



## Rain on the Dead

*Jack Higgins*

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**Rain on the Dead** Jack Higgins

**The past comes back to haunt Sean Dillon and his colleagues, as the *New York Times*—bestselling master of suspense returns with a knife-edge story of terrorism, revenge, and a very old nemesis.**

In the past few years, the killing and capture of many Al-Qaeda leaders has left the terrorist organization wounded—but by no means dead. And they intend to prove it.

On a dark summer night, two Chechen mercenaries emerge from the waters off Nantucket to kill a high-value target, the former president of the United States, Jake Cazalet. Unfortunately for them, Cazalet has guests with him, including black ops specialist Sean Dillon and his colleague, Afghan war hero Captain Sara Gideon.

The Chechens do not survive the night, but Dillon is curious as to how they even got on the island. What he discovers sends a chill through his bones—a name from very far back in Dillon’s past. If *this* man is working with the terrorists now, the assassination attempt is only the beginning—and the next time, the results might be much, much different.

## Rain on the Dead Details

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Author : Jack Higgins

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## From Reader Review Rain on the Dead for online ebook

### Chris says

Beyond awful. There was not enough plot to last 100 pages, never mind 300+ that it does. I couldn't even finish it, it was so bad.

There's endless amounts of people sitting around thinking about things, nobody seems to eat or drink anything else other than bacon sandwiches, champagne and tea. The dialogue is as weak as thin air, and some of the incidents are weaker still. Scenes, plots, dialogue have all been in nearly every other Jack Higgins book, especially the Sean Dillon series.

In this book, several times we're told more than once of the same thing happening within two pages. It happens the first time, then on the same page or next one, a character recounts the events to someone else, and then on the same page or next, the same thing happens again!

Somebody who has only been writing a couple of years could do better than this, so how someone with the experience of Jack Higgins has turned out this tosh is beyond me.

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### Nancy Geary says

To start, I've been reading Higgins for decades and adore this series. However, this book just didn't do it for me.

I still just don't like the Sara Gideon character. and the action? was not up to the usual high level I've come to expect from this author. The book plot started out very promisingly, but there was no follow through for this reader. Back to Ireland, of all places. Seems like it's become a go-to for this series.

Hannah adjusted to her new circumstances remarkably quickly and with apparent ease. I felt like Blake Johnson was just thrown into the storyline, however briefly, for no apparent reason.

Still, I'd take an average Jack Higgins book over many other authors.

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### Glen says

The arch criminal known as The Master (C'mon Man, show some creativity. At least call yourself the Purple Claw or something) sends some inept assassins after the President of the United States. The attempt fails and Sean Dillon and Co start tracking things down.

A name from Dillon's past starts to surface.

It's OK. I liked it better than the last one of these I read.

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### **Shaun says**

Okay, I got 134 pages into it, but I knew about 30 pages in that this book wasn't doing anything for me. I'd never read a Jack Higgins book before, and expected something along the lines of Cussler & Clancy. But the story was just... lame. It had absolutely no fire to me, no spark, no life. It's really stunning that it comes from such a well-published author, but part of the reason the book doesn't work may be due to the author's advanced age. As I said, I'd never read any of his other books. I see a lot of reviews for this book say that "The Eagle Has Landed" is one of their favorite all-time books. So just reading this book, I wouldn't be interested in reading another, but since the other reviewers say The Eagle Has Landed is so good, if I see it, I may give it a shot.

Anyway, to be a little more specific about what I didn't like about the book... It jumped around a lot without ever really fleshing out any of the characters or the story. It was written very much anticipating you've read the other books in the series, and so a lot of it just seems to be without description. No backstory. No character biographies. No character building. It's sort of like the characters are supposed to be already established, and so they play their part, without any explanation of who, what, or why, if that makes sense. There's little to no character description. The bad guys aren't intimidating whatsoever. The peril the heroes encounter is easily ended. Honestly, I just can't really believe this book was published. Even for an indie author, it would be bad. Thoroughly disappointing and deserving of a one-star rating.

But I'll give him the benefit of the doubt and if I see it, I may pick up a copy of "The Eagle Has Landed".

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### **SherrieB says**

Let me start out by saying that I have read Jack Higgins for a LONG time. That being said, I fear either his writing skills are deteriorating or I have just simply outgrown him. How sad. I love his Sean Dillon series and the character, but I found myself struggling to get interested in his latest offering. It's just too formulaic. The good guys always win; the bad guys always die. There's simply too much 'in the right place at the right time' happenstance to really work for me. Perhaps at the age of 85 it's unreasonable to expect the same quality of writing from Higgins.

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### **Tim says**

Continuation of well-developed character, Sean Dillon. The more he is involved, the better the story. His sidekicks add little. 6 of 10 stars

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### **Brenda says**

With the unexpected invitation by former President Jake Cazalet for both Sean Dillon and Sara Gideon to visit his home in Nantucket, the coincidence of the visit was what saved Cazalet's life. For Al Qaeda had ordered his assassination – the two Chechens tasked with the job took one too many risks, and it didn't pay off. But the concern about security left Cazalet at a loss – and what Dillon discovered in his search for answers shocked him to the core. Was his Irish past finally catching up with him?

In London, the Master was once again pulling the strings. With his deep knowledge of what was happening around the world, evil was at his fingertips. And his minions were more than happy to help him; for a price of course. General Ferguson, Major Roper and the team of undercover MI5 operatives had known evil in their time, but this new Master was in a different and terrifying league.

From Europe to Ireland, the US to the UK – there was revenge in the hearts of many. The terrorists of Al Qaeda were hell-bent on eliminating those who had caused them grief in the past – and Dillon was on that list. As he worked with his trusted team, he wondered if it had all caught up with him at last. What would be the final outcome? The deeper the investigation went, the more determined they were that good would outweigh evil...

*Rain on the Dead* is another brilliant thriller by Jack Higgins! The growth of the characters has continued over the series; the grittiness and tension hasn't lessened. The final twist was great – I definitely wasn't expecting it! I haven't been disappointed yet and I've been reading this series for a lot of years; except of course for the wait I have for the next in the series. Highly recommended.

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### **Andrew A. says**

I guess I shouldn't have read #21 or whatever in the series first. I was introduced to character after character without any real explanation or character development, so I spent most of the book confused. I'm still not quite sure of the point of the story, or who were the antag/protagonists. And the good guys beat the bad guys way too easily. Bad guys send in their best assassins, good guys kill them, end scene. And repeat. A bit repetitive and very UK. I had to work pretty hard a few times to figure out certain turns of phrase or vocabulary. Not my favorite book, but maybe I'll try again with book 1 of the series.

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### **Will says**

#### **SUBJECTIVE READER REVIEW FOLLOWS:**

Without sounding too dour, Jack Higgins' books are becoming a bit like Michael Connelly's; they make you comfortably numb. Maybe I'm just reading too many of them, but the characters and storylines only occasionally get exciting. I think Jack Higgins would be a major find to a first time reader--I sure reacted that way. When the posse headed off to Africa or the Middle East for intrigue things got interesting, but Rain on the Dead, although incorporating the Al Quada spectre, still relies on the Higgins trademark of the Provisional IRA for the meat of antagonism. Perhaps a new enemy might brighten up this 'Holland Park' series. I came close to giving this one three stars, so my rating is actually a 3.5, rounded up to the next whole number. Now for the positives; Higgins' books are not long, so it's a nice short read for a cross-country trip or a weekend. Another little boost to Holland Park's stogy Major Roper would be the sizzling sexual uptakes of Sara Gideon, Billy and Sean. A decent read, enjoy it.

#### **SPOILER PLOT SUMMARY FOLLOWS:**

The Emancipation of Hannah Flynn. Al Quada's High Council has designated a new Master for London, MI5 Safe House Supt Max Shelby, who takes on his new role with gusto. His two highest priorities are the

elimination of Charles Ferguson's posse and the assassination of former POTUS Jake Cazalet, who insists on traveling without protection, narrowly escaping a hit by two Chechen boys in Nantucket. As Cazalet proceeds to Paris to attend an international conference, Sean Dillon and Sara Gideon are dispatched to cover the holes in a discordant DGSE Dir Claude Duval's coverage. They discourage the Paris hit and return to London, only to find conspiracy hits planned against Holland Park by Tim Kelly and Tod Flynn, the later a cousin of Sean Dillon's. They travel to Flynn's estate Drumgoole in County Down only to find the Master's Army of God has dispatched hitters from Belfast. They manage to eliminate Tully and Bell but lose one of their conscripts, Sean's cousin Tod Flynn. His niece Hannah, whose parents were killed by Tully and Bell years ago and badly wounded her, is of pure heart, is drawn to Sara Gideon-also crippled but from war in Afghan-and has been targeted for disposal by the Master. She agrees to go live in London with Sara and her father at Highfield Court, where she resumes her piano playing, enrolled to attend college there. Cazalet's visit to London is really about flushing out the Master, which they do with aplomb, killing most of his paid hitters and savants along the way. Billy Salter is finished with killing for a while and takes holiday.

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### **Shubhra says**

Sean Dillon and team...

While this book was a refreshing read from the last 2-3 books in this series, it still is no longer as exciting as it used to be earlier, what with Dillon clones appearing and disappearing - plus the large number of characters ensuring that some of them get put on a bus, with no mention in this book - especially people like Monica Starling, Daniel Holley, Declan Rashid. Plus tenuous IRA connections are brought in with hardly any relevance, not to mention that the villains keep holding the Idiot Ball and making things complicated, for no apparent reason. And the effective bad guys, end up turning good anyways.

Time for something new. After this series is retired.

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### **Dan Dobler says**

#### **Quite a ride!**

I had trouble with the deep language that Higgins writes this in, and I don't understand some of the historical references. However, I understood more than enough to really enjoy the plot, twists, action, and "foreignness" of this book to recommend it. Be patient, but read this for a pretty cool story.

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### **Miriam Smith says**

This is a fast paced thriller that I thoroughly enjoyed. Once started you can't put down, a terrific storyline with great characters, Sean Dillon is brilliant, I wouldn't hesitate to recommend.

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### **Carol says**

Second Read: An action-packed novel that goes from Nantucket to Ireland to England.

Sean Dillon and Sara Gideon are in the right place at the right time as they save former President Jake Cazalet from assassination at his Nantucket home. The would-be assassins are killed and are found to be Chechans. As leads are followed, Sean realizes they are up against the infamous manipulator known as The Master, who works for al-Qaeda. This man must be found and taken out and it is up to Sean and Sara.

First Read: I can't believe I've never read a Jack Higgins book before. This is my first one. Overall I liked it quite well, and probably will try another. Interesting reading. I've even had some in my house and apartment and still haven't read them. Shame on me. Recommend

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### **Tom says**

I've lived the Sean Dillon novels as grand distractions with good plots and strong characters. Sadly, this is a muddle with a weak, overly complex plot and too many characters to sort out. Yawn. Sad. Disappointing.

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### **Sarah Carter says**

It was good to catch up with Sean and the the team again even though it's become rather formulaic. It is however a good formula as I keep coming back for more, it's more like stopping by with old friends, and surely they must be in their dotage now? Some good action, but I still can't get used to Sean dressing in designer duds..

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