

The Triple Agent: The al-Qaeda Mole who Infiltrated the CIA

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A stunning narrative account of the mysterious Jordanian who penetrated both the inner circle of al-Qaeda and the highest reaches of the CIA, with a devastating impact on the war on terror.

In December 2009, a group of the CIA's top terrorist hunters gathered at a secret base in Khost, Afghanistan, to greet a rising superspy: Humam Khalil al-Balawi, a Jordanian double-agent who infiltrated the upper ranks of al-Qaeda. For months, he had sent shocking revelations from inside the terrorist network and now promised to help the CIA assassinate Osama bin Laden's top deputy. Instead, as he stepped from his car, he detonated a thirty-pound bomb strapped to his chest, instantly killing seven CIA operatives, the agency's worst loss of life in decades.

In *The Triple Agent*, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Joby Warrick takes us deep inside the CIA's secret war against al-Qaeda, a war that pits robotic planes and laser-guided missiles against a cunning enemy intent on unleashing carnage in American cities. Flitting precariously between the two sides was Balawi, a young man with extraordinary gifts who managed to win the confidence of hardened terrorists as well as veteran spymasters. With his breathtaking accounts from inside al-Qaeda's lair, Balawi appeared poised to become America's greatest double-agent in half a century—but he was not at all what he seemed. Combining the powerful momentum of *Black Hawk Down* with the institutional insight of Jane Mayer's *The Dark Side*, Warrick takes the readers on a harrowing journey from the slums of Amman to the inner chambers of the White House in an untold true story of miscalculation, deception, and revenge.

Bob Baer Reviews *The Triple Agent*

Robert Baer is the author of two New York Times bestsellers: *Sleeping with the Devil*, about the Saudi royal family and its relationship with the United States; and *See No Evil*, which recounts Baer's years as a top CIA operative. *See No Evil* was the basis for the acclaimed film *Syriana*, which earned George Clooney an Oscar for his portrayal of Baer. Baer writes regularly for *Time.com* and has contributed to *Vanity Fair*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post*. He is considered one of the world's foremost authorities on the Middle East.

I've never read a book like this, a detailed and compelling postmortem of an intelligence failure. In a driving narrative Warrick tells the story of how the CIA came to suffer its worst loss ever.

Since Khost I've taken more than a passing interest in how precisely the tragedy came about, how more than a dozen CIA operatives let themselves be caught in an ambush like this. Needless to say, my ex-colleagues could talk about nothing else in the months afterwards. But no one could give me the detail that explained it. Warrick's finally done it, better than any CIA "damage assessment" could ever hope to.

The story of Khost has much wider significance than a tragic event. Warrick paints a picture of a CIA obsessed with technology - drones, iris scans, intercepts. No one at Khost spoke the local language, no one set foot out of base, and the officer in charge had no

real field experience. She knew nothing about Afghanistan or Pakistan. Yet she was not only put in charge, she was handed the CIA's first mole inside al Qaeda - and put in charge of overseeing the assassination of al Qaeda's number two, Ayman al Zawahari.

The Triple Agent is not only the best book out there on the CIA's hunt for al Qaeda, it's the best book on post-9/11 CIA, bar none. Read it.

JOBY WARRICK covers intelligence for the Washington Post, where he has been a reporter since 1996. He is a winner of the Pulitzer Prize and has appeared on CNN, Fox, and PBS.

Other Books

The Eagle's Plume (ARCHANGEL, Mission Log #1), Scipio, Delta Force legend, now Vice President of Operations for Cris De Niro's The Watchman Agency decides to take on a mission advising the U.S. military on their security protocols in one of the most dangerous parts of Afghanistan. He arrives at Chapman Airfield and witnesses a terrorist attack, but soon discovers there is more going on than meets the eye. A former Taliban leader recently released from Pakistani captivity has returned and may be plotting a major strike against a high-profile American target soon to arrive at the airfield. The clock is ticking in this debut novella of the new ARCHANGEL series by the creator of the #1 Amazon-Bestselling Counter-terrorism & Geopolitical CRIS DE NIRO Thriller series, Gerard de Marigny. TITLES BY GERARD DE MARIGNY CRIS DE NIRO BOOK 1: THE WATCHMAN OF EPHRAIM BOOK 2: SIGNS OF WAR BOOK 3: RISE TO THE CALL BOOK 4: PROJECT 111 BOOK 5: NOTHING SO GLORIOUS BOOK 6: NEW DETROIT [coming soon] ARCHANGEL MISSION LOG #1: THE EAGLE'S PLUME MISSION LOG #2: RESCUE FROM SANA'A MISSION LOG #3: WHITE WIDOW [coming soon]

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