



Soft Target

Iain Rob Wright

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An SG Thriller Release

From UK's Top Selling Horror & Thriller Author, Iain Rob Wright

NOWHERE IS SAFE...

When a quaint village in the United Kingdom is struck by a suicide bomber, the once proud nation is brought to its knees with grief. Yet that first attack was just the beginning of something much greater and much worse. Something that nobody could ever have predicted.

The days that follow will determine if the UK even has a future left, or if it will be reduced to anarchy and ashes.

The only person that stands between the people of the UK and its complete destruction is an angry, damaged ex-soldier named Sarah Stone. Sarah despises her own country and what it did to her, which is what makes it so hard when she is forced to save it.

SOFT TARGET is the first in a series of books featuring acerbic protagonist Sarah Stone. It is a non-stop action thriller in the same vein as 24.

Soft Target Details

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Author : Iain Rob Wright

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From Reader Review Soft Target for online ebook

Orkney Dean says

What a ride!

Iain Rob Wright is a talent beyond compare. A fantastic range of characters in this thriller so brilliantly written in a story that just won't stop. Enough praise from me, I'm starting the sequel right away.

Nev Murray says

Right everyone that knows me knows I am a huge Iain Rob Wright fan. This one worried me cause his other books have been horrific horror novels. This is a thriller. I didn't know what to expect or how to "compare" it. I decided not to compare it to his other horror books but to other thrillers I have read.

In that vain it didn't disappoint. It's fast moving and filled with action from the start. It revolves around the heroine Sarah Stone, an ex army captain who has seen action in Afghanistan and come home after losing everything she ever had or wanted. She is now unemployed and considered a failure by her SAS Major father. Add to that an extreme level of no self esteem and hatred of everything she is in a bad way.

Enter the MCU. A secret government backed organisation tasked with anti terrorism and keeping the UK safe. They approach Sarah for her help in dealing with a situation that is gripping the UK by the short and curlies.. Initially she resists but then sees she really has no option as ghosts from her harrowing past come back to haunt her. That's all I can say on the story without giving it away.

In this book Iain Rob Wright has proved to me at least he can pull off a thriller. The characters are endearing and you can't help but love the good guys and hate the bad guys - this is something Mr Wright does very well in all his novels - the "heroes" are thrown together from all walks of life and you would imagine they would be doomed to failure but manage to band together in so many ways to keep going. As well as the action there is a certain dark humour throughout this book that will make you laugh out loud at times.

Well written (as always) and very well put together. I imagine this is going to be the first of many Sarah Stone adventures. Not Mr Wright's strongest book in my humble opinion but I'm sure as the character develops this will change.

4 stars.

Matthew Henry says

Boring, unbelievable and pointless

I kept trying to like the book and it kept finding ways to disappoint. The young teen girl can outshoot trained military folks. A woman with numerous wounds and 1/3 of her blood gone seems always able to fight better than anyone else, except she sucks at shooting. No real plot. No character development. Just a bunch of

words going no where.

Uwe says

Maybe it is the way of writing of this Author, maybe he just writes what get in his mind. I found it pretty ridiculous to call an Antiterror Unit "Major Crime" and a group of 5 people, not one really trained for the job, working out of an underground facility build for thousands

The stories about Afghanistan could be close to a kind of reality, but the behaviour of the main character is just ridiculous.

Doesn't matter, for me a story full of violence and unorganized action

Gary Price says

God Save The Queen

Sweet, sweet revenge. It started in Afghanistan and lessons learned carried over to help the protagonist get over her self pity in time to not only help the monarchy but also get revenge for what happened years earlier in Afghanistan. This book sure leaves you with a warm fuzzy! Another great story from Mr. Wright.

Mrs L T Carver says

Book was a very good read,

Donna says

Thriller

Kind of a political thriller and more. A well written story about a girl, actually a woman, who has lost everything in her past and gets the rare opportunity to fight back. Great characters with real world horrors.

Ted Tayler says

"In the bleak terrorist midwinter"

I've never read any of Mr. Wright's books; horror fiction doesn't interest me in the slightest. Not knowing his background explained my initial thoughts when I started reading this thriller. I can understand now why everything felt so bleak and world weary. There has to be light and shade in everything in life, and this is so dark you need to have a light on wherever you read it. The action is well handled though, whether in a Middle Eastern war zone or on home soil back in the UK and that rescues things enough to make this an okay read.

Kat says

Terrifying but insightful

Terrifying not only because this can become reality but is reality and happening now. Insightful in how and what our countries are doing to combat the terrorists. This is one book that is going to stay with me for a long time! I can't wait to read the next in the series.

Shelly Trolian says

Great book!

I am a big fan of Iain Rob Wright, and this book does not disappoint! I can't wait to read the next one!

Candace Tidwell says

This book caught my attention after I saw a blurb on Facebook. I was intrigued so I snatched it up and started reading. I loved this storyline. I was glued from start to finish. The book is fast paced and full of action. It's not very often I come across a female soldier as the lead and Wright did a phenomenal job writing about Sarah. Her life is not easy and she is constantly battling her personal demons but she is definitely kick ass. I cannot wait to jump into the next book.

Sandi Rugless says

Great book

Really keeps you attention, and makes you think. Very well written, and a good read. I think you'll enjoy it.

Gian Spadone says

I have read all of Wright's apocalyptic fiction novels and enjoyed the self-contained universe he was creating, so I was intrigued when he announced a new direction with *Soft Target*.

If you know 24 then you know this story, race against time for our hero to stop a major terrorist attack and aided by a merry band of followers all of whom have the typical skill set, medical doctor, pilot, soldier, bureaucrat etc but Wright introduces a few intriguing concepts into his novel and it's for these that makes this book worth reading.

There is the Major Crimes Unit which is no longer quite so Major. Funding has been cut and we see what

was once the jewel in the crown of our post 9-11 intelligence world in quite a sad and pathetic state but yet quite contradictory still has political clout. This is revealed by a cell phone that has the Prime Minister on speed dial. We also have the hero who is a woman and refreshingly surprisingly she is not a single mum balancing counter terrorism work with being a parent. Additionally she doesn't fall in love with her colleagues which allows Wright to develop her character. Finally he describes quite a depressing Britain. It certainly made me think.

Overall it's a fun race against time thriller with a few twists thrown in. If you are a Wright fan or like the thriller genre then pick it up and you will have an enjoyable few hours.

Thriller fans be warned there is no real political intrigue in this novel. So don't go expecting a Brad Thor or Vince Flynn style book or even 24 type political shenanigans.

This book proves that Wright is capable of more than just horror and I suspect this was his aim with a 24 esque thriller.

My only advice is change the name of the hero. If it became a popular book then google searches would bring up some interesting results.

Charles Ray says

When small towns in the UK become terrorist targets, the country is on the verge of being brought to its knees. The only thing standing between the government and total collapse is former soldier Sarah Stone. The problem is that, Stone has been so badly treated after her military service, she hates the government. Soft Target by Iain Rob Wright is a taut, suspenseful thriller that follows Sarah's adventures as the Major Crimes Unit enlists her service to stop further bloodshed. Crisp dialogue and superb characterizations mark this Jack Reacher-style story. It'll keep you turning pages until the climax.

Michael Hicks says

Wright attributes his inspiration for Soft Target to 24, and even goes so far as to quote Jack Bauer's infamous "Damn it!" prior to the book's opening. It's a decidedly fun nod and sets the mood, but let me get this particular bias out of the way right up front: I am an unabashed 24 fan. It's one of my all-time favorite action series, and I was ecstatic to see the Jack Bauer Power Hour make a return to the recently-concluded UK-based miniseries, 24: Live Another Day. As it just so happens, Wright's Soft Target is also set in the UK, his homeland, and, inadvertently or not, further reinforces that parallel to 24. To me, Live Another Day was a fine return to form and a bit like a collection of Greatest Hits spread over its half-season run. All of this is to say that when a thriller writer makes the bold claim that their work is in the vein of 24, it's a large promise to live up to.

Soft Target introduces us to Sarah Stone, a physically disfigured and emotionally scarred combat veteran who has lost everything. In 2008, she was abducted by Afghan terrorists, led by Al Al-Hariri, after an IED detonated and killed the soldiers under her command. After suicide bombers start detonating themselves across London, and evidence surfaces linking these terrorists to Al-Hariri's organization, the Major Crimes

Unit (Wright's run-down, underfunded and understaffed equivalent to 24's CTU) calls on Stone for help.

While *Soft Target* draws on the rapid-fire pacing of its inspirational source, Wright, unfortunately, also brings in some of 24's more notable weaknesses, which is evident in the book's opening. As is typical in these types of thrillers, the narrative is based on the outsider who is called in to assist and who knows far more than the somewhat-bumbling superiors she is assigned to, but whom seem to hardly ever listen, in order to generate more conflict and ratchet up the tension. For instance, after receiving a video attributing the terror attacks to an Afghan terrorist, Sarah Stone instantly knows the video is fake and rifles off certain key aspects to support her theory, primarily the misplaced henna tattoo of the videoed spokesman. It takes some convincing, but eventually MCU is forced to acquiesce to Stone's knowledge and let her run the show. In between, there's snarky inter-personal conflicts galore, many of which are instigated by Stone, who is intent on maintaining her outsider lone-wolf status by making bad jokes and generally treating those around her with brusqueness and a cold shoulder attitude.

I was a bit put off by Stone's self-ascribed bitchiness initially, but Wright was able to layer her personality and unravel the past horrors of her capture in Afghanistan expertly, and, eventually, win me over to her side. There are several flashbacks to Stone's time in the military, which shed so much light on her current scarred psyche that by book's end it has actually become quite difficult to not sympathize with her, and she transforms into a figure to root for. The way Wright shades in her history is much appreciated, and those 2008 flashbacks were oftentimes the greatest strength of the book and carried the most emotional resonance.

The Afghanistan interstitials and the mad-bomber threat of the premise alone were enough to keep me turning pages, and by book's end I was fully invested and completely won over. The action is pretty solid, oftentimes exciting, and I was drawn in by the mystery of why seemingly normal UK citizens were suddenly turning into terrorists (although, this particular issue was not fully resolved with satisfaction or with enough clarity to approach closure, but that may be a subject for the next book). While I still have a bit of those initial misgivings, and there were several scenes that fell a bit flat for me, I can examine them with hindsight and see a tad more clearly what Wright was attempting and where both he and his characters were in terms of head-space.

Soft Target may not reach the glories of 24 in its heyday, but it's ultimately worth a read. It's a fun, fast-paced thriller, which is ultimately more important than how well it stacks up as a 24 clone. And while I was a bit put-off by Sarah Stone during the opening moments, her past was sufficiently detailed while her present-day experiences helped to shape and inform her, and help her grow to the point that I'll be looking forward to seeing where Wright takes her next. I think she could develop into an interesting, multi-layered heroine and the series as a whole has much potential. *Soft Target* is a good start to a new adventure series, and I'm hopeful it'll have an explosive future.
