



## The Spanish Revenge

*Allan Topol*

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## **The Spanish Revenge Allan Topol**

Craig Page, the bold and daring EU Director of Counterterrorism, becomes the focal point of an effort to stop the feared terrorist Ahmed Sadi, whose goal is to provoke a Muslim uprising in Western Europe. Ahmed, a Muslim fanatic born in Paris to parents who emigrated from Algeria, calls himself Musa Ben Abdil, after a Muslim hero from the Fifteenth Century War with Spain. Page teams up once again the resourceful Elizabeth Crowder, a newspaper reporter who has also become his lover. Ahmed's plans become far more menacing when he is joined by Chinese General Zhou, who had been exiled to France for his devious actions in *The China Gambit*. With Zhou's assistance, Ahmed's plan is to launch a horrific attack on the heart of Christianity. At the same time, Ahmed wants to retake militarily for Islam a portion of Southern Spain. He relies upon a medieval parchment he claims to have uncovered, in which Queen Isabella on her death bed in 1504 ceded a portion of Southern Spain to the Muslims in perpetuity. His one main obstacle: Page himself is hot on his trail, determined as ever to save the world from a master criminal. From Spain to Morocco, and beyond to Italy, Page and General Zhou renew their battle, even as Ahmed plots his deadly revenge.

## **The Spanish Revenge Details**

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Author : Allan Topol  
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## **From Reader Review The Spanish Revenge for online ebook**

### **Star says**

Allan Topol is back with Craig Page and Elizabeth Crowder in 'The Spanish Revenge' after the events in 'The China Gambit'. They are investigating the bombing of a train in Spain and as they dig deeper an unsavory and unwanted link is found between the Muslim bomber and Page's nemesis, General Zhou. This does not bode well for anyone! As fiction and fact combine, the results are an explosive thriller which will leave you breathless.

While 'The Spanish Revenge' is more of a cerebral thriller than 'The China Gambit' there is still plenty of action. Mr. Topol has an ingenious way of blending history and current political issues into an engaging storyline with captivating characters. I am eager to see how the final showdown unfolds in the next book!

Craig Page Series: The China Gambit (1), The Spanish Revenge (2)

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### **NVTony says**

Recd Oct 18 as winner on Goodreads have received nothing for writing review.

This one is destined to become a classic in genre. International terroism, world travel combined with excellent writing & plot.

Rapidly paced. Characters well crafted.

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### **Amy says**

Amazing! What a gifted author! Exciting and fast-paced! The research that goes into his books is incredible! What a creative mind! Right up there with Nelson DeMille in my opinion!

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### **Marc Leroux says**

I received this book through the Goodreads giveaway program

This is the second book in the Craig Page series, the first that I have read.

The Spanish Revenge centers around a Muslim who believes that Spain should once again be under Muslim rule. Ther is a good mix of cultural and historical information intermixed with the current day plot. It's fast paced and kept me interested throughout.

A good read.

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## Fran says

### The Spanish Revenge: Allan Topol

The moon is full, the sky is dark and the stars are shining in a cloudless sky as two lone men alight from an old beat up car with one purpose in mind. Their goal is to uncover what might be buried in a metal box beneath the ground inside of a coffin. Walking through the wrought-iron gate to their destiny hoping to go undetected but ready to take action if they were seen. How far would one man go to get what he wants in order to protect himself from the wrath of another? Disturbing a grave, opening a coffin and hoping to find the coveted parchment that would complete his mission and no lose face with his superior. But, not everything goes as planned as he and his accomplice are spied, seen by one lone monk. Rather than find an excuse to dissuade the monk from realizing what they are doing he kills him. The box with what he hoped housed this parchment was opened and the fear in his eyes readily seen as it was not there. Inside the box they found jewels worth more than anyone would need in a lifetime but left within the box. What would happen to him if he does not find the parchment and what will be the fate of anyone that gets in his way? Five monks would pay the ultimate price and one greedy man would join them.

Craig Page is the director of the European Counterterrorism Agency. We meet him as he and the director of the French Intelligence Service meet to discuss the possible assassination of the President of the United States. Jacques Dumas and Craig Page meet over drinks and dinner and the end result is an alliance, at least a temporary one to stave off what would have been an international crisis. The plan in place, the operatives strategically placed the unpopular US President's envoy alerted and he's murder averted. Enter Elizabeth Crowder who is Craig's reporter girlfriend hoping to get her first book deal we learn more about her as she nervously walks along Park Avenue with her agent Harold Gorman. Asking 800 thousand dollars, as an advance from the woman she hopes at Wellington will be her publisher sounds astounding and astronomical to say the least. One man who wants to avenge the killing of Muslims and one woman whose title would bring more about them to light. But, when Elizabeth returns to Paris and she and Craig are having a celebratory dinner one-phone call would raise the stakes, change the game and bring to light the history of related to the Muslim dating back to 1491 and Ferdinand and Isabella. Musa Ben Abdil, a famous Muslim general relentless in his quest to fight the Christians to the very end. When the Spanish Prime Minister receives a message that a train is going to be bombed and the history of this man Musa is brought to light by Elizabeth, both leave for Madrid along with his assistant to thwart what one man thinks is a prank but what in reality will create more than just deaths and a catastrophic end. The Spanish Revenge: One man's planned to take down Madrid, the Spanish government and teach the world a harsh lesson at the expense of so many. Southern Spain the target and five hundred years ago the Muslims were expelled from there and one man was going to get his revenge or retribution. As Craig and his team race the clock to stop what one man hopes he won't be able to do, another phone call warning those on the train that was about to be hit would come too late. Sometimes we wonder why our cell reception does not allow us to hear the caller. Sometimes the end result in this case proved deadly. As the bomb explodes and the bomber gets away what happens next will change the complexion of things, as the end result would prove futile.

Loyalty is one thing that the man using the name Musa requires and when anyone defies him they just might pay the ultimate price. Sending who he thought was someone to execute his plan proved the right thing for him but definitely not for Craig as he deals with his failure and the fallout from the Spanish government. But, when the Defense minister calls him to meet with the Prime Minister how can they blame him for what happened? What would have happened if he kept silent or did nothing? Why did the Defense Minister think it was a prank when it was not? Next, the revelation and who would take credit for the bombing: The Spanish Revenge a group whose ultimate goal was vengeance for the Muslims and resume the war between them and

the Christians and until the Christians were obliterated.

As the pieces start to fall into place for Craig he learns more about the bomb, its origin as he and his assistant meet with the Spanish Prime Minister. Allied and working together, despite the Defense Minister's attempts to sabotage his every move he enlists the help of Jacque Ramos to learn more. Blindsided by the reporter during a CNN interview Craig learns about the tape sent by the bomber and the reason behind the attack. Not caring about anything but the story the interviewer and his boss hope to not only embarrass him but also make him look inept. How he comes handles it and the final fate of the tape will let you know Craig Page is a force to be reckoned with as the news director found out you might say the hard way. But, there is much more as we meet a character from his precious book China Gambit, General Zhou in exile whose only goal is to become President of China and align himself with Musa hoping to help him bring down Craig. Revenge in a different way as the author relates just how he brought this man down in this previous novel and why he wants to help Musa with his cause. Hoping to you say kill two birds with more than one powerful stone he enlists the help of his brother and one other man to find out more about Musa and his whereabouts. What will happen if these two men succeed? Just how horrific will the end result be?

Getting to understand Zhou's rationale and his reasons for wanting to align enlightens the reader in many ways. First, we learn about his history with Craig and how he stopped his operation called Operation Dragon Oil. Imagine what would have happened if he had succeeded in sabotaging our pipelines and successfully attacked the oil fields of Sunni suppliers. Both men sought vengeance against Craig each for different reasons both hoping the same result. Added in we meet Lila the sister of one of the men Musa killed and we learn about his background, her fears for his life and hers and why she went to Craig and Elizabeth for help. Imagine bribing the CIA Director to work with the terrorists against our country. What Musa has planned with rock the Christian world and destroy its heart. The Spanish Revenge as this group calls itself wants Islam to rise and Christianity to fall. But, will they succeed?

Author Allan Topol takes the reader inside the minds of many different killers and terrorists to understand why our government works 24/7 to stop these attacks before they happen. The history of the Southern Spain is shared with the reader, the rationale behind Musa wanting to take back the Alhambra and the final outcome far from over.

The next phase of our intricate plot is revealed as Omar was instructed to poison the Vatican's water supply as the author's research about the history of the Vatican is shared with readers. But, just what he does and how he manages to get the information he needs will definitely surprise the reader. When Craig and Elizabeth decide to visit Morocco things do take a different twist as the face the terrorist head on and the end result will surprise not only them but Musa too. With lies, deceits, corruption in many governments, greed and defense ministers not willing to help capture this dangerous man, just where will the final attack occur and who will fall? Alliances are made but not where they should be as we learn the hidden secret behind the parchment and just how valuable it is to Musa. What was the final edict that Queen Isabella made that would change the complexion of the South of Spain and hand it over to the Muslims?

Characters that seem like they come right out of the international headlines in the news, vividly depicted and definitely well crafted Elizabeth and Craig race the clock to stop one terrorist who plans to light up the world in an explosive way and take down Christianity at the same time. Revenge is the name of their game as Musa teams with Craig's archenemy Zhou to beat the clock and stop what he has in motion.

Deceptions revealed, prisoners taken and the truth revealed Craig and his team work feverishly to foil what this sadistical man has planned for the world. But, first he has to convince some powerful people to support him plus the President of the United States who is anything but his fan. When you hear Craig's words, listen

to the voice of one of the foreign Presidents aiding him on you begin to see why it is so necessary for countries around the world to work together for a common goal. Just what happens and does he stop the plot you will have to learn for yourself. Does Craig finally get General Zhou? Will Musa fall? What about his plan to foil the Muslim people and ignite a war with the Christians? Real life events. Real issues in the news. One dynamite and explosive novel.

Fran Lewis: reviewer

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### **Kathy Martin says**

In THE SPANISH REVENGE, Craig Page and his girlfriend Elizabeth have to thwart a plot to ignite violent conflict between Muslims and Christians in Europe. Our villain is Ahmed Sadi who has taken the name of an early Muslim hero/martyr named Musa Ben Abdil. However, the villain from THE CHINA GAMBIT—General Zhou—also makes an appearance combining forces with this book's villain.

While the text was readable, it could have used some editing because on more than one occasion different characters repeat the same sentiments using almost the same words. I was also dismayed when Craig's lover Elizabeth tells him something that he surely knew as though it were new information.

I also had some issues with character development. I felt that most of the characters were two dimensional and generally unlikable. Many of the politicians, including the US President, were shown to be self-serving and/or corrupt. As a matter of fact, it was often difficult to tell the bad guys from the good guys. Of course that does free Craig to be the one who "saves the day" however illogical that would be.

The story was action-packed with kidnappings, murders, bombs, attempted murder of the Pope, and armed invasion of Southern Spain by Muslims who want to retake the Alhambra. It was exciting—until you stopped to think about how unrealistic it all was.

People who want a thriller for a beach read might enjoy this one.

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### **ChrisGA says**

This is a scary, realistic political thriller with three main characters. Musa is a nonbelieving Muslim anxious to avenge the wrongs against his people dating back to Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Christopher

Columbus fame. This is an ethnic, not a religious, quest as Musa in no way considers himself an agent of Allah. General Zhou is a exiled Chinese military leader who dreams of returning to China as the conqueror who made China dominant in the world. They are united in their efforts to destabilize and control Europe and the US. Craig is American ex-pat, ex-CIA director of European Counterterrorism Agency who spearheads the efforts to stop them. Very depressing worldview of a war between Christians and Muslims. I had to keep reminding myself this was all fiction. Very intense suspense. I received this book on Goodreads Giveaway but the opinions expressed are my own.

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### **John says**

First, I have to say that I won an autographed copy of this book in a Goodreads contest. Next... most of my reading choices are done by following authors. When I find a new author (to me anyway) to follow it's always a good day. From the start of this book I knew I had another to add to my list. The story combines a bit of history with modern times. It pulled me in right away & I like the characters.

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### **Kathy says**

4.5 stars. **Allan Topol** fully captivates his audience with plots that resonate with timely and relevant political issues. Engaging protagonists, realistic storylines and worthy opponents keep *The Spanish Revenge* moving at a brisk pace. To read my review in its entirety, please click [HERE](#).

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### **Julie Laporte says**

This book was very generously signed and mailed to me as a Goodreads Giveaway, for which I am very grateful.

This is the first book I have read by Allan Topol, so I've jumped into the series in the middle--that being said, I didn't feel like I missed much--I was filled in as the story unfolded as to important details from previous stories.

It should also be noted that this is not a style of fiction which I usually pick up, so my criticisms are outside of the genre itself. And I see why--it really isn't my type of book, and I didn't enjoy it very much. However, I think the story was very solid, and very action-packed, so I think it could make a very good movie! I wonder if Mr. Topol has considered screenplay writing instead...the book read very much like one, as far as content goes. There was an abundance of dialogue, and very little description. There was only enough prose included to tell you what you needed to know.

Speaking of the dialogue (pardon the pun!), a large amount of it was very unnatural--things that characters would never say in real life, but the author felt was necessary to help the facts of the story along. A tricky issue to balance in this format of novel, I think.

Unfortunately, the book was horribly edited. There were so many glaring mistakes, I had the impression that

it hadn't even been critically edited in its final stages. The errors were so numerous, I began circling them in red and dog-earing the pages--I had 35 dog-ears by the time I finished, and some pages had multiple errors. That equates to an elementary error every few pages. It was tough to get through, as that sort of thing really irritates me. They were mostly homophone errors which wouldn't be caught by spellcheck. Several non-conventional ones, though, such as mixing "passed" with "past". These weren't the only type, though--sometimes there were prepositions next to each other, like the sentence had been edited incorrectly. Apostrophe errors, foreign language errors, and even a content/plot error continued to madden me.

The storyline was interesting--I don't want to give too much away--but I felt it was slanted negatively toward Muslims--however, I'm particularly sensitive to that.

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### **Jakenv says**

Interesting writing style which made reading a pleasure. Related to current events but brings in enough history to explain why conflict exists. Will definitely read more from this author.

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### **Patty says**

Now and then I like a good suspense novel. It's nice to escape into a world that is full of over the top characters and events. A world that gets your heart racing and your fingers flying as they rush to turn the pages. A world where the good guys are very, very good and the bad guys are just plain evil. Mr. Topol has created that world.

His hero, Craig Page is a man on a mission. What mission you ask? Come on people, all together now - to save the world. What other mission is there for any self respecting ex-CIA, counter-terrorism head of a sleek European Union agency? In the first book of this trilogy (this being the second) our Mr. Page lost his only daughter to one of our villains, General Zhou. Page had defeated Zhou's plans in that first book and the General is out for revenge so he joins up with this book's main evil doer, a nonreligious Islamic terrorist (DON'T CALL HIM A TERRORIST. He has a CAUSE), Ahmed Sadi. Sadi has renamed himself after a 15th century Muslim hero - Musa Ben Abdil. He plans to retake Spain from the infidels.

Oh yeah. We're cooking now.

Mayhem ensues and Craig Page and his love, journalist Elizabeth Crowder are here, there and everywhere halting some attacks and gnashing their teeth that others occur. Some stupid mistakes are made by both of them along the way putting them IN PERIL. They are rescued!

I won't spoil the ending but there is a third book so I will let you figure out whether the world is saved or not.

All implied sarcasm aside I really enjoyed the book. It was fast paced and Mr. Topol kept my interest with his mix of historical content and current affairs. The characters were very well rounded despite my comments above and I find I would like to read the first book and am looking forward to the next and final chapter in the battle between Page and Zhou. It will, I suspect be a humdinger.

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