



## **The Rembrandt Affair**

*Daniel Silva*

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When an art restorer is murdered and a portrait by Rembrandt is stolen, Gabriel Allon is pulled into a race across the globe against a group of powerful men who will do anything to keep the truth about the painting hidden...

## **The Rembrandt Affair Details**

Date : Published July 14th 2010 by HarperCollins Publishers

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Author : Daniel Silva

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

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# From Reader Review The Rembrandt Affair for online ebook

## Mike says

**3 Stars** for my first Silva, The Rembrandt Affair kept me interested but it wasn't all that exciting. Connecting a painting seized in the Holocaust to the Iranian nuclear program was a bit of a stretch. I may need to go back to the first Gabriel Allon books to get a better feel for the characters. Not bad.

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## Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

*"Though the stranger did not know it, two disparate series of events were by that night already conspiring to lure him back onto the field of battle. One was being played out behind the locked doors of the world's secret intelligence services while the other was the subject of a global media frenzy."*

Of course the 'stranger' is Gabriel Allon - Art Restorer and sometimes an Israeli Spy and Assassin. He is coaxed out of retirement to find a stolen Rembrandt. A painting that has cost so much blood.

And the rest? I can't say without spoilers to either of the novel's two plots.

I will say - hang on to your seats because Silva takes the readers on a fast paced roller-coaster ride full of twists and turns as he builds suspense.

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## Jay Connor says

The best writer of international intrigue has done it again. "The Rembrandt Affair" is a masterful redirection of a character and story line following the wonderful tandem offering of "Moscow Rules" and "The Defector." Daniel Silva has spun a completely different web of a story by going back to Gabriel Allon, his central character's, essence -- artist and Holocaust avenger.

After the powerful "Moscow Rules" and "The Defector," I passed Silva the mantle of modern-day Robert Ludlum, I am now prepared to add John Le Carre and Graham Greene as worthy progenitors, as well.

Gabriel Allon's cover for the Israelis Covert Intelligence Office has been that of art restorer. "The Rembrandt Affair" sees Gabriel as "art restorer" on both the physical and psychological level. The search for a medieval masterpiece brings him to the center of the flywheel of today's global threat: religious terrorism leavened with capitalist greed.

After reading the book, please reflect on the Author's Note at the end. Have we brought our world to the point where the real is fiction and the fiction is all too real. Fact: Against international sanctions, Germany, who brought us the last Holocaust is the major provider of nuclear capability to Iran, who is set on bringing us the next.

Powerful read.

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## Laura says

A good entertainment book.

4\* A Death in Vienna

3\* The Rembrandt Affair

TR The Kill Artist

TR The Marching Season

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## Jeanette "Astute Crabbist" says

After reading *The Defector*, I didn't think Silva could get any better, but I think he did just that with *The Rembrandt Affair*. It's so smooth! He keeps things popping and exciting, and shares a wealth of research. I envy all the globetrotting he did to prepare himself to write this story.

It's been a while since I read a thriller that got my heart racing so hard that I was afraid to continue and see what would happen next. This book did that to me several times. Gabriel Allon is getting a little gray and wrinkly. Still, I can't wait to read about his next assignment.

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## Carl Brookins says

Daniel Silva is an experienced best-selling author. He deserves his place on the NY Times list. His latest novel is a fascinating blend of lust, international espionage, art theft and sale, and murder. It is well-written, well-paced and almost insidiously compelling. It's also long.

Silva has peopled his thriller with a remarkable cast of characters, including a towering Swiss philanthropist, a raffish cast of thieves and murderers who are on the side of the angels, a master logician who is also a stone killer, an art restorer of great skill and several others of questionable yet important morals. Over all hangs the image of one of the greatest of European artists, Dutch painter Rembrandt von Rijn. He lived and prospered during the golden era of Dutch painting and died in 1669. His paintings are worth millions.

When a small portrait of a young woman mysteriously appears in the art world, knowing viewers immediately recognize it as the work of the great Dutch Master. But knowing and proving are quite different things. In the art world, provenance is everything. Where has this painting been for perhaps hundreds of years?

Answering that all-important question brings together a London art dealer and master restorer and art expert, and master spy, Gabriel Allon. That connection sets off a wild chase through high and low social levels of Britain and Europe in a taut novel fraught with unexpected turns, unusual characters and sometimes off-the-wall events.

It all adds up to a dandy novel that will satisfy the most discriminating thriller readers.

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## **Kelly Hager says**

This was my first Daniel Silva novel and I have totally been missing out! In case you are also in this boat, don't feel like you have to catch up--I followed the action in this book very well.

Gabriel Allon is an art restorer/expert assassin. He's retired (from killing), though, and looks forward to a peaceful retirement with his wife.

Of course, things don't go according to plan. He's recruited to help find a stolen Rembrandt painting, and all hell breaks loose.

At first I thought this might be a fun, Thomas Crown-style book, but it really isn't. It's got international intrigue and politics and really scary people (there's a big Holocaust subplot). It's a thick book (476 pages, not counting the author's note) but it reads like a beach novel.

Definitely recommended.

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## **Alex is The Romance Fox says**

I have read all Gabriel Allon's books and have enjoyed them...but The Rembrandt Affair I struggled to finish it.

Slow, very little dialogue.

I think that the writer has become bored with this character.

I missed the sparkle in the previous books

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## **Shincrackerfarm says**

The good news is that Silva's plot and style are both smooth and entrancing. The bad news is that his handedness is very uneven, blatantly labeling Israelis as heroic and Americans, British and other Europeans as either complicit or bumbling. Unfortunate as well is his characterization of Iran as a pocket of evil that will probably have to be expunged to save the heroic and eternally persecuted Israelis.

It's ironic that the idea that "the enterprise of the State of Israel" as a sanctuary for and by members of one mythology, never held to account for its actions, was a bad idea from the get-go, never occurred to me until Silva's not-so-subtle idealization of Israel got stuck in my throat.

I also can't help but feel some empathy for Iran in its alleged pursuit of nuclear weapon capability; they are surrounded now by the world's most powerful military force (as occupiers of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq), and nuclear Israel on the remaining section. Silva refers often to Iran's sabre-rattling rhetoric regarding Israel, but never to Israel's constant promises to bomb Iran's alleged nuclear labs and military installations to smithereens.

The bottom line? If one is educated about the actual Middle East situation and thus armed against Silva's obvious political agenda, this can be an enjoyable book.

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## **Giovanni Gelati says**

I have had a nice run of finding really good novels to read and post on this summer. The Rembrandt Affair is like holding 480 pages of energy in your hand. It was an awesome read for many reasons. Daniel Silva has crafted another fine piece of work, but as many of his fans have commented on already, you were waiting impatiently for this novel and expected nothing less to be delivered. I was surprised by the size of the novel but he used every page and every word to the reader's advantage.

The Rembrandt Affair starts out simply and then picks up the pace as we think we can see how the plotline is unfolding. Guess again. Silva shifts gears and directions in a way that makes it very hard to put this novel down. My best advice, don't have much to do when you crack this open. This is a piece from the jacket that will give you a little flav of what is contained in pages of the novel: " Before he is done, Gabriel will once again be drawn into a world he thought he had left behind forever, and will come face-to-face with a remarkable cast of characters: a glamorous London journalist who is determined to undo the worst mistake of her career, an elusive master art thief who is burdened by a conscience, and a powerful Swiss billionaire who is known for his good deeds but may just be behind one of the greatest threats facing the world. It is a timely reminder that there are men in the world who will do anything for money."

I think women will do anything for money also, but that may be just my opinion, but I digress. Daniel Silva hits another home run with The Rembrandt Affair. The novel is heavy at 480 pages of fun, but don't take it lightly, this hits the mark and then some .Gabriel is back in the saddle doing what he does best. Silva presents us with another novel that has been crafted with all the right elements and does not feel that he just followed a recipe. Instead this read is fresh, unnerving, and original. Does anybody expect any less from a writer of this caliber? What is your favorite Daniel Silva Novel?

What are you reading today? Check us out and become our friend on Facebook. Go to Goodreads and become our friend there and suggest books for us to read and post on. You can also follow us on Twitter, Book Blogs, and also look for our posts on Amazon, Barnes and Nobles, and the Bucks County Library System. Did you know you can shop directly on Amazon by clicking the Gelati's Store Tab on our blog? Thanks for stopping by today; we will see you tomorrow. Have a great day.

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## **Lynne says**

I really, really enjoyed reading this book. Gabriel Allon's character gets better with each book in the series and of course it is always fun to read about his lovely wife Chiara (who "ate in the same manner in which she made love, slowly and by the flickering glow of candles" - best line ever! hilarious). But actually the thing I do love about Daniel Silva's books is that in addition to being entertaining, fast-paced spy-ish books (which I so love to read at the end of a long day) - they are really well researched and full of interesting nuggets of real information. In this case it was fascinating to read about art looted from holocaust victims and their families by the Nazis and the bankers who enabled such things. I loved the tender descriptions of the beautiful (in real life non-existent) Rembrandt painting which the story centers around. And I love how Silva writes about how art has the power to heal people. Yes, at a few points I even found myself shedding some tears (not during the fight scenes, fyi).

All in all, highly entertaining and satisfying book (and series!)

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## Jim says

Like most of Silva's works, this one belongs at the head of the class. Unlike some of his works, however, this one does not suffer from a thin plot. Rather, it has a decent set of layers to the story. And the cast of regulars continues to be a nice blend of competent and capable and flawed and damaged, starting with Gabriel Allon, the art restorer and occasional (and reluctant) Israeli spy and assassin. In this outing, Allon is on the trail of a story dating back to World War II, brought to his attention by a Rembrandt painting that had been out of circulation since it was stolen by a Nazi during the war. And in tracing the history of the painting, a present-day threat is revealed. Silva is another in the minority of thriller writer who avoids the cheesy and over-the-top plotting and the one-dimensional black-and-white characters that are far too common in the genre. His thrillers read more like literature, and this one is no exception. And while I would give it 4.5 stars if I could (since there is no thing as a perfect book), this one, in particular, deserves to be recognized for being a particularly good outing by a particularly good author, and four stars just don't seem fair. It can be read as a standalone or as the latest in the series (as long as you don't mind some spoiler-ish backstory summaries here and there), and I can't recommend it highly enough. Good stuff.

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## Arjun says

I've read every single Gabriel Allon book and The Rembrandt Affair (or as I call it "Gabriel Runs an Errand") is no exception. I read the entire book in the store and I'm now elated I didn't bother buying it. The plot moves along steadily enough and like most Allon books, this one WILL have you turning pages to the end. However, this book felt WAYh more formulaic than the previous ones and I feel that Silva has lost interest in these characters and just popping them out for profit.

Here is the formula for the last 5 books:

- 1) Gabriel is in hiding after the horrors of his last novel (this time because his wife and him were almost murdered by a Russian psychopath)
  - 2) Something happens in the real world that relates to Gabriel in the most subtle of ways
  - 3) Gabriel doesn't want to go back... but is helped by Shamron.
  - 4) The team (Rimona, Dina, Mikhail, etc) gets together, surveils, and goes in for the kill but OMG they're captured.
  - 5) They barely get out thanks to some last minute heroics by Israel's finest.
- \*) Uzi Navot complaining that Gabriel is one of the cool kids but he aint. (Insert anywhere)

Don't get me wrong, this is a great formula and has kept me up late on many nights. But this time, I could care less about steps 4 and 5 because the danger felt so contrived.

One of the guilty pleasures of these books is that Villains always get their comeuppance via Gabrielle's skill with a handgun in the last chapters of the book. However, this time the villain is forced to become an intelligence asset.

Daniel Silva has chops as a writer of page-turners but this was seriously wanting. The "Man-behind-the-Man" trope was done with Iran's nuclear program instead of the traditional Nazi or Palestinian. I sincerely hope that Silva can recapture the original magic of the Israeli spy/art restorer, but I won't hold my breath.

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### **Pcmitchell says**

Love Daniel Silva. Great escape reading and this was one of his best.

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### **David says**

This is the first book of the Gabriel Allon series that I have read--and it was quite a ride. It starts out a bit slow. Gabriel Allon is a first-class art restorer, and he is asked to help find a stolen painting. Allon says that in order to find where a piece of stolen art is going, it is usually worthwhile to find where it has been. So, he looks into the history of the painting, and finds out that it was stolen by the Nazis during World War II.

As it turns out, Gabriel Allon is not only an art restorer. He is also a retired secret agent and assassin for the Israeli secret service. He tries to get some of his pals in the secret service to help him recover the painting. Initially, this is difficult, but--the painting is more important, much more important than it would seem at first glance.

The plot twists and turns many times. The ending--I won't reveal any spoilers here--is quite unpredictable. I enjoy novels that are unpredictable, and this one certainly fits the bill. I enjoyed the book from beginning to end.

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