



Orders from Berlin

Simon Tolkien

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A compelling thriller laced with Simon Tolkien's signature writing style.

It's September of 1940. France has fallen and London is being bombed day and night. Almost single-handedly Winston Churchill maintains the country's morale. Britain's fate hangs in the balance and the intelligence agencies on both sides of the Channel are desperate for anything that could give them an edge.

Albert Morrison, ex-chief of MI6, is pushed over the banister outside his London apartment. He falls to his death at the feet of his daughter, Ava, but it is too dark for her to see the attacker before he escapes. Two Scotland Yard detectives attend the crime scene: Inspector Quaid and his junior assistant, Detective Trave. Quaid is convinced that this is a simple open-and-shut case involving a family dispute, but Trave is not so sure. Following a mysterious note in the dead man's pocket, Trave discovers that Morrison was visited by Alec Thorn, deputy head of MI6, on the day of his death. Could Thorn—who is clearly carrying a flame for Morrison's daughter—be involved in a plot to betray his country that Morrison tried to halt, and if so, can Trave stop it in time in this gripping and intelligent thriller?

Orders from Berlin Details

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Author : Simon Tolkien

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From Reader Review Orders from Berlin for online ebook

Rebecca Lam says

two stars at best. the first part is intriguing, if a bit lengthly. but after that, it takes a nosedive.

James Folan says

Struggled as far as p75 and decided not to invest any more time in this plodding tale. The author has obviously done the research, but it's pretty superficial and the description of a London pavement as a "sidewalk" doesn't help authenticity any. Also, within the space of a few paragraphs one character is given two different ages. Which does not instil confidence.

Petr ?apek says

<http://www.schefikuvblog.eu/simon-tol...>

Joanne says

OMG I don't even know why I finished this book. I guess out of respect to the time it takes to write and publish any work of fiction. Skip it. Another foray into Nazi Germany and Hitler, but very unsatisfying.

Carey Combe says

Ok, bit too much padding, rather too many stereotypical characters for my liking and difficult to create tension when you know the ending...

Susan says

I thought it was terrific! An edge of your seat, what can happen next, thriller.

Blodeuedd Finland says

3,5

Orders from Berlin is the fourth novel by Tolkien. The story takes place during World War II, in 1940. William Trave, known from some of his previous books, and his boss John Quaid investigates the murder of

Albert Morrison, former chief of the mysterious MI6. At the same time, in Germany, Adolf Hitler wants to get Winston Churchill out of the picture, once and for all. The head of the Gestapo and the Sicherheitsdienst, Reinhard Heydrich, thinks he has the solution for that problem. But he needs help from London.

Trave doesn't always agree with Quaid how to run the investigation. While Quaid is certain he knows the identity of the killer, Trave is not so sure of it and goes against the will of Quaid as he tries to solve the murder mystery. And how is Hitler's wish to kill Churchill related to the death of Albert Morrison? What about the mysterious little notes that Trave and Quaid find during their investigation? At the same time, bombs are falling over London. The Germans have started Operation Sea Lion, their code name for the invasion of England.

Everything is not as it first appears in this story. Even readers might be led into believing they know who the killer of Albert Morrison is, only to learn that they have been thinking about the wrong person.

The killer presents himself to the readers halfway through the book, which might disappoint some readers who whished to play alongside Trave and Quaid and for themselves figure out the truth. But despite that, the second part of the book is filled with action. Will they be able to stop the assassination of prime minister Winston Churchill?

I have not read the previous novels by Tolkien, so I can not compare this novel to the other novels. I found the novel a bit slow in the beginning, but it got better as the book progressed. And in the end it was even better. There are some intense moments, especially when a bomb falls over London, almost killing Trave and Alec Thorn, who is one of the suspects.

The scenes are very well described and you clearly get a picture of what it was like in London during 1940. I do recommend the book for readers interested in that era of the history as well as for fans of murder histories.

Jule says

If you think all historical spy thrillers are the same, let this book prove you wrong. Not only is it not set during the Cold War, but actually during the Second World War, which I feel is already highly uncommon, it also starts out as a shallow, standard thriller, but actually reveals real depth later on. These characters stand out from their spy novel counterparts by being really deep and well-rounded. They are multi-dimensional, they have a history and personality, and they are far beyond the usual black and white. I loved the female character learning to free herself from her husband and growing to do what she wants for herself, and I liked the relationships of various characters with each other, all of which added layers to the crime itself. The one thing that irritated me though were the German characters. Simon Tolkien - and he probably could not replicate this on purpose even if he tried - somehow managed to make them sound as if they were speaking badly accented English. Which they were not. They were speaking German, their native language, but he had to write it down in English and somehow made them sound as if they were actually speaking English. That was annoying more than a real problem, and aside from that, the book is fantastic.

L.A. says

Article first published as Book Review: Orders from Berlin by Simon Tolkien on Blogcritics.

Winston Churchill was a man of many secrets and mystery. Known throughout the world, he was recognized as a great leader, and one of the kingpins that helped bring down Hitler.

In Orders from Berlin by Simon Tolkien, we are taken back to a place in time where the world was at war, and strategy had to do with both what and who you knew, and how well you could dupe the enemy. While Hitler did not want a war with England, Churchill knew that he had to stop him at all costs, even that of his own homeland being bombed. The fear of his aggression and the depth of his atrocities were not something to take lightly.

As Hitler finally realizes that they are not ever going to be allies, he manufactures a plan to have Churchill Assassinated. A mole deep within the government, a double agent, is set to create the diversion and eliminate the great leader of the English people.

As one murder occurs, to set the stage, there is one officer who is not convinced they have dug in deep enough. Scotland Yard Detective Trave feels like there is more afoot. The clues scatter in too many different directions, and the crime is solved too quickly. The death of a high placed member of the M16s offers more confusion than clues. When he tries to find answers he runs into a brick wall. His hands are tied.

Can he find the mole hidden so deeply, there are none who believe the evidence? Will he be in time to save Winston Churchill, and stop the deadly forward move of the 3rd Reich?

Tolkien takes you back in history to a time where England is under attack. He brings stark relief to the rubble and danger inherent in the bombing of the countryside, and the death and dying of those in London as the attacks continue. The blackouts and bomb shelters create and eerie settings, making you feel the fear of those involved. He does an amazing job of taking you into the streets, with the continued air raid sirens trying to outpace the sirens of ambulances and fire trucks. You find yourself visualizing the war torn rubble.

His ability to put you in the mind of the politics of the day is a direct reflection of his ability to engross you in the conversations and action. This is an abject lesson in history, riddled with mystery and danger.

This would be an excellent book for the library of the history, or mystery buff. It is a thriller in the best of ways. The undertones of the book drag you in and hold you there. This would be an excellent reading club book, creating a depth of discussion. Simon Tolkien is a first rate author, the grandson of J.R.R. Tolkien, he carries the torch of persuasion and excitement to the next generation.

Anneli Renfors says

Kesälukemiseksi sopiva kaksoisvakilutarina toisen maailmansodan ajalta. Helppolukainen, sujuvakielinen ja elokuvamaisina kohtauksina etenevä romaani.

Ankur Rastogi says

"Orders from Berlin" is Simon's next novel in Detective / Inspector Trave series. The novel starts on a promising note with Hitler planning his strategy against England and the first 2 chapters focuses on the

historical part. You tend to think that you will get to read a more about the England - Germany war and the political battlerooms ongoing in the WWII. But the backdrop ends there. After that, its like any other detective crime thriller except that there is hardly a thriller and hardly a mystery in between.

The novel moves in a very frustrating manner with people from secret and intelligence service being reduced to mere civilians who are more worried about their romantic, lustful and sometimes jealousy needs than their actual professions. The highly sensitive messages get decoded in the most careless manner and the plot to assassinate and eventually being saved comes across as a very kiddish one.

None of the critical points sound convincing whether it was the manner in which secret messages were sent and interpreted, whether the way the war strategies were discussed and thrashed out, the assassination plot, how the crime / murder gets solved, the central characters and their roles and many others.

Overall, I don't recommend this novel..neither as a crime thriller nor as a historical fiction

Michele says

A good read lots of intrigue.

Jeffrey Dubb says

Plot line a little predictable but still pleasing. Fantastic descriptions of life in London during the Blitz.

Pat says

It is always good when a series gets better with each new book. The flow, the pace, and the fluency have improved. The author created London in 1940 vividly for the reader. I do hope this is not the end of the Detective Trave series.

Chuck says

This novel was not on my In Search Of list as I wandered through the Orange County Library last week but I am vulnerable to book covers and inside flap synopses. So to a historical action thriller fan like myself I was drawn to a title like Orders From Berlin. Add to that a hook like this three sentence synopsis. A Double Agent In MI6. A Plot To Assassinate Churchill. Only One Man Can Save Him. On top of all that the author is a grandson to J. R. R. Tolkien of Lord of the Rings fame. Simon does not paint word pictures like his grandfather but he tells a good story. It drags in a couple of spots but I enjoyed it.
