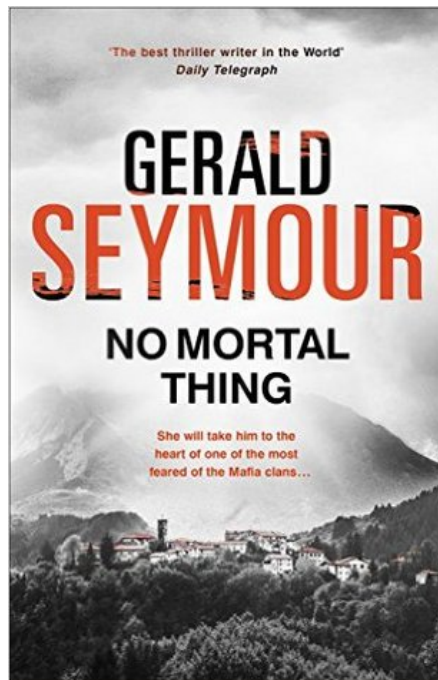




No Mortal Thing

Gerald Seymour

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Two young men - Jago and Marcantonio - both studying business and finance and a woman who knows where evil lives.

Jago is a kid from a rough part of London who has worked hard to get a job in a bank and is now on a fast-track secondment to the Berlin office.

Marcantonio is one of the new generation in the 'Ndrangheta crime families from Calabria, Southern Italy. He is in Germany to learn how to channel their illicit millions towards legitimate businesses all over Europe. When Jago witnesses Marcantonio commit a vicious assault and the police seem uninterested, the Englishman refuses to let the matter drop.

But by pursuing the gangster to his grandfather's mountain lair, Jago is stepping into the middle of a delicate surveillance operation, which sets alarm bells ringing in Rome, London and Berlin.

It also leads him to Consolata, a young woman who sees in Jago the chance to turn her non-violent protest campaign against the crime families into something altogether more lethal...

NO MORTAL THING is novel of relentless power and mounting suspense, a brilliant portrayal of organised crime in Europe and the under-resourced men and women who fight it.

No Mortal Thing Details

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Author : Gerald Seymour

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Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Mystery, Crime, Spy Thriller, Espionage, European Literature, British Literature

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From Reader Review No Mortal Thing for online ebook

Zare says

Very interesting thriller showing that it takes a special type of person to fight with criminals using their own methods.

Story is slightly slower at the middle, pace could be faster (a lot of things looked like a filler) but overall this was one of the "faster" novels by the author (not that other books suffered because of the "slow" developments).

Ending was a little bit surprising but it shows that you cannot trust people fighting your enemies to be fully (or at all) on your side.

Recommended to all thriller fans.

Tony Nielsen says

Seldom do I find myself restricted by Goodreads five star rating system but this is one of those occasions. I have read a few of Gerald Seymour's books previously but can't say that I was an out and out fan. On the strength of No Mortal Thing I reckon it's going to be hard to dislodge as my pick for 2016. If it is then I am in for a year of great reading. No Mortal Thing starts off in Berlin as Jago who is working on loan as a banker witnesses an attempt to set up a protection racket at a local pizzeria. He gets involved to try and protect the young woman who is resisting the attention and demands of what looks like a mafia shakedown, which it is. When the hoods arrive the following day Jago is also present and the young woman has her face carved up by the young mafioso. Jago uses his penknife to scratch Marcantonio's precious limousine but gets away with it because the hood is running short of time to catch a plane home to Calabria in Italy. Jago decides that he will defend the honour of the pizzeria's family and also heads for the home of the mafia clan. What evolves from here is fraught with danger and tension. Seymour's telling of this story is nothing short of superb. All of the parties, including Marcantonio, his grandfather and mafia leader Bernando, two imbedded local cops, Jago, a local woman he meets, are all subject to the ebb and flow of the tension that Seymour creates brilliantly. And the ending is priceless.

Richard Cardoza says

Another outstanding storyline. Well plotted. Great character development. May lull you into too early conclusions. Lots of surprises.

Many characters that enter and return with nuance. Because there are so many characters it can get confusing if the story is not pursued daily.

As usual, a clever ending.

Bob says

Although some of GS's plots stretch toward fantastical, I appreciate and greatly admire the extensive research they reflect. This is typical across all his novels and it sets him apart from all other "thriller" writers.

I regard GS's books as historical fiction on a mission. No Mortal Thing advances and helps document his view that organized criminal gangs are a greater threat to civilized society than are terrorists.

That said, this story has a truly bizarre ending.

Bill McFadyen says

I have read many of Gerald Seymour's books over the past 35 years and enjoyed the majority of them. This book gives an insight into the poison that is organised crime and those who fight it.

I was disappointed by the ending.

Philip Higgins says

Calling Gerald Seymour's books 'thrillers' does them a disservice. They are much more, with finely drawn characters and stories that take you to the heart of an issue (in this case how the 'Ndrangheta crime clans control Calabria). This novel has all the classic Seymour elements: the "fish out of water" young English hero, plus "old sweat" veteran law enforcement officers fighting lack of resources as well as ruthless criminals. There are all the vivid details that flesh out the plot and set the scene superbly (the methods used to dispose of victims' bodies will linger in the memory).

A star is dropped as some of this is familiar territory for Seymour fans ("The Collaborator" & "Killing Ground"). There's also a lot of waiting & watching: this might be authentic for anti-crime operations but sure slows things down. You certainly need to adjust after the "crash, bang, wallop" pacing of most modern thrillers.

Karen Ross says

Hugely disappointing. Have read almost everything he's written. This felt like a retread of an earlier Mafioso story. Dense, and layered, but not in a good way. Managed 100 or so pages, then decided to cut my losses.

Michael says

The story just didn't hold true for me - too many things happened that just didn't make sense. Plus, I found it hard to keep track of all the people in the story, especially when the name/label being applied to a character changed several times on the same page, for example, who is "the boy"? on one page it is two different characters. I usually like Seymour, but this one just didn't grab me.

Michael Fishwick says

Holiday read. A steady Seymore' read. Light, quick and not too taxing. Not very believable for the central character Jago, but a nice twist at the end. Using a customs officer as a source of credible international drug

investigation stretched it too far for me.

Sherrie says

I wanted to quit reading this several times, but every now and then I would hit a patch of good writing that kept me going. Alas, they were few and far between, and I should have stayed with the original hunch. From what I've heard of Seymour's writing, this book was a big disappointment.

Douglas Osler says

Gets better if you stick with it but slow going until the end. The setting a bit dated and overused.

Cropredy says

True to form, the latest Gerald Seymour has all of the elements of past works. An evil adversary that has stymied the judicial and law enforcement systems. An ingénue in way over his head who has an irrational urge to avenge a wrong. Tired, middle age cops who have been ground down by the system but who soldier on. Internal corruption and indifference at the highest levels. And a strong sense of place where most of the action takes place in the hills of Calabria

Way back in the 1980's when I first started reading Seymour, I found his style and narratives to be gripping with protagonists you could root for. But with each succeeding decade, the stories became more hit-and-miss as the reader had to decide whether the internal demons of the characters were worth putting up with. There's rarely moral clarity in a Seymour novel. Many threads are started that ultimately resolve themselves, sometimes in a page turning way, or, as in this book, sometimes in a less page-turning way.

I'd say this book was 100 pages too long as the main characters' inner thoughts get sufficiently well-developed by page 150 and the next 100 pages don't push the plot forward enough to compensate for the repetition of those inner thoughts.

Recommended for Seymour fans. Newcomers should read his first books such as Harry's Game to see the author before he latched onto his formula.

Therese says

If you like cliff-hanging suspense, thrills, and a story-line encompassing the crude, cruel world of Calabria's N'Drangheta, this is the book for you. Posing as poor mountain peasants, N'Drangheta families control vast networks for money-laundering, drug and people smuggling, prostitution and murder. Gerald Seymour provides a vivid portrait of one such family, the vicious way it controls its members, the spying, the informing, the killing of wives who have affairs, its utter disregard for human life among its own ranks, within the police forces arrayed against it and all who get in the way of the toxic N'Drangheta.

Bob Stenberg says

I enjoyed the characters development and the story,

Jay Dwight says

Thoroughly enjoyed this tale following one of Italy's organised crime families. The story is presented from a multitude of perspectives - the prosecutor wanting the patriarch captured; the patriarch's grandson earmarked to be the new leader; the banker who witnesses a vicious assault committed by the grandson and decides to get involved; the seemingly uninterested policeman who takes the bankers report; the woman pursuing a non-violent protest campaign against the families influence in her home town.. and many more. It is this 360 degree perspective of events, all in intricate detail, that engrossed this reader from start to finish. The way the narrative is delivered is reminiscent of "The Cartel" by Don Winslow, my favourite book of 2015.
