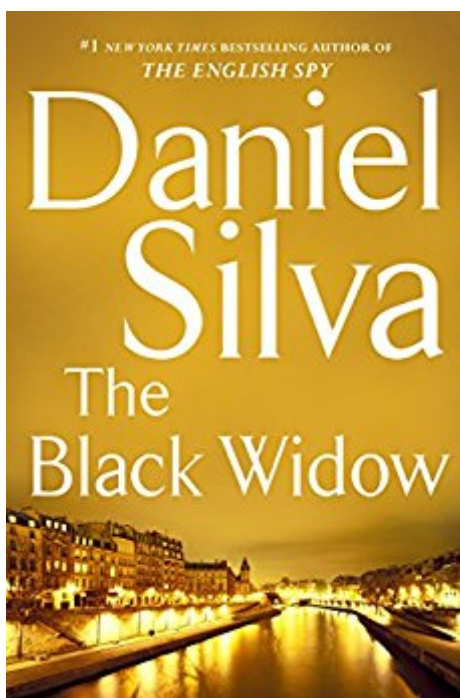


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The Black Widow (Gabriel Allon Series Book 16)



Synopsis

#1 NYT Bestseller #1 USA Bestseller #1 WSJ Bestseller An Editors' Best Book of the Year A Kirkus Best Fiction Book of the Year An iBooks Book of the Month "Fascinating, suspenseful, and bated-breath exciting". Silva proves once again that he can rework familiar genre material and bring it to new life. "Publishers Weekly, starred review "Silva builds suspense like a symphony conductor.... A winner on all fronts." "Booklist, starred review Bestselling author Daniel Silva delivers another spellbinding international thriller "one that finds the legendary Gabriel Allon grappling with an ISIS mastermind. Gabriel Allon, the art restorer, spy, and assassin described as the most compelling fictional creation "since Ian Fleming put down his martini and invented James Bond" (Rocky Mountain News), is poised to become the chief of Israel's secret intelligence service. But on the eve of his promotion, events conspire to lure him into the field for one final operation. ISIS has detonated a massive bomb in the Marais district of Paris, and a desperate French government wants Gabriel to eliminate the man responsible before he can strike again. Acclaimed novelist Daniel Silva has thrilled, entertained and educated readers with eighteen thoughtful and gripping spy novels featuring a diverse cast of compelling characters and ingenious plots that have taken them around the globe and back "from the United States to Europe, Russia to the Middle East. From its shocking opening to its explosive denouement in Washington, D.C., *The Black Widow* reveals itself as Silva's most timely and powerful novel yet. Following the success of his smash hit *The English Spy*, this electrifying thriller showcases Silva's consummate skill and brilliant imagination, and is sure to be a must read for his multitude of current and future fans.

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Customer Reviews

I started *The Black Widow* yesterday and finished it today because I couldn't put it down. Seriously, I only slept 3 hours last night because I had to keep going back to this book. I've read every book in Daniel Silva's Gabriel Allon series, and this is one of the very best. *The Black Widow* takes the issue of ISIS head-on, dealing with things that have occurred already, and things that could occur, but hopefully won't. This book really resonated with me because it brings most of the action to the United States for the first time in the Allon series—a nightmare scenario to be sure, but all the more interesting since we're the subject. Also, the plot line of this book is well developed, crystal clear, and keeps you on the edge of your seat. The book starts with a major act of terror by ISIS in France. In order to inherit a previously unknown Van Gogh painting willed to him by a prominent friend killed in the attack, the French government wants Gabriel to find the perpetrators. This leads the Office team to recruit a woman doctor in Jerusalem and train her to infiltrate ISIS. It's discovered that a major ISIS strike in the United States is imminent, and the intelligence services of Israel, Jordan, France, England, and the United States work together to try to stop it from occurring. Writing from Gabriel Allon's Israeli perspective, Mr. Silva is blunt in characterizing the strengths and weaknesses of the countries intrinsic to the story, including ours. He is so well-informed and prescient about what the bad guys of the world are up to, that whenever I read any of Mr. Silva's books I wish they were required reading for everyone in government. That all this brilliant insight is given to us in the form of a story so well-written and engaging is Mr. Silva's unique talent. I even devour the author's notes and acknowledgements—even these are interesting. I can't say any more than this: if international intrigue and a great story are things you enjoy, this book will give it to you in spades. Buy the book—it's great!

Daniel Silva's "*The Black Widow*" is a tragically timely novel that is all the more unnerving because it mirrors current events. France is rocked by a wave of terror, and European leaders are desperate to

prevent further carnage. Gabriel Allon, who will be the next chief of the Israeli Secret Intelligence Service, undertakes what he believes to be a vital mission. He and his colleagues convince Dr. Natalie Mizrahi, a Jewish physician who is fluent in French and Arabic, to pose as Dr. Leila Hadawi, a woman who is willing to sacrifice her life to help ISIS defeat its enemies. Natalie's handlers hope that she will funnel vital information to them about planned attacks and the mastermind behind them. The book is set in such locales as Beirut, Syria, Israel, Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, and Washington. Silva focuses less on Gabriel and his team's heroics than on the inner workings of ISIS. We observe with fearful anticipation as Natalie tries to pass as a true believer, knowing that if she makes a single misstep, she will be summarily executed. The villain is Saladin, a brilliant strategist whose code name is that of the fabled warrior known for uniting the Muslim world and liberating Jerusalem from the Crusaders. "The Black Widow" is dramatic, suspenseful, and chilling in its depiction of the ruthlessness and brutality of radical extremists, who will not lay down their arms until they bring Western civilization to its knees. They are Internet savvy, use social media to their advantage, and employ advanced encryption programs to avoid detection. Although there are scenes that depict Gabriel as a devoted husband and father and a talented art restorer, Silva concentrates more on politics and espionage than on personal matters. As usual, the author briefly recaps Gabriel's history for those who are new to the series. It is noteworthy that Allon's contributions to the mission are more cerebral than physical, since his days in the field may finally be behind him. "The Black Widow" is an adroitly crafted and dramatic portrayal of the ideological and religious war between ISIS and its adversaries. The democracies of the world are faced with a crisis. How can America and her allies hope to bring down sophisticated terror networks whose members are willing to do anything to advance their cause? Silva makes clear that, in an open society, it is impossible to protect every home, park, office, school, and restaurant from assaults by suicide bombers who eagerly embrace a culture of death. Daniel Silva has written a suspenseful, fast-paced, and frightening thriller that is likely to become one of his most widely read works of fiction to date.

I want to start out by saying I love Daniel Silva, I've read all of his books but I was disappointed in this one. Now don't get me wrong, it's a good read, but like others here have stated it filled with "wordy" sentences that seem to me IMHO to be "fillers" to lengthen the book. The story line takes us thru the insertion of a mole into a terrorist group, then as luck would have it, things go wrong and Gabriel must get the mole out. I am being vague so as not to ruin it for you, but this book does not "flow", the problem is the wordy descriptive sentences that ruin the flow of the plot and constant

explanations of past things from other books in this series. I realize that Mr. Silva does need to explain certain aspects so that the reader can pick a book from the series and not necessarily read them in order but IMHO this book could have been 150 pages if not for the wordy explanations from past books. It almost seems to me to be a synopsis of his other books. Having said that, it is eerie how this book does "mirror" some of the events that have taken place in today's world. This is not a bad book, but it's not one of Mr. Daniel Silva's best, he's a great author, but having read his other books, I guess I've gotten spoiled from his previous fast pace, action packed, suspense, twist filled books that this one seems like a let down. I would say to you read it, it's not bad but wait until the price goes down, it's not worth \$15 of your hard earned money.

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