



Traitor: A Thriller

Jonathan de Shalit

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In the exhilarating tradition of *I Am Pilgrim* comes a sprawling, international high-stakes thriller that pits the intelligence of one man against one of the most successful spies ever to operate against American interests.

When a young Israeli walks into an American embassy and offers to betray his country for money and power, he has no idea that the CIA agent interviewing him is a Russian mole. Years later, that young man has risen in the ranks to become a trusted advisor to Israel's Prime Minister and throughout his career, he's been sharing everything he knows with the Kremlin. Now, however, a hint that there may be a traitor in the highest realms of power has slipped out and a top-secret team is put together to hunt for him. The chase leads the team from the streets of Tel Aviv to deep inside the Russian zone and, finally, to the United States, where a most unique spymaster is revealed. The final showdown—between the traitor and the betrayed—can only be resolved by an act of utter treachery that could have far-reaching and devastating consequences.

Traitor: A Thriller Details

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Author : Jonathan de Shalit

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From Reader Review Traitor: A Thriller for online ebook

Donna Hines says

An Israeli man walks in to an American Embassy offering to betray his own country for a large sum plus power without knowledge that the CIA official is a Russian spy.

Thirty years has passed since that time across various landmarks from Russia to Providence yet this now infamous and trusted advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel or shall I say this spy with the KGB is sharing all with the Kremlin under a Cobra handle.

Aliases are abundant, information is being leaked, lives are in imminent danger, threats are rampant, while paranoia slowly sets into the scene.

We must act quickly and discreetly as we uncover the truths about who knows what , when, where, and how. These interconnections are the key.

The cover might be blown and time is of the essence here but hell they are coming well believe that!

Treachery is served up on a platter along with some top secrets and oh let us not forget we are after a 'traitor' or several 'traitors'.

I mean what's a good thriller without some top notch commandos running around with some spy masters and a whole bunch of lies.

Mediocre action, not enough drama and behind the scenes intrigue and mystery, not much suspense, but a lot of small game seek and find.

Jonathan de Shalit had to go to great lengths to have this published for security clearance reasons however for me it fell flat.

I think it had the bare bones but not enough gut, not enough soul, not enough to keep me interested.

I would like to see what else this author can dish up so I'm willing to check out more from this author .

Remember it's your opinion that matters most so go ahead and read it as I'd love to hear your own viewpoints . That's what makes 'interpretation' interesting and intriguing. We all don't like the same cup of tea folks.

Thank you to Jonathan and NetGalley along with Aldiko for this e read.

Phillip III says

I do not enjoy writing 3 Star reviews (or less). So I want to say the book is well written. The story is solid. The problem is I felt misled. This is not a thriller. It is more ... literary fiction with a "spy theme." There is no action, and the climax was set at about the same pace as the rest of the book. And unfortunately the book is all TELL with little to no SHOW at all. There was no sense of urgency. There was just a lot of people telling a lot of stories about the action did happen at some other point in time.

Okay -- with that out of the way, please believe me when I tell you that Jonathan de Shalit is a great writer. The Characters are all well drawn, and the details are painted perfectly. I read the book in two sittings. This means the book was not bad, or boring. I DID enjoy the book.

The story just falls short as a thriller. I highly recommend this book if you enjoy slow, slow burn stories with rich characters, and wonderful, poetic writing. It's in there.

Phillip Tomasso
Author of Absolute Zero
and Damn the Dead

Dottie Resnick says

An enjoyable spy novel. It seemed a bit far-fetched that so many people/spy agents from different countries all focused on the same seemingly circumspect, somewhat inconsequential events from years before. I hope our intelligence agencies really have these abilities!

Paul Pessolano says

“Traitor” by Jonathan de Shalit, published by Emily Bestler Books.

Category – Mystery/Thriller Publication Date – January 30, 2018.

This is a spy book that probably comes closest to telling a spy story the way it really happens. It is listed as a thriller but it is far from a thriller, just a really good spy story that shuns the James Bond persona for the way it really happens.

It is difficult to write a review on this book without giving too much away.

An Israeli goes to the American Embassy and offers to sell his country's secrets for money and power. Although he is a minor player he convinces the Americans that he will rise up in the Israeli government and become a major player.

After many years the Israeli government has information that there is a spy in their midst and a crack team is put together to find him. The team works out of Israel but finds itself in the Russian Zone and finally to the United States.

A search begins that seems futile until the team thinks they have their man. Be prepared for an unusual ending that is far different from what the reader is anticipating.

Again, not a thriller but a very good spy story, probably the way it really happens.

Lashaan Balasingam (Bookidote) says

You can find my review on my blog by clicking [here](#).

The odds that you've read about this author's life are pretty slim. I'd probably even say impossible. Jonathan de Shalit is nothing more than the pseudonym of a former high-ranking member of the Israeli Intelligence Community. There's something quite fascinating about an author whose books need to be vetted and approved particularly by a special Governmental Ministers' Committee. With Traitor, Jonathan de Shalit definitely proves his experience in the field through minuscule details and delivers a decent spy thriller.

In Traitor, a young Israeli man presents himself at an American embassy in the heart of Rome to offer himself to commit treason—we could also fancifully call it spying—against his own country. Problem is that the agent to whom he unveils his ambitious plans to rise among the elites and communicate secret strategies is actually a Russian mole himself. After years of information-sharing to those who weren't who he thought they were, a hint of a mole has been circulating among agents and a special top-secret team of veterans has been put together to discover the identity of this traitor.

For a spy thriller, Traitor has proved to be quite captivating. There was an atmospheric air of deceit that chocked me throughout the hunt for a mole that I couldn't stop breathing in addictively. With a team composed of actors who have been through a lot and who are dragged back into action, I felt like they conveyed the very nature of their jobs with near perfection. Living in the shadows, embracing multiple identities, tracking people of interest internationally. You simply see everything that embodies a spy in this. The very essence of the job is described and integrated within the prose which is no easy feat. My own knowledge of what the job of these fellows was confirmed and I can say that it was delivered with great care.

It is however worth mentioning that for a novel with a title like this one, you sure don't get much from the other governments' side. Although enough to tease us on their methods and their strategies, especially the final chapter, Traitor focuses especially on the special team tasked with identifying an unknown mole. While the process that the team goes through to find the traitor was treacherous, in the sense that they had to rely heavily on gut feelings and deductions, I found myself satisfied by the authenticity of the methodology used to track down potential targets. Even if the point of view of all the traitors felt lacking in depth and complexity, Traitor still delivers a solid espionage story where both HUMINT and SIGINT is used appropriately in order to catch a traitor.

Thank you to Simon & Schuster Canada for sending me an Advance Copy for review!

Yours truly,

Lashaan | Blogger and Book Reviewer
Official blog: <http://bookidote.wordpress.com>

Faith says

In 1983 Alon Regev, a young former officer in the Israeli navy, volunteered to become a spy for the United States. However, he was not aware that the man assessing him was both a US intelligence agent and also an agent for East Germany. Alon eventually becomes an Adviser to Israel's prime minister and, supposedly, a CIA spy. We never find out what caused Alon to become a traitor, but his handlers view him as a man without principles who doesn't really care who uses the information he shares or about anyone but himself.

Many years later, Israel finally finds out that they have a mole in their government and a team of intelligence agents is assembled to track him down. Like most spy novels, Alon's story is convoluted. The team's pursuit of Alan (code named Cobra) is like a treasure hunt in which they follow clues from Israel, Russia, Germany, New Zealand, the United States and more. Former agents give up secrets due to feelings of guilt or as revenge for old grievances. Sometimes they are killed to preserve their secrets.

I'm not that fond of spy stories in general, but this one held my interest. The beginning of the book was very slow but the pace increased as the Israeli team got closer to Cobra. There is a lot of time spent on

reminiscences by aging agents and I wouldn't really characterize this book as a thriller. It's more literary fiction set in an espionage setting. I liked the book but didn't love it.

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher.

Matt says

First and foremost, a large thank you to NetGalley, Jonathan de Shalit, Atria, and Emily Bestler Books for providing me with a copy of this publication, which allows me to provide you with an unbiased review.

Turning to the dark and mysterious world of Israeli espionage, Jonathan de Shalit takes readers into a realm they may not know well. When Alon Regev approached the American Embassy in Rome one afternoon in 1983, he had a plan. Seeking to speak with the gentleman in charge of intelligence matters, Alon made a proposition. He currently served in the Israeli Government and would surely rise through the ranks. For a fee, he would gladly share all that he knew, including state secrets, if only to provide stability in the Middle East. Pondering this, the American consular official accepted this and submitted his plan to use Alon for the foreseeable future. However, unbeknownst to Alon, his American friend was actually a spy for the Soviets, or more specifically the Stasi. With the Soviet bloc teetering, East German espionage will soon go the way of the dodo, but with 'Cobra' on board, the Soviets could surely procure much needed information within the Middle East. Fast-forward thirty years, with the Stasi dead and buried, those who worked inside the organisation are quickly fading with age and not prepared to take all their secrets to the grave. There is mention of Cobra, which reaches Israeli Intelligence, who now know that they have a mole in the upper ranks of the Government. Who that person might be remains a mystery, but the hunt is on. Working both Russian and American angles, the Israelis play a game of cat and mouse, unsure whom they can trust and whether the feather ruffling will spook Cobra into deeper hiding. With extermination the only viable outcome, the Israelis begin their mission to destroy Cobra and thereby knock the Russians off their perch, once and for all. An interesting story by de Shalit, whose past has certainly helped fuel the antics. Some who enjoy espionage thrillers may enjoy this one, but it seemed to lack suspense and depth for me.

Jonathan de Shalit's real name remains hidden in the publication of this book, for security reasons, though he has been able to weave together a believable fiction based on his actual work with the Israelis. This is apparent throughout, touching on many of the interrogation techniques and sentiments to outside intelligence services. There are a handful of characters who play an important role in this book and whose appearance on the page is useful to keeping the story moving. Readers may enjoy the early Alon, as he barter away his country's sovereignty, though once adopting the Cobra moniker, he is all but gone from the pages of the story. The agents who seek to find Cobra and sever his proverbial (or is it?) head play some interesting parts, though I felt there was too little backstory for my liking. I want to connect with characters, not be forced to watch them work and banter without knowing their roots. The story itself had much potential, but it became too much of a hunt and peck game, rather than a covert spy continuing to feed information and the world seeing action based on it, leaving the Israelis to scramble to plug the leak. The drama was gone, the more than superficial tactics were missing, and the people involved played only their part to gentle nudge information out of willing sources, save perhaps a few Russians. I like thrillers, especially those with some spying involved, but felt this one fell flat. Perhaps de Shalit was trying too hard to pull on the reins and not show readers what tactics are actually used, but the diluted result left me questioning if I will return for more by this author.

Thank you, Mr. de Shalit, for your effort. Perhaps spying is your strength and you can use a ghost writer to

spice up the action. Either that, or stop worrying about pleasing the censors so much when you write the down and dirty portions.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

Stuart Ashenbrenner says

What a fascinating read! Not only is the author an enigma, but the story is so good and well written. It hooked me from the first chapter. This book will rocket to the top of the charts, in my opinion. It reads like Daniel Silva, but it has the action of a Thor novel. I loved it, and I couldn't put it down.

Bethany says

There wasn't a lot of distinction between sides, between who the bad guys were meant to be and who we were meant to be rooting for. When there was, it was brief, and confusing. Maybe I'm not used to reading these sort of novels, but it was more of a procedure type book where the action was condensed, and the plot mainly consisted of dialogue between spies. Or, for the second point, their thoughts and a lengthy backstory of how they got swept up into becoming Russian patriots. There was a lot of that, too much, too much. I couldn't connect with any of the characters, there was at least a dozen, and wasn't invested in who the Traitor was.

I guess if someone enjoys slow, drawn out, and technical thrillers they would like this, but it really is not for me and I would not ever recommend this. ever.

[In addition, there was a bit of swearing, which didn't bother me that much, but the adult scenes very much did. I have no problem skipping through a few paragraphs because of it, yET, I don't think it was necessary to the story at all, just another distraction.]

Laura Rash says

Another well written spy book

Sandra says

This was an absolutely wonderful read. It is in essence an examination of an intelligence operation from the Israeli viewpoint. I have not read a spy novel this good since John Le Carre's early work. Thanks to Goodreads for this giveaway.

yoav says

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Jane says

Called a thriller in the subtitle, not so much that as a straightforward espionage novel: retired agents from the Israeli intelligence services unmask a mole at the high reaches of the Israeli government and also his "handler." The novel takes us from Israel to various places in Europe to New England in the U.S. It was fascinating to see how the "baddies" were finally revealed. I found the premise a bit incredible--for whom the spy thought he was working versus his real boss. I'm not really "into" spy novels, but this one kept my interest all through. The ending was a really unexpected twist!

Tom Tischler says

When a young Israeli walks into an American embassy and offers to betray his country for money and power he has no idea that the CIA agent interviewing him is a Russian mole. Years later he has risen in the ranks to become a trusted person to the Israeli Prime Minister and all through out his career he has been sharing everything with the Kremlin. Now a hint that there may be a traitor in the highest realms of power has slipped out and a top secret team is put together to find him. The chase leads from Tel Aviv to deep into the Russian zone finally to the U.S. where a unique spymaster is revealed. The final showdown between the traitor and the betrayed can only be resolved by an act that could have far reaching consequences. I didn't care to much for this book, it seemed to be a long drawn out search for an Israeli traitor. I gave it a 3.

Siv30 says

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