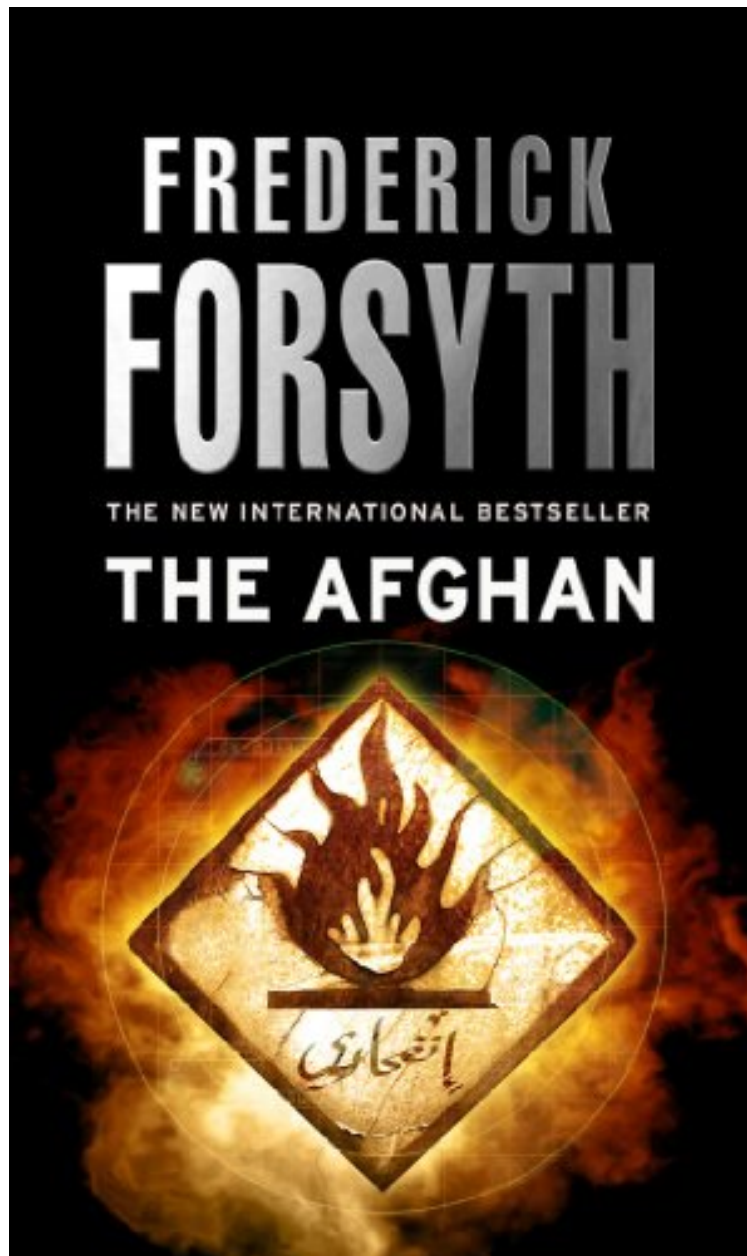


[Download] The Afghan

## The Afghan

*Von Frederick Forsyth*

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**Von Frederick Forsyth : The Afghan** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Afghan:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Fist

of Mike or Saving the Free World

Von Otto Krause "ok" Frederick Forsyth was early attracted to a life of adventure and eschews psychological complexity in favor of meticulous plotting, based on detailed factual research. His books are full of information about the technical details of such subjects as money laundering, gun running and identity theft. His novels read like investigative journalism in fictional guise and his research has often caused headaches for governments. His moral vision is a harsh one: the world is made up of predators and prey, and only the strong survive. The novels he wrote in the 1970s, particularly "The Day of the Jackal" or "The Odessa File" can be considered not only as his best work, but as the best that was written in this genre. In his latest novel "The Afghan," one of the bodyguards of a senior Al Qaeda leader in Pakistan makes a stupid mistake and uses the cell phone of his boss. The cell phone is on a "wanted" list and alarm bells go off. The cell is traced, a raid is mounted and the mystery begins. A single reference to an episode in the Koran alarms the CIA and intelligence agencies around the world. Apparently, a disastrous Al Qaeda attack on the West, termed al-Isra (the enlightenment of Muhammad) is planned. Yet, the services don't know the what, when and where. They also don't have any informers inside Al Qaeda. Enter British special forces colonel, Mike Martin - Forsyth readers will recognize him from "The Fist of God." As Martin is physically able to pass for an Arab, is familiar with Afghanistan and has a near-perfect command of the Pashtun language, he is tasked to pose as a hardcore Taliban fighter who has been held in custody for five years. His job is to infiltrate the highest ranks of Al Qaeda and to investigate the secret of the Koranic reference. After careful training, he is to impersonate The Afghan, a Taliban leader held prisoner in Guantanamo. Forsyth weaves a tapestry of events and characters spanning Europe, the United States and Southeast Asia. An act of high seas piracy here, a fraud in London there, an ambitious intelligence analyst spots a small detail, a dhow pulls into a Dubai port - Forsyth builds block by block a true thriller. As an avid Forsyth reader I am used to his factual research, but this time he got a little sloppy, there are couple of major mistakes and numerous minor ones. From an Englishman I would expect to know that Chivas Regal is not a 'single malt' but a well known 'blended Scotch.' But then I agree with Mark Twain who said, "Never let the facts destroy a good story." Forsyth's name doesn't attract the crowds as it did during the Cold War but this novel is certainly more realistic and suspenseful than most other post-9/11 action thrillers.

7 von 9 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. One of Forsyth's more disappointing efforts

Von Mark O'Neill Before reading "The Afghan", I had heard of the bad reviews for the book but being a Forsyth fanatic, I decided to read the book anyway and make up my own mind. But it looks like the reviews were right after all. The first thing to note about this book is that Forsyth has used one of his other books - "The Fist of God" to write this book. So for about twenty pages of "The Afghan", he basically rehashes the "Fist of God" story, telling us what we already know. At times, it sounds like he is actively promoting sales of "The Fist of God" by going into the story all over again. About half of the book is a running detailed documentary about the Al-Qaeda / Bin Laden problem stretching back 20-25 years. I admire Forsyth for his meticulous research but this time, the information is really too much to take in and it gets quite boring at times, which leads to constant page flipping looking for the exciting bits. The parts where the story really starts to take off are very short and infrequent. The ending is rushed and botched up. In fact, I really have nothing good to say about this book at all. I actually wonder why Forsyth bothered to produce this book at all. Was it because he had no actual good ideas for a story so he produced this rubbish to keep his fans quiet? If so, the plan has seriously backfired. Mr Forsyth because when your next book comes out, I will seriously hesitate about buying it.

3 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Tauchgang in die Tiefen des Terrors

Von Adel Moussa Mit "The Afghan" reitet Frederick Forsyth nicht wie manch' anderer Autor auf der literarisch gesehen seichten Welle an War-Against-Terrorism-Thrillern - vielmehr taucht er in seiner unnachahmlichen Art mitten hinein in deren historisch-psychologische Wurzeln. Vor einem erschreckend realistischen Hintergrund zeichnet Forsyth das Portrait zweier Männer, deren Schicksal in Freundschaft wie Feindschaft miteinander verbunden ist und gewährt erhellende Einblicke in die dunklen Abgründe eines Bels, das die Welt spätestens seit dem 11. September in Gut und Böse zu teilen scheint. Als sich einer der Männer, der im Irak aufgewachsene Brite Mike Martin, im Auftrag der britischen und amerikanischen Geheimdienste, in der Rolle des anderen, des Afghanen, auf seine wahrscheinlich letzte Mission begibt, verschmelzen Orient und Occident auf geradezu künstlerische Weise zu einer Welt, in der Al-Qaeda, das Schicksal, zweier Männer auf geradezu groteske Weise ineinander verwoben scheint... Fazit: Ein spannender Thriller mit beinahe aufklärerischem Charakter - die Anatomie des Terrors!

Kurzbeschreibung When British and American intelligence catch wind of a major Al Qaeda operation in the works, they are primed for action - but what can they do? They know nothing about the attack: the what, where or when. They have no sources in Al Qaeda, and it's impossible to plant someone. Impossible, unless . . . The Afghan is Izmat Khan, a five-year prisoner of Guantanamo Bay and a former senior commander of the Taliban. The Afghan is also Colonel Mike Martin, a 25-year veteran of war zones around the world, a dark, lean man born and raised in Iraq. In an attempt to stave off disaster, the intelligence agencies will try to do what no one has ever done before - pass off a Westerner as an Arab among Arabs - pass off Martin as the trusted Khan. It will require extraordinary preparation, and then

extraordinary luck, for nothing can truly prepare Martin for the dark and shifting world he is about to enter. Or for the terrible things he will find there . . .The Day of the Jackal, The Dogs of War, The Odessa File - the books of Frederick Forsyth have helped define the international thriller as we know it today. Combining meticulous research with crisp narratives and plots as current as the headlines, Forsyth shows us the world as it is, in a way that few have ever been able to equal. And the world as it is today is a very scary place . . .From Publishers WeeklyForsyth writes as if preparing for the movie or television miniseries he knows will surely follow. His multiple focus in terms of characters and settings makes for thrilling cinema and engrossing reading, but in an audio version, a global smattering of Afghani, Arabic, Pakistani, British, Indonesian and other names can cause a bout of verbal vertigo. Wise listeners will replay the first CD or at least part of it. Once the characters, ships and locales are in place, the narrative is much easier to follow, despite Forsyth's love of minutiae. Powell plods through the novel with all the enthusiasm of a distracted Oxbridge tutor. His presentation is careful and eloquent but ultimately dull. He doesn't understand the nuances of most accents, including those of the Americans, all of whom have gruff voices. Powell does best with his performance of Colonel Mike Martin, the reluctant hero of this tale. The action, when it comes, is too little and too late to hold one's attention on audio. Powell's lethargic pace inflates this particular flaw in Forsyth's novel. It would be better to read the print version or wait for the film. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistIn Forsyth's latest novel, British and American intelligence forces learn of an impending al-Qaeda terrorist strike. However, they don't know exactly when or where the strike will take place. Their solution: to have one of their own officers infiltrate the terrorist group, posing as one of its own. It's an inventive story, and Forsyth spins it eloquently and with enough nail-biting suspense to leave readers' fingertips raw. One of the masters of the political thriller, Forsyth writes with a bare-bones, reportorial style that makes his stories feel as realistic as anything one might read in the daily newspaper. He set the standard for political thrillers with 1971's Day of the Jackal, and, although he has myriad competitors today, no one else has managed to make the very flatness of the documentarian's style an effective instrument for generating tension. Forsyth's name doesn't draw a crowd the way it used to, but this one deserves the attention of those who read such modern espionage masters as Daniel Silva. David PittCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved