se for preciso. Estão bem uns para os outros, é só o que tenho a dizer. O que os difere são os motivos que os movem e no final do livro chegamos à conclusão que nenhum deles é verdadeiramente puro e bom. Só o Papa. A sério, o livro guia-nos mesmo até à bondade sem segunda intenções do Papa.

Quanto ao enredo, a história é bastante simples, sem grandes surpresas ou credibilidade. Gabriel Allon é novamente arrastado por Ari Shamron do seu trabalho como cidadão comum - pintor. Mais uma vez, contra a sua vontade, o talentoso pintor e espião (um homem muito dotado!) envolve-se numa missão de vingança. Outro dos agentes de Shamron, e o seu antigo colega foi assassinado, enquanto investigava a colaboração do Vaticano com os Nazis.

Muito drama, muito exagero e as conclusões são as seguintes: os judeus são uns coitadinhos, pobrezinhos e sempre o serão e a igreja é, fundamentalmente, má, apesar de toda a gente pensar que é boazinha e que ajuda toda a gente, só pensam no poder e nos benefícios que ele lhes trás.

Um livro que começou por ser interessante, agradável e misterioso e que se revelou, aos poucos, muito repetitivo em relação aos primeiros dois livros da série. As acusações à igreja não me incomodaram, o surrealismo em volta dos assassinos também não, mas já tive a minha dose de Gabriel Allon.

Zohar - ManOfLaBook.com says

“The Confessor” by Daniel Silva is the third installment in the fictional adventures of the reluctant Israeli agent Gabriel Allon.

Working as art restorer Mario Delvecchio, Allon is called one more time into service to investigate the mysterious murder of his friend Benjamin Stern. As the investigation progresses, Allon discovers that Stern has been working on a book, that once published would cause a scandal in the Vatican and do great harm to the Roman Catholic Church. However a new era has arrived in the Vatican, a new Pope has been chosen who has set his sights to “clean house” and setting the Church’s WWII record clean by opening the Vatican Secret Archives.

As you can imagine, the powerful forces, especially the secret society known as the Crux Vera, within the Roman Catholic Church are none too happy about the Pope’s initiative and are willing to go to great extremes in order to stop it. Allon is pulled into the internal struggle through his investigation which takes him around Europe, discovering well hidden secrets of the shameful past.

As I have come to expect from Daniel Silva, this book is well written, well plotted and the characters are fantastic. Each book occurs in the Silva universe with recurring characters (from other series) , have several layers of intricacies and thoughts, as well as smaller stories which the reader has to keep track of in the fast pace which the book is told.

This novel is also thought provoking – what was the church’s role during the holocaust?

We know that no action was taken and the Vatican did open its archives several yeas back to six scholars

who found the lack of documentation available astounding (the Vatican vilified the three Jewish scholars without mention of the three Catholic scholars – all of whom came to the same conclusions). There are a few pages in the end where Mr. Silva touches upon this subject which are well worth reading and an excellent addition to the book.

“The Confessor” had me gripped from beginning to end, a fantastic story. The whole plot around the Crux Vera didn’t bog down the book and Silva did well by staying away from conspiracy theories.

For more book reviews and bookish thoughts please visit <http://www.ManOfLaBook.com>

Carol Mothersill says

Always enjoy this author for the page turning story (I read 1/2 of it today). It's not going to win literary awards but I enjoy learning more about the character Gabriel Allon and his cover as an art restorer. Interesting story focusing on the involvement of the Catholic Church in WWII and the persecution of the Jewish population in Italy. I have read the latest books in this series and now return to the beginning. Looking forward to reading the next one in the series.
