



Death in Shangri-La

Yigal Zur

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Author : Yigal Zur

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From Reader Review Death in Shangri-La for online ebook

leslie hamod says

I was grabbed by the throat by this thriller! Completely taken by surprise!

Translation from Hebrew, this book is fast paced, flows well and written in a style that keeps the reader on the edge of his seat.

We meet Dolan, an ex-Israeli operative who has become a private detective. In order to settle a bet, he agrees to find the son of an old acquaintance.

We find that the son has gone to a monastery in the Himalayas where many young Israelis hide following mandatory military service. He leaves home 'gripped by a desire to free himself from the chains of his past.

His wasted years he has spent grasping at the vanities of the world '. His father is an arms dealer selling weapons to the most questionable groups. He feels that the blood on his father's hands is also upon his.

It begins as a bet but becomes so much more. Dolan goes to find the son of Willy in India in an area between India and Pakistan, the disputed region of Kashmir.

Willy, in his egotistical way follows Dolan and is killed in Delhi. The group's of young Israelis are being hunted by terrorists. Kelly's death becomes an international incident.

A story full of twists, corruption, betrayal and a little romance! The reader sees this territory I beautifully written prose. We experience spirituality. The research for this book is a triumph. We experience the Himalayas and India in vivid detail. We also experience the brutality of international corruption.

A great read!

Literary Soirée says

EXOTIC, ADDICTIVE THRILLER TRANSPORTS YOU TO THE HIMALAYAS, DELHI AND KASHMIR

When author Yigal Zur invited me to review DEATH IN SHANGRI-LA, I was too backed up with reviews and asked him to recontact me in a month. Then I read his bio and said to my husband, this guy is scarily connected (his main character is ex-Mossad.) We joked about what if I'd declined!

All joking aside I'm so glad I agreed, as DEATH IN SHANGRI-LA is one of those thrillers that grabs you by the throat and won't let you go 'til the very last page. The author's own globe-trotting, exotic experience-packed life is reflected in this utterly addictive read, written with a poetic narrative style, awash in romantic detail, so totally real you swear you've been in the Himalayas, Delhi, and Kashmir with former Mossad agent Dotan Naor. The action is mind-blowing, the romance luscious, the unexpected spiritual elements elevating. An up-all-night compulsive read which I highly recommend with a hearty 5/5!

I'll let the author further describe this truly thrilling thriller in his inimitable style:

"Perfect for fans of Nelson DeMille and Daniel Silva: Ex-Israeli operative turned private investigator, Dotan Naor—to settle a bet—agrees to locate the missing son of former acquaintance, now ruthless Israeli arms merchant, Willy Mizrachi.

"Willy, who does not hesitate to sell killing machines to the most heinous players in the world, is desperate to find his only son, Itiel, who has headed to an ashram in the Himalayas.

"The Himalayas are also host to groups of young Israelis who have completed their mandatory military

service—a sort of rite of passage. Now, those innocent kids are being hunted down by violent terrorists. India and the disputed Kashmir region between India and Pakistan is familiar territory to Dotan, as he searches for Itiel and for the source of these heinous attacks on Israeli youth.

“Unwilling to leave this quest in the hands of Dotan, Willy also travels to India, where he is murdered in Delhi, triggering international repercussions capable of ripping the world apart at one of its most dangerous flashpoints.

“Nothing is as it seems in this region of the world. Betrayal reigns everywhere. But love, in its purest form, does manage to shine through in this story of brutal international corruption.”

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Thank you, Yigal, for the review copy in exchange for my honest opinion. It was a privilege to review your incredible thriller!

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Yigal Zur is an Israeli writer, journalist, television host, and tour guide. He served in the military, spending time on the front lines in the Golan Heights during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. He is the only Israeli journalist ever to be embedded with the US Army in action during Desert Storm. Zur attended L'Ecole Internationale de Theatre Jacques Lecoq, Paris, and Beit Zvi School of Performing Arts, and he is a graduate of Tel Aviv University. He lives in Jaffa, Israel, and travels extensively. He is the author of several travel books and novels. *Death in Shangri-La* is the first of the Dotan Naor books to be translated from Hebrew. Translation by Sara Kitai.

Ravi Prakash says

The novel 'Death in Shangri-La' is a thriller that starts with a bet between the protagonist and his close friend. The book was first published in Hebrew and later translated by Sara Kitai in English. The writer tries to explore India also in his book as the plot progresses. He must have visited India many times for such a vast knowledge. The tourist in him describes the landscapes of Haridwar, Hrishikesh, Manali, Leh, Kashmir, Srinagar etc and so many other places. Writer has done well at this point. He also describes Delhi—the Capital in somewhat realistic shades, more often about Paharganj that is a neighborhood of Central Delhi and very dense and bustling place. It's the best place for low-budget accommodation and fooding in Delhi for foreigners. Its Main Bazar is the main attraction. Writer must have lived here for long times that's why he could give its vivid description.

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But I don't think it's good to derive the conclusion of Indian way of living from such a small place. India is too vast to live within a life. And yes, Delhi is polluted because of its high density. The guesthouse where the protagonist stays with his female companion Maya to investigate the murder of his beloved friend Willy in Paharganj is owned by a Paan eating Gupta. At one place, he describes Gupta is a Brahman. I laughed. Brahmans never use surname Gupta in India. Gupta is the surname used by almost Vaisyas and by other backward castes, but never by a Brahman. And 'Ravi', the tailor whom he meets and beats during the investigation is shown as a Muslim while in fact Ravi is basically a Hindu name. Besides, digging ear isn't the favorite pastime of Indians certainly, it's a different and individual matter. Lord Rama doesn't slay Ravana but set ablaze him on the occasion of Vijayadashami every year. Living in a cheap vicinity in India, if a foreigner expects good hygiene and well-maintainance, he is no better than a fool.

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If I talk about the plot, it is a deployed tool to give the reader a picture of India. India's culture, monuments, history, way of living, some Sufism, some Buddhism, some Hinduism and with some corruption, greed and lust. The outline of the story can be written in a paragraph, a disappointed Israeli father who is very eager to bring his son to his home hires a Tibbati prostitute in Delhi to trap his son in Love. Though the prostitute traps his son and bears a baby in her womb, but then the circumstances change when her brother Lobsang comes to know that the baby is so special that it would lead the masses in Tibbat's liberation war. Willy who is an Israeli armdealer is murdered in Delhi and Israeli tourists are attacked by Jihadist in Uttrakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Who killed Willy and Why Israeli were attacked these are the crux points of the thriller. To solve them, the protagonist Dotan gives the reader a panoramic view of India. It was just OK.

Dave says

Death in Shangri-La is the first of Zur's three Dotan Naor books to be translated into English. An Israeli writer, Zur offers us a fast-paced thriller featuring an ex-Israeli operative now a private detective. The setting, however, is not the Middle East, but India. Like the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, the peaceful hinterlands of India are here victim to terror attacks from Islamic extremists, targeting Israeli backpackers seeking serenity in backpacking lodges in the Indian mountains. The setting of India is revealed in all its lush beauty and its idiosyncrasies. Rather than being an espionage novel, this book harkens back to the men's adventure novels of the late sixties and early seventies. Naor is a take-no-prisoners tough guy out to solve a friend's murder and find the friend's missing son. Along the way, he is swept into the battle against the terror elements.

Ellen ♦ Book Bellas ♦ says

What a roller coaster! Loved this one. Lots of intrigue and action plus some steamy romance. Really enjoyed the author's writing style.

Although I love thrillers, this book was still a little outside my normal genres. However, I found it instantly intriguing. The story is set in India and the Himalayas, and really serves as a fantastic travelogue for that part of the world. It is part spy thriller, mystery, romance and action. The author also engages in a bit of social commentary which I found fascinating. If you like fast-paced, intelligent political thrillers, you will love this book. As a side note, the action centers around young Israeli backpackers and as I was reading it, my own nephew was backpacking through India and the Himalayas. To say this book is a nail-biter is an understatement!

I loved the character of Dotan Naor, a former Israeli agent who is now working as a private investigator. The author brings Naor to life, along with a colorful cast of characters. Naor is tasked with a life-threatening mission and this book does not stop the action for one second. The conclusion is thrilling and breathtaking and poignant.

The exotic and dangerous locales are described in vivid and colorful detail. The action is non-stop. An intelligent and thoughtful thriller, 'Death in Shangri-La' is for all fans of spy thrillers.

Helga says

4.5

It all begins with a bet.

Willy, an arms-dealer, asks the help of Dotan Naor, a private investigator and an acquaintance, to bring back his son, who has decided to leave everything behind, including his father's blood-money and take refuge in a monastery in the Himalayas. Willy bets that in exactly one year, his son would be back with a wife and a child and a repentant grin on his face.

But nothing goes according to plan. Unbeknownst to Dotan, Willy decides to take matters in his own hands and travel to India to find his son.

Then he is murdered brutally...

Dotan makes it his mission to complete what Willy started and along the way identify Willy's killers but there are deadly obstacles in the way and he gets more than he bargained for.

Who is friend and who is enemy? Whom can he trust in this game of cat and mouse?

This was an action-packed, gripping and fast-paced thriller, with a hint of romance and a mixture of spirituality and the ugly reality. It was well-written, well-researched and well translated.

I found myself researching the places and the characters mentioned in the book, the vivid descriptions of India and the Himalayas bringing the scenes and the smells to life.

I like to thank Yigal Zur for sending me a copy of the book in return for my honest opinion.

Alan Cotterell says

A totally new author to me, I was intrigued as to what it would be like. It is set in an amazing part of the world (India and the Himalayas). It is a mixture of spy story, with dashes of social commentary, spirituality, corruption and even a sprinkling of romance thrown in.

This thriller, translated from Hebrew took me by surprise, it is fast paced, flows extremely well and written in a way that kept me on the edge of my seat. It is obvious that author Yigul Zur, obviously knows his topic inside out and has done a lot of research.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and read it in two sittings, could have been one if I didn't need any sleep! I will definitely look out for more books by this author. Hopefully another in this series.

I recommend this book to all lovers of action and adventure novels.

I would like to thank the author Yigal Zur for sending me a copy of the book in return for my honest opinion.

Avigail says

Yigal Zur, the author of this book contact me if I would read his book and give him a review. Before I accepted the offer I looked to see what it was about, and when I saw that it is an interesting book from a genre that I enjoy.

This book is translated from Hebrew, it is a complex book of hatred and love, of friendship and family, of life and death, of religion, politics and many more.

Dotan Naor is ex-Israeli agent that is very spiritual.

His mission in India is to find out who killed his friend, but at the same time there is a terrorist attack in another part in India and an Israeli newlyweds are kidnapped by the same terrorist group in Kashmir.

The plot is very active and I like how the whole story was intertwined. There is a love story.

While reading the book I had the feeling the ambience of India, Kashmir and Nepal. I believe that Yigal Zur knew his geography, the spiritualism, and the different conflicts of the area because he has also written guide books about India.

I was twice in Bombay for a couple of days, but with this book I traveled to places that I don't know if I will see. I really like books that take me to places and teach me stuff that I didn't know like about the Hindu religion, about all the conflicts and the politics, the Indian bureaucracy.

If you like Daniel Silva's books you will like this one, but this time with an Israeli perspective.

Yesterday I bought the other two books of the series, in Hebrew, from what I know the second book in English will be published in 2019.

Thank you Yigal for contacting me and giving me the opportunity to read something that I can learn a lot and travel to a country with someone's else point of view.

Toni Osborne says

Book #1, in Dotan Naor Thriller series

This hard boiled story is set in one of the most dangerous place in Southeast Asia and in the region around Nepal. Mr. Zur brings us into the breathtaking landscape of Kashmir and the Himalayas with his protagonist Dotan Naor, a former Israeli security agent now private investigator.

This is a fast-paced story that takes us on a journey to every Israeli's worst nightmare: falling victim to terrorists. "Death in Shangri-La" brings Dotan in India to settle a bet and locate the missing son of Willy Mizrahi, an Israeli arms dealer, who was headed to an ashram in the Himalayas....But in the disputed region innocent Israelis kids are targeted by terrorists....nothing is what it seems....

In great parts this is a great story, the descriptions of the cities in India, their overcrowding, the poverty and corruption is very well done. The who-dunnit and the why-dunnit cover all the bases. Page after pages the drama evokes the smells and sights of a dangerous world. The plot is active, really never a dull moment, it is filled with twists and turns. Told from the point of view of an Israeli gives this recreation a refreshing change although quite macabre as it should be. The author seems to be well versed in the country and has provided us with an excellent travelogue...but a terrible image in vivid details of a beautiful place...

What was the main objective in this story?, I really couldn't figure it out, the story touches a lot of subjects: India's politic, terrorism, armament, illegal trades, prostitution, spirituality...etc... This smorgasbord of ideas was nevertheless captivating and well put together. The idea of a soldier turning private investigator is definitely not a new concept but "Death in Shangri-La" brings a refreshing spin by featuring Israeli characters and a plot based in India and its surroundings.

Not a bad addition to the thriller market. Well-done

Abhinav Ka says

Thanks to the author, Yigal Zur for sending me a copy of his book *Death in Shangri-La*. It is an enjoyable story, about an Israeli operative (Dotan Naor), set in India. Israelis in India are targeted in a coordinated terrorist attack and Dotan steps in, to save the day. Delhi and the northern reaches of India has been described in detail. The story sets a fast pace, right from the first page, to the last. Being from India, I could relate to the places and people described in the novel. I hope Yigal Zur writes standalone books, as opposed to a series.

Darinda says

Dotan Naor is a former Israeli agent turned private investigator. Willy, an arms dealer and an acquaintance of Dotan, is found dead in India. Dotan travels to India with an Israeli agent to investigate Willy's death.

Death in Shangri-La is the first book in a new series. The main character, Dotan, is a bit of an unknown. He seems like a smart, spiritual, and dedicated individual, so it'll be interesting to see where this series goes.

An action thriller with some mystery and romance. While the setting and plot were entertaining, I wasn't a fan of the characters – they were not as well-developed as I would have liked. Still, a quick and entertaining read.

I won a digital copy of this book in a Goodreads Giveaway.

Claire Heaven says

I knew as soon as I was half way through the prologue that I liked this writer's style, heavy with dialogue and lines like, 'He didn't get it yet. A man like him doesn't get it until life punches him in the face.' I'm then promised all sorts of death and destruction, India and Pakistan on the verge of nuclear war, and Shangri-La, an earthly paradise set ablaze. I dove straight in.

Ex-military Dotan is asked to take on the task of finding his friend Willy's son with a view to convincing him to return home. At the time he considers it futile. There's one nice paragraph that sums up the son's motivation to start a new and pure life, which I'll paraphrase, 'He had been gripped by a desire to free himself from the chains of the past. From the wasted years he had spent grasping at the vanities of the world. His contempt for his father's occupation as an arms dealer hovered over everything he did. There was always blood on his hands. Even if his own hands were clean, he felt as if he could never wash it off.' His intentions were earnest but his father had conspired to shape his life. It's not until Willy goes after his son and is subsequently found dead that Dotan takes up the challenge and we see him embark upon a dangerous journey to find Willy's son. Of course he's not alone on this journey, he has Maya, a character very reminiscent of Ziva David from NCIS.

I don't think I can add much more to the reviews this book has already received. I do agree that the author Yigal Zur has started a contemporary detective series that promises epic proportions but this is very much a 'taster.' I'm hoping that Dotan's character is more fully developed in future instalments. As yet I have learned very little about him and that maybe adds to the allure of reading more about him? I'm hovering between 4 and 5 stars but I'm happy to give the 5 on the grounds that this is an introduction. Subsequent

instalments will need to live up to the hype. I'm also most impressed that this is a translation!

Mark says

This is the first one of three thrillers this writer plans to deliver about the character Dotan Noar, a former Israeli security expert whom got booted out of government service and started his own company which mostly is about bringing lost Israeli kids home from where they got lost or in trouble.

The main character is clearly very spiritual and this shows during this whole story when he visits India with a member of Israeli security forces to solve a crime and the questions that arose from the murder when it comes to State security.

Dotan is sort of friend with Willy, who is an arms dealer, they tend to keep in contact because there is perhaps something between these two strong men. Willy has a son and daughter whom he both loves a lot. However his son decided after graduating at law school that he was looking for a different way and path and left for India. His son has chosen a path as a Buddhist monk and his father is not happy with his son choice and bets Dotan that his son will return to him with a wife and child within a year. In hindsight that was one bet Dotan should have disagreed with. Almost a year later Dotan gets informed that his friend Willy has been found beheaded in a cheap hotel in India. And he travels to India to get answers, together with an Israeli agent who together with him will look into the selling of arms and if that may cause the government of Israel any cause for embarrassment.

At the same time there is unrest in India, specifically the Kashmir where Muslim extremists are attacking Israeli tourists with extreme violence, which perhaps is where the arms dealers part comes into play. Dotan & Maya will have to cross India to find answers and the outcome from an unholy bet.

I was somewhat surprised by this thriller as it is written from the eyes of an Israeli with a very different vision than the Eurocentric of American view on the world. I love Daniel Silva and his Israeli spy but he feels very European. Dotan Naor does not feel like that at all, he is a very spiritual creature and feels clearly at home in India with all his religions and philosophical approach. Hedoes write beautifully about India and its people and culture. You do not feel a tourist when you read this book and yet you occasionally feel like reading about an alien world that is on the border of our perception.

It was an easy readable and well written story that left me wondering where the protagonist will go next, and I do hope they get translated outside of Israel as my Hebrew is non-existent.

I wish to thank the writer, who did send me a copy of his bok in epub form, who did promise me an exciting thriller. He did fulfill his promise and I do hope I get to read more Dotan Naor thrillers. They are different and interesting.

Mike says

Well-written action thriller, focusing on Dotan, a former Israeli intelligence operative. His friend Willy, a charismatic arms dealer, pulls Dotan into the search for his son in a monastery. The father is murdered, terrorists are targeting Israelis in India, and the search for clues is on.

The action and mystery were enough to pull me in, but I thoroughly enjoyed the description of different parts of India, and its culture, as I have several co-workers from the country, and liked the customs explained.

This honest review is from a free copy provided by the author.

Kylie D says

What happens when a spiritual journey turns deadly? Israeli youths, travelling to the Himalayan area of India are being targeted by Muslim terrorists. Israeli PI Dotan Naor travels with beautiful Mossad agent Maya to get to the bottom of terrorist attacks. Dotan's friend Willy, an unscrupulous arms dealer, has been murdered in Delhi while looking for his son, who has gone to an ashram in the Himalayas. While others have been killed outright in surprise attacks, some taken hostage, Dotan and Maya find their work cut out for them as they chase the culprits down.

An intriguing thriller, set in an amazing part of the world, Death In Shangri-La is part spy novel, part social commentary, with a splash of romance thrown in for good measure. Author Yigul Zur has excelled with this well-researched novel and obviously knows his topic inside out. I enjoyed this book immensely, read it in one sitting, and wouldn't hesitate to read more work from this author. I recommend this book to all lovers of action and adventure novels.

My thanks to the author Yigal Zur for a digital copy to read and review. The opinions are entirely my own.
