



# The Chancellor Manuscript

*Robert Ludlum*

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## **The Chancellor Manuscript** Robert Ludlum

Did J. Edgar Hoover die a natural death? Or was he murdered? When a group of high-minded and high-placed intellectuals known as Inver Brass detect a monstrous threat to the country in Hoover's unethical use of his scandal-ridden private files, they decide to do away with him—quietly, efficiently, with no hint of impropriety. Then bestselling thriller writer Peter Chancellor stumbles onto information that makes his previous books look like harmless fairy tales. Now Chancellor and Inver Brass are on a deadly collision course, spiraling across the globe in an ever-widening arc of violence and terror. All roads lead to a showdown that will rip the nation's capital apart—leaving only one damning document to survive.

## **The Chancellor Manuscript Details**

Date : Published August 14th 2012 by Bantam (first published 1977)

ISBN :

Author : Robert Ludlum

Format : Kindle Edition 450 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Mystery, Spy Thriller, Espionage

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# From Reader Review The Chancellor Manuscript for online ebook

## Rory Pratt says

My grandmother gave me a bag of Ludlum books when I was in the hospital after a motorcycle accident when I was 19. I read this book first and was completely blown away. I didn't know reading could be like that. It started me reading. After I read all of Ludlum's books I looked for other authors to read. I will always be grateful to my grandmother.

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## Jamie says

For the most part, this novel was a slow read and not one of Ludlum's best. The end does pick up. There are a couple of twists and surprises, but maybe there are just too many layers of deception in this story. I feel this novel is proof that Ludlum had an inside source in the intelligence world. I have thought this before concerning some of his other works. Robert Ludlum, like Peter Chancellor, is being fed information from those in the know. That much is obvious and Ludlum has made that clear.

The premise centers on a group that conspires to assassinate J. Edgar Hoover and make it appear as a natural death, but there is a deeper deception at play. Others have their own agenda quite different from the secret group, Inver Brass and are willing to kill to achieve their ends.

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## KOMET says

Having just read this book, I feel as if I've just been let off a maddening, yet thrilling merry-go-round. Ludlum has written a thriller with the premise that J. Edgar Hoover, the infamous Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), did not die a natural death in 1972, but had been murdered.

One of the principal characters is Peter Chancellor, a man in his 30s, who had failed in his defense of a Ph.D thesis into which he had devoted 2 years of his life. (It was a highly controversial thesis, which called into question various historical events which had been played out on the world stage between 1926 and 1939.) Frustrated, Chancellor makes his case to an old authority figure (Munro St. Claire) who wielded considerable influence within Chancellor's school. St. Claire advises Chancellor to take up a new career, suggesting fiction. With nothing left to lose, Chancellor embarks upon a literary career, writing over the next 4 years 2 best-selling novels whose conspiratorial themes would lead to Chancellor's life being turned inside out.

Ludlum creates here a novel that has all the hallmarks of a classic action thriller: car chases across highways, horrific deaths in plain sight of passersby, secret codes, clashing of rival groups, and secret quasi-governmental/private organizations. Chancellor cheats death many times. One of the lessons hard learned from him was the following:

"When making a contact, position was everything. Protect yourself by being able to observe all approaching vehicles; keep rapid, undetectable escape available.

"Friends were enemies, and enemies taught one strategies with which to fight them. It was part of the

insanity that was all too real."

Any reader in search of a high-octane action novel mixing fact and fiction will find much in "The Chancellor Manuscript" to keep him/her engaged and breathless.

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## **Paul Lyons says**

Excellent thriller by Robert Ludlum, a page-turner no-doubt. Ludlum may not be the easiest author to read, as too often the contents of his prose is ten steps ahead of the reader. Plus the author tends to sacrifice clarity over complex intrigue. That said, what Ludlum delivers in "The Chancellor Manuscript" is both engaging and entertaining, leaving the reader on the edge through each and every chapter.

There is a part of me that STILL does not understand what happened in "The Chancellor Manuscript." Did life mirror art, or did art mirror life? I get that there was a top secret powerful group called Inver Brass that quietly made decisions and actions that affected the entire United States. They did the work the U.S. government were not able to do, such as getting rid of J. Edgar Hoover, and destroying his private blackmail files (at least that was the original plan). I get that code name "Bravo" (Munro St. Claire) steered a young student named Peter Chancellor towards fiction, rather than continue the path he was on as a truth-seeking historian ready to expose some nasty secrets involving the Nuremberg trials. What I don't entirely get is the rest...

Who ordered the first assassination attempt on Chancellor's life, the one that killed his fiancée Cathy? What is Varak, via Inver Brass? Then Munro St. Claire later decides to use Chancellor as a means to flush out the people who stole half of J. Edgar Hoover's private files, after Inver Brass has Hoover murdered. So Varak is then assigned to program Chancellor into conspiracy madness by carefully feeding the author information that he should use for his next book. Yet Varak is a master manipulator, and mixes both truth and lies together in order to further drive Chancellor out of his mind. But...something goes wrong. It's kind of brilliant when you think about it, yet hard to grasp onto when you are reading it for the first time. In essence, the master manipulator (Varak) gets out-manipulated by an unknown force, who speaks a bizarre and utterly foreign tongue. Yet since Varak can not be trusted as a conduit of truthful information, one never knows whether whatever he is saying or doing is part of the truth, or just another manipulation.

Speaking of manipulation, which came first...the manuscript, or the Chancellor's real-life story? Varak fed information to Chancellor, who eventually put it in his manuscript, as he did with everything else that happened to him. But...some elements of his life mirrored exactly what he had had previously written. Was that be design, or just happenstance? Was the entire story just an author's fantasy come to life? I still don't know.

Then there is the whole "Chasong" business. What was that all about? Was it just a red herring, or something significant? Ludlum keeps you guessing, and guessing again. However, when the "truth" is finally revealed...it STILL does not make sense. Something about a General's wife, whose parents were prisoners of the Chinese during the Korean war, who fed info to the Chinese, then was caught, and forced to become a drug addict and whore, then used to feed misinformation to the Chinese...okay. Then she is raped by a black man. THEN, to stop her husband the General from asking questions, the evil military leaders manipulate the General into leading an all-black battalion into slaughter at Chasong. What??? Does not make sense, yet this plot point is key to the whole manipulation.

Somehow, despite that huge flaw, "The Chancellor Manuscript" is still a very good book. Ludlum keeps your guessing all the way up to the very end (and long after), with plenty of juicy plot twists to sink your teeth into. Strange to say, the book has everything: action, history, romance, sex, mystery, murder, intrigue, and ever socio-political commentary to boot. I may not have gotten everything that Robert Ludlum was trying to get across, yet I sure enjoyed myself along the way...

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### **Elissa says**

This was the first and last Ludlum book I read. I found it tedious. Too many details and not enough suspense for what is supposed to be a suspense/action novel.

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### **John says**

THE CHANCELLOR MANUSCRIPT is a top-notch thriller with perhaps the most convoluted story line I've ever seen. Only an incredibly masterful writer would even attempt something like this, let alone be able to pull it off. Which Ludlum does, for the most part. Definitely not recommended unless you want to give your brain a workout. This is one book I would suggest reading through as quickly as possible so as not to lose track of the plot.

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### **Sailen Dutta says**

One of my favourites. The real attraction isn't the question if J.Edgar died a natural death or he was murdered, although that is the premise of the book. No, for me that real attraction was the revelation in the last page. Who's to say that similar kinds of events didn't happen with Ludlum himself? A writer used as a 'blind' by a shadowy organisation to fulfil its own purposes, not caring whether the writer lives or dies at the end. Ludlum definitely models Peter Chancellor on himself. The question is, did Ludlum write something based on his life or is it a complete fiction? This novel clearly shows the lengths to which these intelligence agencies are willing to go for what is called 'the greater good'. Highly recommended!

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### **Lori Rubin says**

The best Ludlum novel ever, and very timely story line with what is going on in today's world. A must read for lovers of the thriller genre.

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### **Laure says**

Ludlum's books are always a great ride and this one is not an exception. I love how the plot tightens up as you reach the finale: incredibly tight!  
It makes me want to read the bourne series again.

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### **Mary says**

This is my favorite Ludlum book of all time. I devoured it. It has a bit of historical fiction in it but stays the espionage course as well. I would rate it "R" if it were a movie due to language and some scene description but it's a great read if you like spy novels. Ludlum is a master storyteller.

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### **Joe says**

This is the first book by Ludlum that I've read. I enjoyed the Bourne Trilogy films so read a few of the books from later in the Bourne series. These were by van Lustbader and although entertaining seemed to lack depth with the characters. This book has more depth to it than Lustbader's did, with a far more satisfying sense of resolution (helped no doubt by the fact that it isn't part of a series). Ludlum writes well, mixing good pace of storyline with development of characters and intrigue - a thoroughly enjoyable read.

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### **Mark says**

This is a non-stop thriller by a master at the top of his form. Great story, characters and plot.

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### **Dipanjana says**

This was my 2nd reading of this book. I had first read it when I was in school, somewhere in the 90s. All I remembered was I smuggle-read this book in school to race through it. The Chancellor Manuscript is a typical Robert Ludlum signature book. Unlike his other books, this one is set COMPLETELY in the USA and the pandemonium of crisis eats away at the heart of the US administration. This book is unique because there is a constant conflict AND merger of fiction and reality. It's like a plot within a plot within a plot. By the time you finish you may have to take some time to swim out of the cesspool you had been thrown into.

This is one classic Ludlum work because of its myriads of twists in the tale, the deceptions and the counter deceptions, the encompassing crisis, the spiralling of violence, the clinical process of murder and of course a high level of intelligence in every single step.

It will keep you wondering "what if"? It will make you think "is there any fact to fiction"?

If you haven't read Chancellor Manuscript yet, it's about time you dive into it and experience how surveillance can own you.

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### **Julius Gewargis says**

not better than the previous books I read which were total monsters, but nonetheless amazing. this is a

Mystery Spy thriller that, with no surprise, contains many twists and turns. This book doesn't just contain one simple plot, but much much more...A lot more.

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## **Efka says**

Ludlum'as yra žinomas kaip vienas geriausių, nuosekliausių spy-fiction ir konspiracijos teorijos stiliaus žanro autorių, kurio daugelis knygų tapo superhitais ir/ar buvo ekranizuotos, neiškiriant ir populiariosios Borno trilogijos. Šita knyga, nors ir ne itin panaši į Borną (į kino versiją, kuri nuo knygos skiriasi oho kaip) išlaiko tuos pačius bruožus - nedidelį tempą, gan lakoniškus dialogus, mažai sūmonų srauto bei aplinkos aprašymų, keletas tempų veiksmo scenų. Žodžiu, visai neblogas kokteiliukas tokio žanro mėgėjams.

Į turinį pernelyg neišsiplėsiu, bet verta paminėti, kad žaisti su skaitytoju autorius tikrai moka. Jau knygos viduryje supratau, kas yra tikrasis blogiukas, tada, pačioje pabaigoje smarkiai tuo suabejojau tik tam, kad prieš pat patį pabaigą suprasčiau, jog buvau teisus. Ir tada viskas apsivertė aukštyn kojom. Taigi, galiu garantuoti, kad čia nebus tas detektyvas, kuriame jau knygos viduryje paaiškėja, kas blogietis.

Bendrai pažymus, tai knyga tokia gan keista - kaip jau minėjau, nei dialogai išsamūs, nei veiksmo daug. O ir patys veikėjai, net ir pagrindiniai, tokie biškelį meh. Na, tiesiog nuobodoki, gal net stereotipiniai. Kaip ir nėra aiškios priežasties, kodėl knyga traukia. O ji tį padaro. Nors, manau jog priežastis yra pačioje fabuloje - Lannisterių išmintis Tyriono formoje teigia, kad geriausi melai yra tie, kuriuose sočiai atseikėta tiesos. Turbūt tai labai tinka ir šiuo atveju - gal čia ir daug ko prisigalvota, bet vos truputį pagooglinus iškart surandi, kad Hooveris iš tiesų piktnaudžiavo valdžia, kad turėjo slapto bylų rinkinį apie daugelį svarbių šalies žmonių, kad sukūrė slaptojo policiją FTB ribose - žodžiu, visas romano pagrindas gaunasi kaip ir tiesa. Ir tada belieka susimąstyti "o jeigu?.."

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