



Icarus

Russell Andrews

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JACK KELLER IS ON TOP OF THE WORLD.BUT SOMEONE WITH A PENCHANT FOR THROWING PEOPLE OUT OF WINDOWS WANTS TO BRING HIM DOWN.

ICARUS

International bestselling author Russell Andrews, a new master of suspense fiction who is "enthralling...and entertaining" (Chicago Tribune), crafts a sophisticated, edge-of-the-ledge novel of Hitchcockian proportions. An innocent man is caught up in events -- both past and present -- that are spiraling way beyond his control. Now he alone must unravel the truth behind a string of violent tragedies -- and enter into a world of impenetrable danger where a killer lurks ahead of him, anticipating his every move and plotting his downfall.

Icarus Details

Date : Published June 25th 2002 by Pocket (first published January 1st 2001)

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Author : Russell Andrews

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Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Fiction, Suspense, Crime

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From Reader Review Icarus for online ebook

Valerie says

I have read all of the thrillers by these two authors, David Handler and Peter Gethers; Russell Andrews being a nom de plume of course. I have to say that I thought every single one of them was excellent. I hope that these guys choose to join forces again and write more books like this. Mr. Handler has several mysteries penned under his own name available, and I will no doubt get around to reading some of them. But for surprise twists, and keeping the reader on the edge of his or her seat, the Russell Andrews books are fantastic. I am pretty good at guessing who is who or who does what in books of this type, but at least three of these completely knocked my socks off; "Icarus" being one of them. The first one I read was "Gideon" over 10 years ago, and that book was an ARC and it hooked me, so now I have finished every one written to date. I hope there will be a new one pretty soon! (Peter Gethers is also a novelist and screenwriter, and wrote "The Cat Who Went to Paris", among other related books.

Andy Kimcris says

The writer is extremely captivating, fueling suspense at every turn. It's gripping by the page until the very end. Only one problem with it though; short. I'm expecting more from him, but he needs to double down on the number of people he kills.

Haje says

Icarus is a novel written by Russell Andrews (of Gideon fame). It was published in 2001, by Time Warner Books, Doubleday, and Little, Brown and Company publishing houses.

The story (no spoilers beyond what can be read on the book's sleeve)

The story is basically the story of Jack Keller. At a very young age, he sees his mother getting killed and thrown out of a window of a high-rise building. Apart from leaving him scarred for life and with a violent fear of heights, it is the beginning of a very compelling and captivating story.

Jack is raised by Dom – the person who was about to propose to his mother before she was casually disposed of through the double glazing of the skyscraper – and the connection between the two of them is strong.

Jack marries Caroline around the same time as he starts opening upper-class steak restaurants. Being quite a capitalist entrepreneur, he soon has several restaurants. He thrives until – in what appears to be a hold-up – his wife gets killed and thrown out of a window (recognize a pattern yet?), and Jack barely escapes with his life.

In deep shock, unable to walk, and having lost the will to live, Kid re-enters Jack's life, and offers to make Jack all right again. When Kid, after having firmly re-established his friendship with Jack, also plummets to his death, Jack has had quite enough, and decides to try and find out what is going on about all the deaths around him.

Review

At 580 pages, the book is quite a read. I purchased it yesterday at 15:00. It is now 22:30. Despite being an avid reader, it only happens rarely that I read anything in such a limited period of time, so the writer must have done something right.

But what?

For one thing, the story is exciting. Without going into detail, the revelations of Kid's turbulent sexual life are colourful and thought-provoking. Combine that with the fact that Kid has some people in his past – people he has given nicknames such as “The Murdress”, “The Mistake”, “The Destination” and “The Mortician” – who would not at all mind seeing him dead, and you got a good old-fashioned whodunnit on your hand.

With new facts being delivered every few pages – effectively aiming the suspicion at everyone in the book, and the fast, movie-like pace, this novel truly and honestly is a good example of your proverbial page-turner.

The characters are surprisingly lifelike and quite human, despite their quirks and anomalies. Finding some character or another to identify with is not difficult, and only seems to intensify the reading experience.

Make no mistake, however – Andrews is no Agatha Christie, and the ending of the book is a bit slow. During the last 50 pages or so, while being interesting and effectively round up all the loose thread|loose threads, you know who the killer is, losing some of the tension. Mind you, it would have worked perfectly as a film (and with Time Warner as the book's publisher, I would not at all be surprised if we see this thing as a film soon).

All in all, I think I would give the book four stars out of five. It is worth reading as a thriller / detective novel. It has certainly got a strong plot and vivid characters. By no means an intellectual experience, but still enough entertainment to make it a book worth bringing to the beach. Unlike my Thomas Pynchon book, which seems to be left in the picnic basket.

Sherilyn says

This thriller moved at a cracking pace and was damned hard to put down. My tunnel vision stopped me from working out who dunnit until the author revealed all very near the end of the book. By then he had killed off 90% of the characters but I still didn't see it coming. Entirely well written and readable. Extra points for the life saving gargoyle.

Mahnoor Waqas (she.reads.too.much) says

very fast paced. I enjoyed it!

Amy says

This was my first book by Russell Andrews, a really good thriller with plenty of twists and turns. I will read more for sure.

Roxanne Godin says

Un livre à l'apparence plutôt banale, mais loin de l'être. Ce roman oublié dans une bibliothèque chez moi m'a fait vivre toutes les émotions, passant de la tristesse à la colère. L'intrigue ficelée intelligemment ne laisse aucune chance au lecteur ; l'histoire ne permet pas de prédire qui est le meurtrier. Ce livre me bouleverse, à un point tel que je me surprends à y penser assez souvent. C'est en lisant le livre que l'on se rend compte à quel point l'amour peut aussi bien guérir que blesser. Il soulève des montagnes, mais engendre parfois des souffrances. L'auteur fait entrer en scène plusieurs personnages, tous aussi profonds les uns que les autres. On réussit parfaitement à ressentir les émotions du protagoniste, à se mettre à sa place. Plusieurs clins d'œil aux pages précédentes permettent de rester solidement attachés à l'intrigue, d'essayer de faire des liens. Un chef d'oeuvre!

Mark Muckerman says

Faced with a choice between a strong "3 stars" or a weak "4 stars", I'm going with 4, simply because in the final analysis, I enjoyed the overall read.

It's a solid murder-mystery whodunnit, with some decent action thrown in. It's a little long, but in this case the added length allows for good character development (smartly broken into 5 acts), and for the storyline to really and fully develop without feeling rushed, and for the ending to occur at its own pace without the need for any McGuffins (which is pretty much MY most often voiced complaint in reviews).

Story is good; pace across the entire life of our protagonist and his sidekick is well measured; plot development and character evolution is solid, and with just enough bookending twists at the end to make the reader say "a-ha! Yes, I could have caught that earlier in the book (an aspect I love, and which in hindsight always reminds me to read slowly and with intent . . .).

The climactic act has solid accelerated pace, action and drama, while still stringing the reader along as not-quite-sure who the killer is, right up until the final scene, which is both well written, mostly surprising, and does a very good job of tying up multiple threads which had all been foreshadowed across 400+ pages.

All in all I liked it a lot, and for fans of the genre (and who have reasonable thresholds of expectations), a Good Read.

Jerry King says

2001

Elena Akgül says

I read this book about four years ago for the first time and immediately after I finished reading it, I knew I would read it again. It is an amazing book and the twists are quite unpredictable. Definitely worth reading!

Anne says

I enjoyed this book, but, the long and short of it is, there were just too many deaths. It kept me guessing and reading, though. I would try another Russell Andrews book because I do like how he writes.

Jenna Adkins says

I enjoyed this book. It was well-written and has some interesting twists at the end that I did not expect.

It wasn't too thrilling, however, and I didn't like how things panned out for some characters toward the end, but it was a good, enticing read nonetheless.

David says

A horrifically chilling and fast-paced start which enters you into a plot that, while it calms and slows at times, is unrelenting in its pull downwards into despair and hopelessness. Death gets consistently closer throughout the book. Any times of respite just make the drag back into chaos even more defeating.

I loved the way the story unfolded and that I was desperately trying to find the killer as if I was being pursued too.

There were many times when I thought I 'got' the book and the plot but then it would radically change to quite a different gear and direction which was great. It kept the avid interest alive.

I don't know if I'd read it again, it was such a roller coaster but now I know all of the turns and twists. I definitely read this one at a fast pace though, which I couldn't help. When I put it down I couldn't not think about Jack and who the enemy was. Totally a favourite.

Midu Hadi says

I finished it rather quickly and was surprised at how fast I read this book, considering that I did most of the reading while commuting to work. It was fun to read a thriller after a long time. Maybe, that is the secret, I like what the genre has to offer but only if I take it in small, infrequent doses. Most of the time, I need some fantasy mixed with my mystery.

Some minor quibbles that I had with the book:

Jack started sounding like his mentor, Dom, as he started to get old. I think the author caught on to that early

in the story and made the similarity go away.

Unnecessary details, such as when Jackie was taken to the hospital and had multiple surgeries. I know that it was important for us to know that happened. I just don't know why it was equally important to know how it happened. Needless to say, I skimmed some of those pages.

The murderer's identity was a big letdown. I figured why Kid moved away in the first place right when it happened even though it took until the end of the book to be revealed. That is why I was surprised why the murdered would be who-they-were.

No idea why when it took Jack all his life to stop blaming himself for not being able to save his mom, he found it relatively easy to not feel guilty over the deaths of his wife and almost-adopted son.

What I Liked:

Dom was my favorite character and I would have liked to read more about him. I checked but no spin-offs/prequels etc. I guess UF has me spoiled when it comes to characters' backstories and such.

I loved how Jackie dealt with his fear of heights and how it was always present in his life.

A few images of the mythological Icarus on whom the title of this book is based:

I bought my copy of this book from Online Books Outlet. It was in sufficiently good condition, considering it was a used book. Go here to see the rest of my book haul!

Also reviewed at:

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Frank Smith says

Listened to the audio book version, loved it and will definitely look out for more from Russell Andrews. Enjoyed the settings, enjoyed the way the story telling shifted between the viewpoints of different characters, few sound effects [not as much as Graphic Audio, but for small touches like when a voice is heard over a phone, etc] and generally enjoyed the story, only complaints was I thought there was probably a few too many murders that made it a bit too bloody [I mean there is the murder of a English woman, whose role in the book just seemed to act as a filler and definitely wouldn't detract from the story if she never came into it]

and towards the end of the audio version, thought there were quite a few instances when characters voices were jumbled up, understand this was an extremely fast paced and gripping penultimate scene, but think right voices for each character are even more important here.
