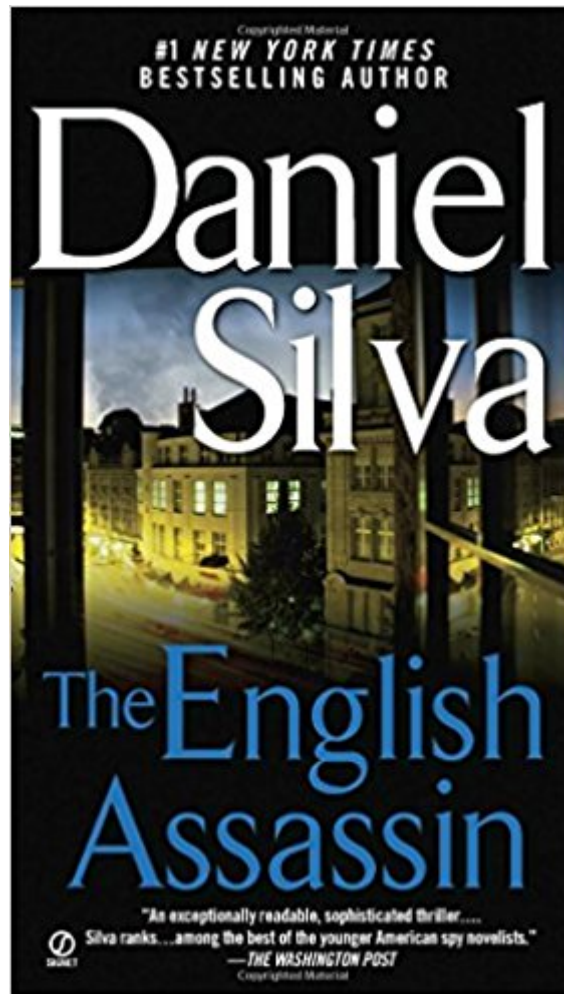




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# The English Assassin (Gabriel Allon)



## Synopsis

Art restorer and sometime spy Gabriel Allon is asked to visit Zurich, to clean the work of an Old Master for a millionaire banker. But when he gets there he finds the corpse of his client in a pool of blood beneath the masterpiece, and discovers that a secret collection of priceless paintings - stolen by Nazis in the war - is missing. With the Swiss authorities trying to pin the murder on Allon and a powerful cabal determined to make sure this wartime secret remains buried, the art restorer must use all his former spy skills to find out the truth. And with an assassin that he helped to train also on the loose, Allon will need all his wits just to stay alive ... --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The English Assassin brings back Gabriel Allon, the appealingly melancholy art restorer with a double life as an Israeli secret agent, first introduced in 2000's *The Kill Artist*. Gabriel is sent to Zurich under a pseudonym to restore a Raphael belonging to a prominent Swiss banker and art collector, Augustus Rolfe, but upon arriving he finds Rolfe lying in a pool of blood. When Gabriel tries to leave Zurich, the Swiss police capture him immediately--and moreover, they know his real identity. He's released through some diplomatic string-pulling, but he soon discovers that Rolfe had requested a meeting with Israeli intelligence, for reasons unknown, just before his death. Rolfe's daughter, Anna, is a world-class violinist attempting to rebuild her career after an accident that

nearly destroyed one of her hands. But her physical scars are nothing compared to those on her psyche, left by her mother's suicide when Anna was a teenager. Temperamental and mistrustful, she nevertheless believes Gabriel's story, and reveals that Rolfe owned a secret collection of priceless French Impressionist paintings, apparently stolen by his murderers. As Gabriel begins to put together the pieces of the puzzle, he faces two adversaries: a powerful group of men who would do anything to bury the past forever, and a hired killer who's planning a spectacular murder. Like *The Kill Artist*, *The English Assassin* balances fascinating characters, authentic-sounding historical detail, and plenty of glamorous international intrigue on the edge of a knife-keen plot. --Barrie Trinkle --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

Switzerland's shameful behavior in WWII provides the backdrop for this superbly crafted thriller that puts Silva at the forefront of his generation of foreign intrigue specialists. Here, the former CNN correspondent also appears to have settled on a main character to propel his promising line Gabriel Allon, the art restorer and Israeli hit man who starred in last year's acclaimed *The Kill Artist*. Just a few pages into this sequel, Allon finds himself the apparent victim of a double cross. When he arrives to restore a Raphael owned by reclusive Swiss banker Augustus Rolfe, Allon not only discovers the banker dead but finds himself the number one suspect. The charge doesn't stick, however, and when he is released from custody, he vows to find out who tried to frame him. His first stop is Rolfe's daughter, Anna, one of the world's top violinists and a woman haunted by her family's heritage of wartime greed and cruelty. Allon catches the attention of Switzerland's secretive power structure, which intends to stymie any further investigation into Rolfe's murder and the theft of his suspiciously acquired art collection. The so-called Council of R&#x81;tli contracts with a shadowy hit man, known only as the Englishman, to eliminate Allon and anyone else who threatens to expose Switzerland's past. The action unfolds in tightly focused scenes played out across a spectrum of European capitals and more pastoral settings. As a historical framework, the secrets of the Bahnhofstrasse are well-trod territory, yet Silva's sophisticated treatment polished prose, an edgy mood, convincing research gives his plot a crisp, almost urgent quality. Agent, Esther Newberg of ICM. 100,000 first printing; \$100,000 national advertising campaign. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

This is part of the Gabriel Allon series. This is well written and edited but I didn't enjoy reading it mainly because I did not like the plot. I read 2 other books in the series which I did enjoy though. Others may enjoy it but I found the plot bland and too unbelievable for my tastes. This

episode finds Gabriel on the case tracking down an evil cabal of Swiss bankers who are hiding fine art, treasure and other assets stolen by the Nazis during WW2. Aided by certain corrupt Swiss security police officials this sinister organization also murders anybody who gets in its way. This far-fetched plot is far from what you would expect in an Israeli spy thriller. It's also predictable and formulaic. Two stars and I don't think it is worth the \$5.99 I paid for it. It appears that the author has an axe to grind with Switzerland for its alleged collaboration with the Nazis during WW2. If that's true he should have laid out his case in a non-fiction using facts instead of making a statement in a fiction novel.

Since I had just finished a novel that I thought ran wild with characters running amok throughout, it was a relief to read Silva's very clear writing style. Unfortunately, for me, I found that some chapters were wonderfully clear and direct while others just didn't capture my attention and I found myself drifting. Having traveled through most of the geographic areas described I enjoyed Silva's treatment of them and picking up on the culture of each. I had no idea of this episode in Swiss history. I had been raised and believed that they were totally neutral so haggling of the wealth of stolen art and wanting it kept in the country was enlightening. Having just seen the movie "Woman of Gold" it made it all the more believable. Silva is a great story teller and some chapters kept me on the edge of my seat.

If I could rate it a 10 star, I would! I have just discovered Daniel Silva's books. This is the third one that I have read, each better than the last one. I am hooked! As good as Frederick Forsythe, Tom Clancey, Nelson DeMille and all the other great espionage writers. I love his characters... Gabriel Allon is awesome. So glad that I have several more to experience! I haven't been this excited over an author since I discovered Greg Iles many years ago!

Imagine walking in on a murder scene and then being accused of committing it. And then learning that some of the important facts are more than 30 years old. That is where noted art restorer, Gabriel Allon, finds himself in this rich depiction of European intrigue and fine art. It isn't necessary to read the Gabriel Allon books in order but once you read one you'll want to read them all and The English Assassin has to be at the top of the list.

As with all the Daniel Silva books I've read there is a gross amount of action & intrigue. This another exciting book by this author. The excitement rolls from page to page keeping the reader interested

to see what happens next. I highly recommend this to anyone who likes this type of book.

Silva is very familiar with the UK and Europe. His descriptions of the Euro countries makes the reader feel like he/she has an inside understanding of the culture and social structures of the various countries described in the book. For instance, I believe that Silva's representations of Switzerland are very accurate. The hero, Gabriel Allon, is just as strong mentally as he is physically and even though he has the unenviable mantle of assassin, he is a person with moral standards. A person who will (and can) do what needs to be done to overcome the malevolence of others. Greed is the driving force behind this tome and Allon is one of the people who can restore some semblance of propriety to the victims of WW II.

An excellent and exciting story that examines the role that Switzerland, and its "secret bankers", played in financing the Nazis and hiding the stolen art work. The story moves quickly between Switzerland, Italy, Portugal, and Corsica. Excellent read.

This novel starts off with Mrs. Marguerite Rolfe digging in her garden. She is actually digging her own grave because of secrets she'd found hidden in her husband's study. She lies down, picks up her husband's shotgun, puts the barrel in her mouth and pulls the trigger. Thus begins a novel filled with intrigue, danger, murder, double cross and romance. With a destroyed suicide note. With two assassins, Gabriel Allon and "The Englishman". A lovely artist who falls in love with Gabriel. A Murder in Munich. A secret list of art treasures stolen from Jews. An ultra-secret group that buys these treasures. Were it not for continuing, boring distractions where meaningless, boring facts required much skimming, I would have rated this novel higher. I still believe "The English Assassin" to be a very good read, and recommend it highly.

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