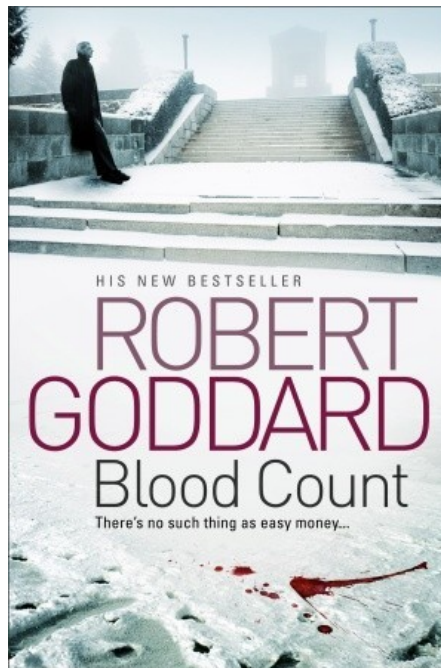




Blood Count

Robert Goddard

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There's no such thing as easy money. As surgeon Edward Hammond is about to find out. Thirteen years ago he performed a life saving operation on a Serbian gangster, Dragan Gazi. Gazi is now standing trial for war crimes in the international court in The Hague. After his life was saved, his men went on to slaughter thousands in the Balkan civil wars.

Now Gazi's family want more from him: in exchange for keeping Hammond's dirty little secret, they want him to find for them the man who holds the key to all the money Gazi squirreled away before he was locked up. But Italian financier, Marco Piravani, doesn't want to be found, not by Hammond, not by anyone. No sooner has Hammond tracked him down, than Piravani has disappeared again.

His pursuit will take him first to the Hague, and then to Milan to find the Italian, and then finally back to the scene of his crime, Belgrade, where he must confront the decisions he once so easily took. Only then will he be able to lay the past to rest...

Blood Count Details

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Author : Robert Goddard

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From Reader Review Blood Count for online ebook

Marie says

It was fine!

I have read loads of Robert Goddard's books over the years. I don't know if it is because I am older or that he has become a bit of a book factory; but it was JUST fine. Well written, plot holds together, not too predictable, believable reactions from the characters. It just didn't do anything. Decent holiday reading.

Roney Lundell says

En ok thriller med stundtals gripande spänning. Det är dock väl många förvecklingar och storyn blir alltmer otrolig och svår att köpa.

Ingrid Verschelling says

Na negentien boeken gelezen te hebben van Robert Goddard, was ik wel nieuwsgierig naar dit boek, welke uitgekomen is in 2010. Ik heb altijd genoten van zijn verhalen, de één beter dan de andere en was benieuwd of dit verhaal mij ook zou pakken.

Het familiekapitaal gaat over het kapitaal, dat vergaard is door een oorlogsmisdadiger in Servië.

Gemakkelijk verdiend geld bestaat niet. Dat is iets wat de Londense chirurg Edward Hammond ook ondervindt. Dertien jaar geleden heeft hij voor veel geld een levertransplantatie uitgevoerd bij een Servische gangster, Dragan Gazi. Nu staat Gazi terecht voor oorlogsmisdaden in het oorlogstribunaal in Den Haag. Nadat zijn leven gered is door deze transplantatie, gaan zijn mannen gewoon door duizenden mensen af te slachten in de burgeroorlog op de Balkan.

Terwijl Dr. Hammond op Heathrow staat te wachten op een vlucht naar Oostenrijk voor een skivakantie, wordt hij aan zijn jasje getrokken door de dochter van Gazi, Ingrid. Zij wil, dat Dr. Hammond contact opneemt met de Boekhouder van Gazi, een Italiaan Marco Piravani om de hand te kunnen leggen op het geld van haar vader. Zij wordt gevolgd, dus kan dit niet zelf doen. De dochter van deze oorlogsmisdadiger wil maar één ding: het familiekapitaal veiligstellen. Piravani heeft alle geld onder zijn beheer, welke Gazi bijeen gesprokkeld heeft in Servië. Iedereen aast op dit kapitaal. Als Dr. Hammond dit niet wil doen, dan zal haar vader dingen vertellen die hij niet graag gezegd zou hebben, zoals dat een deel van het honorarium voor de behandeling bestond uit de moord op zijn vrouw dertien jaar geleden. Gazi 's beschuldigingen zouden Hammonds leven grondig overhoop halen. Door deze chantage moet Dr. Hammond wel meewerken, ook al weet hij zelf niets af van een moord op zijn vrouw. Zijn vrouw was gedood op een parkeerplaats bij een supermarkt, maar vermoord?

Zijn zoektocht naar Parivani brengt hem eerst naar Den Haag, waar hij zijn intrek neemt in het Kurhaus, gevolgd door een reis naar Milaan, waar hij probeert Piravani te vinden via een vroegere collega. Wanneer deze collega wordt gedood door een Serviër, heeft Dr. Hammond door, dat hij zich in een wespenest gestoken heeft. Parivani wil niet gevonden worden. Telkens als Dr. Hammond hem heeft achterhaald,

verdwijnt hij weer. Lugano is het volgende reisdoel en Belgrado, waar belastende banden voor Gazi verborgen liggen. Marco Piravani vindt dat het geld toebehoort aan de oorlogsslachtoffers in voormalig Joegoslavië en niet aan de familie. Hij weigert het geld aan de familie uit te keren. Hoe raakt Dr. Hammond hier weer uit zonder dat hij beschadigd wordt of erger gedood?

Deze roman wordt gelanceerd als historische thriller. Historische feiten worden knap in het verhaal verweven. Ikzelf vind het meer een misdaadverhaal. Het verhaal heeft geen flash backs, maar wordt chronologisch verteld. Je kunt merken, dat Goddard al veel boeken geschreven heeft. Ik vind het boek geschreven op routine. Maar daar ontkom je misschien niet aan als je al zoveel romans hebt geschreven. Dr. Hammond kwam op mij over als een onnozel iemand, die iedereen maar vertrouwde. Hij liet zich met iedereen in, ook al verantwoorde hij zich waarom hij dat deed. Het is een race tegen de klok. Een moord in de ene stad, een inbraak in de andere, voor mij leek het op zo 'n actiefilm met achtervolgers. Pas op het einde kreeg ik het gevoel weer een beetje terug, dat het wel een goed verhaal was, maar voor mij was dat een beetje laat. Drie sterren, meer wordt dit verhaal niet voor mij.

Robert Goddard, geboren in Hampshire in 1954, studeerde geschiedenis in Cambridge, doceerde geschiedenis, was gemeenteambtenaar en journalist. In 1986 werd hij fulltime schrijver.

Sandra says

I've read seven or eight books by this author in total, and remember most had a flatness which dissuaded me from wanting to re-read, but this felt even flatter. Dialogue worthy of cartoon characters, four times as many coincidences and sudden 'aha, but ...' moments as could readily be supported and a whizzing past plot holes at the speed of light.

Time to clear more space on my bookshelves.

Under Milkwood says

Like all his namesakes before and after him, Jean-Luc , Brendan, Lisa et al, Bob has his failings and this was not one of his best, yet far from his worst. But, despite the overly convenient outcomes and suspended credibility, the novel still rolls through at a cracking pace amidst numerous twists and turns. A convenient time killer as opposed to time-waster, then.

Joe Stamber says

Goddard regulars will know that his novels generally have a pattern. A character's present is affected by something that happened in the past. Nothing is what it seems. No one is who they seem. Almost everything the main character is told is a lie. The main character trusts people that shouldn't be trusted and makes poor decisions that make the situation worse. Goddard uses these devices to create conflict and tension and this works up to a point. His writing is of a very good standard and Blood Count is a pleasant enough read, following his usual blueprint without being his best or worst work.

Tim Swift says

Reading through a number of different detective and thriller authors at the moment, I've been starting to contrast different approaches. Some of them - like Ian Rankin with Rebus, or Peter Robinson with Banks, build a strong series around one core character. Others, such as Grisham, focus on particular settings.

Robert Goddard, it seems to me, is one who rather has a blueprint or a framework that they keep applying to different settings. There is a particular type of hero, a complex and continuously unravelling story, usually a deeply conflicted and potentially treacherous romantic interest.....

Perhaps I'm being unfair and it's just my perception, but that's certainly how some of his recent books have read to me and to be honest, I've got a bit jaded by them. When it's done well, it can be very good - "Past Caring", his first novel, ranks as a personal favourite, and one I can envisage reading again. "In Pale Battalions", "Set in Stone", and "Caught in the Light" are also solid and detailed books, well researched, challenging, intricate but still about believable.

"Blood Count" is frustrating. Better than some recent ones, with a stronger hero who realises sooner than most that initial poor choices have left him trapped, I'm afraid I still found myself skim reading in the middle section - engaged enough to want to find out what happens, but not to want to take in and appreciate the detail of the story.

There are some nice twists right at the end, but the problem with choosing a hero who is less of a drifter than previous ones is that it's also hard to believe he could be taken in quite as many times as he is in the course of the plot - I hope that's not too much of a spoiler, but if you've read Robert Goddard before you'll know what to expect!

Crt says

Awesome. A new author for me and I enjoyed the book immensely. Liver transplant surgeon Dr Edward Hammond gets involved in an escape plan for a Serbian war lord whose liver he transplanted many years ago for a hefty fee.

Sheila says

I am still wondering how Dr. Edward Hammond could be so naive. Presumably a man with brains and integrity (although the latter could be suspect since he gave a mass murderer a new liver) could be taken in by events that multiplied one on top of the other. And that the police in London had never got to the bottom of his wife's cold blooded murder. I read it to the end and found it had many unsuspecting twists and turns but I am still skeptical as to why he just didn't go to the police when he was first blackmailed by Dragan Gazi's daughter Ingrid. A little far fetched. 2 1/2 to 3 stars.

Karen says

Lots of twists and turns in the plot, however, the fact that I didn't like the main character influenced my rating

Gayle says

Robert Goddard always does a good page-turner - this one was about Serbian war criminals, of which I know very little. Again, this was a random choice from the library but certainly enjoyable.

Nada says

Blood Count is a very apt name for this novel. It held my attention from start to finish. I can now better appreciate the thought processes of people who have had to endure such conflict as that described and have had to live under particular regimes. I am lucky to not be constantly thinking about what conspiracy theories are plausible or even probable and who I can or cannot trust. What an eye opener to say the least!

Eric_W says

I had forgotten how much I enjoy Robert Goddard's books until I started this audiobook read very well by David Rintoul. Goddard seems to specialize in ordinary people finding themselves in difficult situations and usually involving some kind of multi-continent chase.

In this one, the past of a liver transplant surgeon, Edward Hammond, comes back to haunt him. Several years before he had been offered a considerable amount of money to save the life of Dragan Gazi, a man now on trial in the Hague for war crimes, with a liver transplant. Gazi's daughter, Ingrid, has approached and tasked him with retrieving Gazi's millions which are hidden away in bank accounts somewhere. If he refuses, Ingrid will reveal evidence that Hammond had had his wife Katie killed because she was about to divorce him and marry someone else.

The man holding the key to the location of the money, Gazi's accountant, Marco Piravani, doesn't want to be found, however, let alone release the money to Ingrid. To detail more of the plot would be to drive spoiler police over the edge. Let's just say the situation he finds himself in is very complicated and one that Hammond himself does not recognize or understand.

It's a story of revenge, responsibility, medical ethics, corruption, and family and tribal loyalty. An interesting story diminished only by an overabundance of coincidence.

Okidoki says

En långsökt berättelse med resor hit och dit.

Varad Rajgond says

the whole story was really interesting but when I was just about to finish the book an unexpected turn of events occurred . you are faced with an unforeseeable development and outcomes are totally different . overall really thrilling experience .
