



# Saul's Game

*Andrew Kaplan*

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Leading a mission to capture master terrorist, Abu Nazir, CIA operations officer Carrie Mathison discovers a dangerous threat inside the Agency in this thrilling second official prequel novel to Showtime's Emmy Award-winning hit series *Homeland*.

Damascus, Syria, 2009. Carrie Mathison is leading an operation to capture or kill al Qaeda terrorist, Abu Nazir. But arriving at the compound where he was supposed to be in hiding, they find it empty. Carrie is sure that someone is leaking CIA information to the enemy and has betrayed their operation, seriously threatening American interests in the Middle East. To expose the double agent, her boss, Saul Berenson, devises an elaborate ruse that will send her on the most dangerous mission of her life.

This twisting tale of international intrigue takes fans deeper into the intense world of high-stakes espionage, and explores never-before-seen details of Carrie's life as an operative in the Middle East, Saul's past as an agent in Iran, Brody's dark childhood and captivity, and events involving the trio—and other favorite characters, like Dar Adal—that will lead them to the present.

## Saul's Game Details

Date : Published October 7th 2014 by William Morrow Paperbacks (first published September 16th 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Andrew Kaplan

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Fiction, Thriller



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# **From Reader Review Saul's Game for online ebook**

## **Liz C says**

Not bad and fast paced, but you really have to know the characters from the t.v. to understand it well. Would hate to have to work like this. Saul is quite a nasty character when you think about it but I suppose you have to be in this game.

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## **Matt says**

Fans of HOMELAND will surely find Kaplan's second prequel novel highly interesting, filling in some of the cracks laid out in the television program. While working undercover in Damascus in 2009, Carrie Mathison is leading an operation focussed on al Qaeda terrorist, Abu Nazir. When the plan goes south, Carrie figures that someone is leaking intel to the enemy, as Nazir is always one step ahead. Carrie turns to her boss, Saul Berenson, who sends her on the most trying mission of her life into the highly unstable Islamic Republic of Iran, all to coax the leak out of hiding. Exploring back stories on Carrie, Saul, and a young Nicholas Brody, Kaplan teases the series fan with breadcrumbs sure to excite and encourage them to keep tuning in to the Showtime classic program.

Kaplan has raised the bar from the first novel he penned on the series, adding new layers to the storyline. The television series is intense and trying to capture the same level of thrills and drama is difficult, though Kaplan has done his best. Carrie, again the central character, has her flaws pushed under the microscope, but Brody's youth and turning prove to be highly intriguing as well. Fans of high-thrill terrorism novels and of the HOMELAND series alike will laud Kaplan for his addition to the prequel series.

Kudos, Mr. Kaplan for all your efforts in providing some of the stories untold on the television screen to allow HOMELAND fans the added touch of character development.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:  
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

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## **Scottsdale Public Library says**

Homeland: Saul's Game is the second official prequel novel based on Showtime's hit television series. Andrew Kaplan presents another lightning paced, edge of your seat espionage thriller that fans of the TV series expect and new readers will positively enjoy.

Just as the previous Homeland novel, Carrie's Run, examined Carrie Mathison's backstory. Saul's Game, explores the backstory of Saul Berenson and what makes Carrie's boss such a formidable spy. This well written novel also delves into the backstories of Nicholas Brody and CIA black operations director, Dar Adal.

The best element about this novel is the list of characters (in order of appearance) and a glossary (in alphabetical order) provided by the author at the end of the book. This will definitely help readers to keep track of all the characters with foreign names as well as the numerous military and intelligence acronyms. Homeland: Saul's Game is therefore very highly recommended to fans of the TV series as well as to readers

of espionage thrillers.-- Leslie G.

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### **Polo says**

This book didn't deliver the thrill I experienced while reading *Carrie's Run*, which captivated me to stay up late and discover what was happening next. I found myself bogged down during parts of the story. I was challenged to fit together who was talking to who in the italicized snippets, was the President, Vice President or Senator speaking and to whom at what point? That said, the chapters featuring Carrie, Virgil, Abu Nazir and Saul kept the story-line moving.

I recommend reading the character pages and glossary in the back when starting to read the book. I found myself referring to the glossary and re-reading about the various organizations and sects to understand the political dynamics. Overall, a good book.

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### **Carolyn says**

Within the first few pages, I was once again inexorably sucked in to the tumultuous world of Carrie, Brody, and Saul as if I'd never been away. The author's writing style is so vivid, at times it was as if I could actually feel the stifling material of the black chador Carrie wore and hear the chattering of automatic weapons. I confess, I am a devout fan of *Homeland*, so the opportunity to delve back into this dangerous, high stakes world of intrigue was relished! Of particular enjoyment to me was the opportunity to catch a glimpse of Brody's childhood and life before his capture and imprisonment and of Carrie's pre-Brody life as an operative. This pulse-pounding, gut-wrenching second prequel will keep you riveted to the pages, while priming you for the start of the show's fourth season. Based on my enjoyment of this one, I'm going to go back and read the other prequel to this one, *Homeland: Carrie's Run*. As a side note, a much appreciated cast of characters and glossary of terms was included.

Disclaimer: I received this book through the FirstReads program.

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### **Hans says**

The TV-series is very impressive. This is equally fast-paced!

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### **Wendy Kendall says**

There are lots of ways to tell a good story. This is the second novel in a prequel series that's a tie-in to the Showtime *Homeland* series on cable. In this case, if you discover the television series and like it, you'll love the book. And also, if you first discover the books and like them, you'll love the television series.

These stories are about fictional characters in the CIA fighting the war on terror, defending the homeland. If you're looking for passion, you're definitely going to find it in this book. These characters are so passionate in their beliefs and in their actions. The action is constant, and the situations are desperate. Throughout,

you're never sure exactly who you can trust as the plot takes turns around each corner.

The heroine is Carrie Mathison, a CIA operative. Her boss is Saul. The characters are incredibly real, with amazing strengths and chilling flaws. It's fascinating to see how the strategies and undercover plays unfold. You have to wonder how closely fiction might reflect reality. The life depicted of an operative in the Middle East and Iran is heart pounding. The books give you a more in depth background and feel for the thoughts, emotions and backgrounds of all the characters than the television series platform allows. Books also give a more in depth understanding of the issues facing the Middle East today. For those fans of Nick Brody, the Marine POW caught up in the CIA intrigue, he and his story are included in this novel.

The author, Andrew Kaplan is a former journalist, war correspondent. He served in both the US Army and also in the Israeli Army during the Six Day War. He's worked in military intelligence and has been a consultant with groups that advise governments. He's the author of several spy thrillers, including the Scorpion series, as well as this novel, and the first in this series – Carrie's Run. Saul's Game is the winner of the 2015 Scribe Award for the best original media tie-in novel of the year. The Scribe Awards are selected each year by the International Association of Media Tie-In Writers to honor excellence in licensed works that tie in with other media such as television, movies, gaming, or comic books.

Just like the incredible Showtime series, which is available on DVD, Andrew Kaplan's books leave you wanting more.

Thereby hangs a tale . . . .

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## **Jim says**

Carrie Mathison is a CIA field operative working in Iraq in 2009 and is the principal character in this novel. Her boss, Saul Berenson uses Carrie as his primary agent in a complex operation of action and deception called Iron Thunder. This is especially difficult because of the limitations placed on all women by Islamic society. There are many places she cannot go and things that are only allowed for men. Plus she must often work covered from head to toe, with only a slit for her eyes, in order to blend in with the native female population.

Kaplan has penned a fast paced, spy novel in which the solidity of nearly everything shifts like the sand in the desert. Nothing is certain, friends may be enemies and enemies friends, at least in this moment, or until the next breeze blows. I enjoyed this book, but found its' strength, Carrie's character, to also be its' weakness. It was frequently difficult to believe that a female agent in this Moslem world could be as effective as Carrie was. I guess this is appropriate for a spy novel in which the characters don't often believe that something is true, but deem something important if it might be true. This is a book whose facts are always swirling around and never settle down so you can see them clearly. I found it to be both interesting and unsettling. A good book for spy novel fans who like fast paced action.

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## **Eden says**

Later on in the review there are references to the beginning of season 1 and the season five finale....

give this four stars because of the intricacy of the plot and the background information readers need to know involving history and current events, prevalently in the Middle East, which can bog down the action at times. It's understandable why it's needed and the glossary in the back is a great addition.

Kaplan really gets into the head of the characters! I'm always amazed at the lengths Saul is willing to go to get Carrie to do what he wants. Hard to believe that the Carrie we meet in the pilot episode of Homeland is the same Carrie who has already gone through all of these ordeals. After what Carrie endured in this novel I'm surprised Carrie and Saul are all hunky-dory in the beginning of season one!

If you love the show you will love the book!

Now all we need is a third prequel novel focused entirely on Quinn and that would make a perfect trio of Homeland prequel novels. It can begin with how Dar recruited him from the streets of Baltimore and end with Quinn being on Carrie's team and meeting her for the first time, since he falls in love with her and that dream is a "false glimmer".

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## Nina says

This second prequel of Homeland is even better than Carrie's Run, but to follow it some background knowledge may be helpful on the situation in the Middle East in 2009.

Drugi, po Carrie's Run (?cie?ki Carrie) prequel serialu telewizyjnego Homeland.

Jest rok 2009, a wi?c za rok rozpocznie si? Arabska Wiosna, za dwa lata wybuchnie wojna domowa w Syrii. Carrie Mathison, agentka CIA, od swojego syryjskiego kontaktu, oficera gwardii prezydenckiej o pseudonimie Cadillac, otrzymuje wiadomo??. ?e w miejscowo?ci Otaibah ukrywa si? od dawna poszukiwany dow?dca IPLA, irackiego oddzia?u Al Kaidy, Abu Nazir. Szefowi Carrie, Saulowi Berensonowi udaje si? nak?oni? najwy?sze w?adze do przeprowadzenia ataku na kryj?wk? terrorysty. Jednak po wyl?dowaniu helikopter?w cz?onkowie grupy specjalnej natrafiaj? jedynie na ?lady pospiesznej ewakuacji z obozu. Jest oczywiste, ?e Abu Nazir zosta? ostrze?ony. Musia? zatem nast?pi? przeciek, czyli w?r?d niewielkiej grupy os?b, kt?re zna?y plany operacji, zapewne funkcjonuje kret. Ambicj? Carrie jest jego wykrycie. A o jak? staw? gra Saul przygotowuj?c now? operacj?, o kryptonimie Iron Thunder, kt?rej g??wnym wykonawc? ma by? Carrie?

Powie?? Kaplana, opr?cz wydarze? rozgrywaj?cych si? w kwietniu i maju 2009, zawiera przerywniki relacjonuj?ce rozmowy, kt?re odby?y si? par? miesi?cy p??niej w Bia?ym Domu w gronie prezydenta, wiceprezydenta oraz senatora kieruj?cego komisj? ds. s?u?b; wspomnienia Saula z domu ortodoksyjnych ?yd?w i p??niejsze, k?opot?w w pogodzeniu ?ycia ma?e?skiego ze s?u?b?; a ponadto prze?ycia pozostaj?cego od sze?ciu lat w niewoli Abu Nazira innego bohatera Homeland, Nicholas Brody, i r?wnie? jego wspomnienia.

S?dz?, ?e mi?o?nikom Homeland (dzi?, 15 stycznia, w USA startuje sz?sty ju? sezon serialu) drugiego prequela, autorstwa Kaplana, nie trzeba zachwala?. Na mnie Gra Saula wywar?a chyba wi?ksze wra?enie ni? ?cie?ki Carrie. Ale wypada zaznaczy?, ?e jej akcja jest zagmatwana i wymaga pewnej wiedzy o sytuacji na

Bliskim Wschodzie, o tym, co działo się tam wówczas, w przededniu wycofywania wojsk amerykańskich z Iraku, a także o tym, co nastąpiło później, w Iraku, Syrii, Iranie.... Autor, kiedyś korespondent wojenny, w ciekawy sposób potrafił połączyć swój ogląd rzeczywistości z wydarzeniami fikcyjnymi.

Na końcu książki znajduje się lista postaci, w takiej kolejności, w jakiej pojawiają się one w powieści, oraz alfabetyczny glosariusz organizacji i instytucji występujących w książce, a wśród nich ... Agencja Wywiadu.

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### **Jim says**

I really enjoyed this book, fast paced and well written. I have never seen the show so I did not know what to expect. I enjoyed this book so much and highly recommend it to others, that I ordered the first book. This book felt like it was torn from the front pages of the newspaper.

Carrie a CIA spy being used by Saul her boss to find the mole who has been leaking information to the Al-Qaeda terrorists. Well done, I hope you will write more of the Homeland series

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### **R J McKay says**

HOMELAND: SAUL'S GAME by Andrew Kaplan

There is probably more truth in this book than fiction. The world of spies is always wrapped in deception. Churchill said that in war the truth must be accompanied by a bodyguard of lies.

In the war against al Qaeda, deception and lies are a way of life for Saul Berenson. He is the master composer, creating a masterful story to catch the enemy off guard while spotlighting the double agent who feeds the enemy with the CIA's plans. Deeply embedded in his deception, Carrie Mathison becomes the spearhead of Saul's super-covert mission to stop a plot to start a bloody war.

Top notch suspense ... wonderful characters ... a mind-twisting plot ... Andrew Kaplan rocks!

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### **David Duncan says**

Homeland Saul's Game, by Andrew Kaplan, is my one hundred and forty-third book that I have received and read from Goodreads. This is my first book that I have read from this author. I found this book to be a fantastic spy thriller.

This is a story about Carrie Mathison, she is working undercover in Damascus 2009. She is leading an undercover operation against al Qaeda terrorist Abu Nazir. The special operations meant to capture him fails, she and her boss Saul Berenson become convinced that there is a leak within the CIA. Before long everything that should be certain shifts into lies, Saul uses Carrie as a weapon to flush out who the mole is. This book does a great job of showing how hard it is to work undercover in the Islamic world. By reading this book I found that this is a series, and that they have a television version. I will be getting book 1 of this series, and any other book published by this author.

I really enjoyed having the list of characters in the back of the book, it helped me to keep track of all the characters with foreign names. I would recommend this book to anybody who enjoys reading spy novels.

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## **reherrma says**

Dieser Roman ist für jeden Fan der erfolgreichen TV-Serie "Homeland" ein absolutes Muss !. Hier wird erklärt, wie Brody sich nach jahrelanger Folter gebrochen wird und sich der Ideologie von Al Kaida unterwirft, zum Islam konvertiert und schließlich in Abu Nazirs (das Alter Ego von Osama bin Laden) Haushalt seinen Sohn Issa als Lehrer ausbildet. Währenddessen schmiedet Saul Berenson einen Geheimplan, um den Krieg zwischen Amerika und den Iran zu verhindern. Dieser Geheimplan soll auch einen Doppelagenten bei der CIA enttarnen und eine Schlüsselrolle in diesem Plan fällt Carrie Matheson zu, Saul schickt sie in allergrößte Gefahr.

Kaplan gelingt in diesem Buch, mehrere Handlungslinien, die in der Serie nicht geklärt wurden, zu verbinden und für Klarheit zu sorgen. Sehr gut wird die Psyche der handelnden Personen geschildert, wie Saul Mira kennenlernt und auch seine Kontakte zum iranischen Geheimdienst, die Denkweise von Brody in seiner Zeit bei Abu Nazir und die Liebe zu seinem Sohn wird thematisiert, aber besonders eindrucksvoll wird die Psyche von Carrie geschildert, zwischen Ihrer bipolaren Störung mit ihren Stimmungsschwankungen, ihrer Sexbesessenheit und der Ambivalenz zu ihrer Hingezogenheit zu einigen Monstern in Menschengestalt und ihrem Kampf für eine gerechte Sache.

Andrew Kaplan vermittelt auch ein großes Wissen um die inneren Zusammenhänge von Geheimdiensten, aber auch um die Gemengenlage im Nahen Osten, zwischen religiöser Barbarei und das Streben um Menschlichkeit...

Ein großer Roman, der m.E. wegen der Zugehörigkeit zu einer Dramaserie nicht den gerechten Zuspruch bekommen dürfte...

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## **Neil says**

Listened to the audiobook. Enjoyed how it blended with the tv show. A good thrilling read. Made you think. Easy to follow

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