



Inauguration Day: A Thriller

Claude Salhani

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One step behind a chameleon Islamic terrorist known only as Omar, Laura Atwood, a beautiful CIA agent, teams up with journalist Chris Clayborne. Together they race across three continents in this page-turning novel that is guaranteed to have you sitting on the edge of your seat.

An all-powerful Mexican drug cartel, threatened by the newly elected US President's promised initiative to wage a real war on drugs as soon as he takes the oath of office, finances a radical Islamist group to assassinate the President of the United States. The Islamists, with the help of Iran, place their deadliest agent, Omar, on a hands-free track with plans to strike on Inauguration Day at the height of the swearing in ceremony. Racing desperately to catch up to Omar, Laura and Chris struggle to apply knowledge only they can slowly acquire and risk their lives countless times to thwart the pending attack. Meanwhile, Omar is already deep undercover in Washington, ready to unleash his for-hire jihad in early January . . . but where exactly will he strike from and how?

Inauguration Day, written by a journalist with years of experience in some of the deadliest conflicts in recent memory, is a gripping novel about terrorism, espionage, romance, and the terror-tinged world we live in.

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Inauguration Day: A Thriller Details

Date : Published November 3rd 2015 by Yucca Publishing (first published October 6th 2015)

ISBN :

Author : Claude Salhani

Format : Kindle Edition 264 pages

Genre :

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From Reader Review Inauguration Day: A Thriller for online ebook

Gail says

A very believable story about a plot to assassinate the President elect on Inauguration day. The storyline is excellent But at times it was confusing with a long list of characters. The ending came as a surprise as I forgotten who was backing the assassination.

John Babb says

An intriguing story which unfortunately is all too plausible. As someone who participated in readiness planning for Presidential inaugurations in 2001 and 2005, I can tell you that this plot strikes a real chord. The author has a true knack of building, not only his characters, but also the suspense toward a final climax. Even better, his story is supported by a long career of reporting on the many conflicts and cultures of the Middle East. Well worth the read.

Stan Larson says

Predicable ending

Interesting twist to an attempt on the Presidents life. Story ended too abruptly as if the author ran out of time and lost interest in the story.

Dolores Sistrunk says

Solid Story of You Like Spy Novels

I enjoyed the book mainly because it's the genre I enjoy reading. The story moved a bit slowly at times and the main characters could have used a bit more development. I was left wondering if there were to be additional books in a series -- just a bit confused which character would be selected to carry it. Story ended a bit open-ended.

Carol J. Hertkorn says

Terrorist plot to wipe the powerful and create confusion besides

Very similar to several other books I have read recently. They plot to create some type of a catastrophe, agents of US must find the plan, the plotters and the reasons even if it requires non sanctioned activity. Just don't get caught.

Not a story line that made me keep reading far into the night.

Deirdre Freeman says

Gripping Thriller

Contained all the aspects of a great fast-paced thriller, the good the bad and a sprinkle of sex thrown in for good measure.

Stanley Larson says

Exciting story draws you in quickly, but the ending was rushed and predictable.

Teresa Miller says

this book kept in suspense on how they would get the terrorist. It was very interesting. I would love to read more from Claude Salhani.

John Carpenter says

In “Inauguration Day” a dramatic countdown begins to the day when a newly elected American president is to be sworn in and inaugurated, January 20th. But it is also the day when an assassination of the president-elect has been so meticulously planned that it is certain to succeed. All the details are so carefully thought out it becomes almost inevitable, and any possible flaws in the planning have been corrected, none left out. A lucky piece of information at the beginning of the novel reveals when the assassination will take place, January 20th. But no one knows who, no one knows how.

The suspense gathers with each page, the narration follows the terrorists and those who might stop them during the months, weeks, then days until January 20th. It turns out the assassination is only the first step in a plan hatched in Cairo. Taking advantage of the chaos and universal mayhem after the assassination, the US government will be paralyzed and impotent, incapable of forming a response, unable to defend itself for weeks if not months. And this will coincide with a plot of a further strike using biological weapons: “What we have done is combine two very lethal toxins, *Bacillus anthracis* and VX. One pound of anthrax alone has the power to kill everyone in an area as large as Manhattan, while a single drop of VX the size of a pinhead leads to instant paralysis.”

The book is well-informed. The author, Claude Salhani, has traveled widely, reporting on conflicts in the Middle East and Israel. The narrative is fiction, to be sure. But it is filled with realistic information about the world where we now live. Salhani knows the topography and the cities with their neighborhoods, sights and smells, and creates a narrative that is vivid, tactile, believable. He seems to feel at home in many of the countries he describes such as Egypt and Lebanon. And the Americans he describes who work in the Middle East have often lived there for many years. He describes Chris Clayborne: “He could not get himself to leave the place. There was a certain attraction that kept him hooked to Beirut and the Middle East. It was a love-hate relationship. At times he felt as though he was living life to the fullest; yet at other times he was really

tired and fed up. There was a certain joie de vivre in the Middle East that was lacking in the US.” Sometimes Salhani puts himself inside the mind of a terrorist, as with the sheik Omar: “The Naqba, or the Catastrophe—that’s when they lost Palestine... Omar’s world was a desperate one. It was a world where tenderness and affection did not belong and where love had been unable to survive. Born into a violent society, in turbulent times, Omar belonged to a generation where understanding had been replaced by violence... Only one thing mattered now: revenge!”

A great strength of this novel might be summed up in the word “careful.” In some journalistic talk about terrorists, descriptions of them remain outside their minds and feelings. They are portrayed often as emotional, lacking the stringent discipline to plan. This novel stands out for the methodical planning that goes into a plot against America: the covering of tracks, the creation of baffling false leads; and many of the terrorists have the ability to use the most advanced sophisticated technology with the internet a resource for the latest scientific information.

The narrative is fast-paced and well- informed. The action is seen through the eyes of a wide array of characters from different countries, through their thoughts and acts. Events happen rapidly; in the first pages the reader is introduced to Lebanese and American characters in Beirut, then the scene shifts to Cairo, the thoughts and conversations of a Sheik, a terrorist operative. Also in Cairo the reader is introduced to an American journalist and long-time Middle-East hand. Many players from different countries are caught up in the action. The narrative technique is one of the most successful and original features of the book: rapid, dynamic, well-informed, self-assured, sometimes proceeding in bursts set in different parts of the globe. But at the same time the fast-moving narrative never loses sight of the overall suspense: the count-down to January 10th.

If Inauguration Day is a work of fiction-- of suspense and vivid highly dramatized conflict-- it is also firmly grounded on real current events, the insoluble conflicts of today’s international world.
