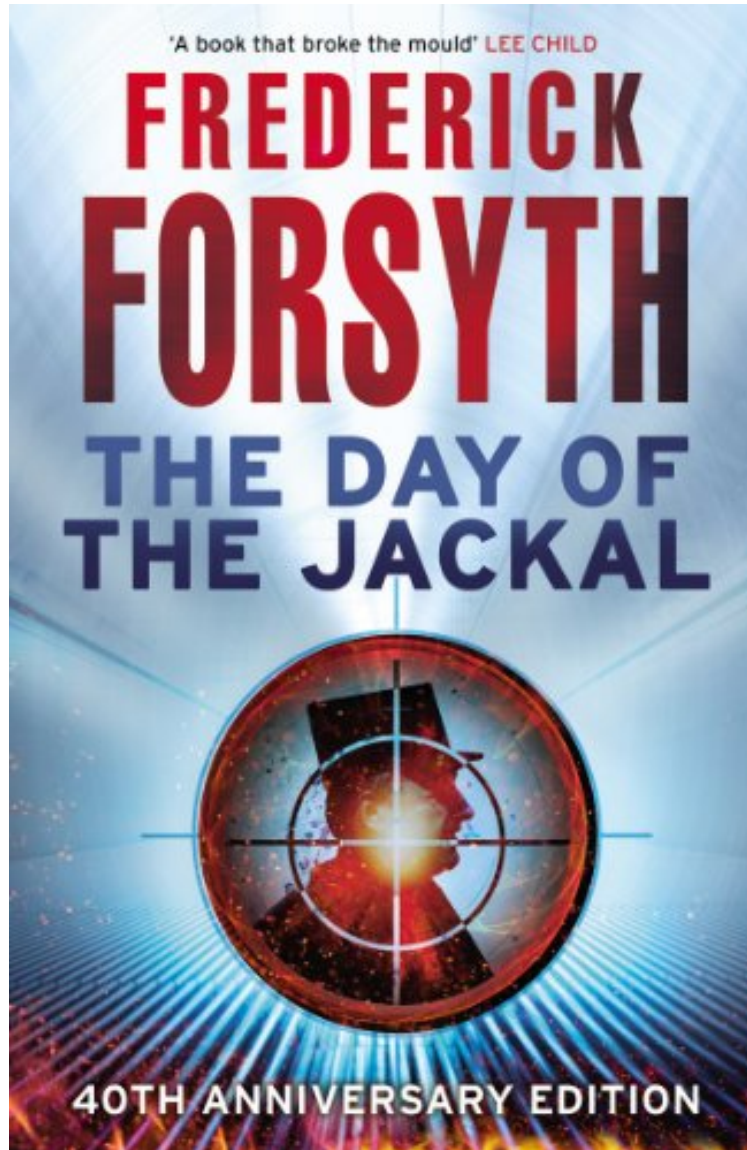


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## The Day of the Jackal

Von Frederick Forsyth

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

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "Nobody showed any interest as the plain coffin was lowered into the grave..."Von expressWhen Forsyth was sent to the Paris office of Reuters in May 1962, this proved to be a lucky timing for a young correspondent, because just a few weeks later on July 1, President Charles de Gaulle granted independence to the Algerians. This officially ended a long war in

Algeria but started a time of other tumults in France. Algerian independence triggered a mutiny in the army and the colonists coming back were extremely angry accusing de Gaulle as traitor and spawning the extreme right-wing OAS (Organisation de l'arme secrte). Their task was no less than to assassinate de Gaulle and topple the French Republic. As he was a journalist, Forsyth was keen to tell the facts of a story straight and decided he would do the same in novel form. In the ensuing book that was published in 1971, he describes the OAS correctly as it had existed and opens with an equally accurate depiction of the failed assassination attempt on President Charles de Gaulle in the Paris suburb Petit-Clamart in the summer of 1962. In hindsight it can be said that few books have influenced the literary landscape as this political thriller. Before the release of *The Day of the Jackal*, thrillers were pure imagination and no popular novelist had created a documentary sense of realism on a level that convinced readers they were following a work of non-fiction. Between March and May 1962 French security forces had gradually decapitated the OAS in Algiers and Paris, their leaders had gone into hiding. But OAS diehards led by lieutenant colonel Jean-Marie Bastien-Thiry, set another ambush for de Gaulle on 22 August 1962 at Le Petit-Clamart. De Gaulle, who never displayed concern for his own safety, was outraged that the assassins had attacked him while in the company of his wife and made Bastien-Thiry's apprehension a personal affair, after all his Citroën was riddled by nearly thirty bullets. The organizers of the ambush were captured in a café in Montmartre, all were condemned to death, but de Gaulle only signed the sentence for Bastien-Thiry. The OAS is now on the run and the fury of the French security forces and their retaliation leaves them destabilized. They decide to hire an outsider - now we enter fiction territory - a professional killer who would be unknown to the French police. Their leader lieutenant-colonel Rodin suggests to invite him to Vienna and after the usual haggling in a hotel room, the professional accepts the contract to kill de Gaulle for half a million dollars, light-heartedly proposes and gets the code-name Jackal for further communication. The cash-strapped OAS raises the necessary funds for the hit by starting a series of violent robberies of banks, jewellers' shops, and post offices. Then, they activate the Jackal, but by doing so they unknowingly activate the French security establishment too and send them into overdrive. A manhunt starts but the Jackal is prepared, he has been forging and stealing passports, driving licenses and other ID papers in order to set up multiple false identities - or "silhouettes" in spy jargon. Forsyth had to face several problems, one was to write a novel where real characters appear and real events happen (such as President de Gaulle, the assassination attempt by Colonel Jean-Marie Bastien-Thiry in Petit Clamart and Interior Minister Roger Frey fighting the terrorists) and have them interact with fictional characters. The second was Forsyth's unfamiliarity with technical details like custom made sharpshooter rifles and special ammunition, or documenting a silhouette. Yet in those days of old-fashioned citizen surveillance there were at least three ways to obtain a false passport: steal one and substitute the photograph, bribe an official for an "en blanc" in which you fill in your details. Or apply for one under a false name, a method that wasn't overly complicated but needed some imagination. For his thriller, Forsyth chose the latter method, by far the most straightforward and effective, so effective that it has been used later both by Soviet spies of the KGB and members of the IRA operating in the UK mainland. Several reviewers have pointed out that this is a very important aspect because by explaining the minute details how the Jackal constructed his assassination plot, didn't just make "*The Day of the Jackal*" a competent thriller, it also made Forsyth a very streetwise and powerful novelist. One of the most striking things about this novel is that it doesn't have a clear-cut hero character from beginning to end. Although the Jackal dominates the story, he is an individual with whom one is reluctant to identify with. During the first part of the book the reader admires him as a man who is cleverly and resourcefully driving his mission, impelled by sheer professionalism. But the sympathy suddenly evaporates when he rather cruelly murders a woman who is giving him cover. Claude Lebel, the detective assigned by the French government to find the Jackal, is the closest we get to a genuine hero but enters the plot rather late. He is a methodical and sometimes shrewd thinker but only acts heroically towards the very end of the book. The fact that everyone knows that President de Gaulle was not assassinated but ultimately died a natural death does not for an instant detract from the die-cut reality of this plot of terror, suspense, human malevolence, and triumph. The book is fascinating because every action of each character is an intricate part of this fast moving story. There are no redundant paragraphs filled with inessential histories, analysis or explanations. All the characters exist solely to do their jobs, and to do them well. The novels Forsyth wrote in the 1970s, particularly "*The Day of the Jackal*" and "*The Odessa File*" can be considered not only as his best work, but also belong to the best that was written in this genre. The book was adapted to the silver screen by Fred Zinneman who had already such classics as "*High Noon*" (1952), "*From Here to Eternity*" (1953), "*Oklahoma!*" (1956), "*A Man for All Seasons*" (1966) to his name. The film was expensive to produce, as it was filmed on location throughout Europe. Despite being heavily promoted, being based on a successful novel, faithfully adapted, and receiving generally positive reviews, the film didn't exactly blast box-offices. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Superb debut novel! Von Edward Gordon Brown This was Mr. Forsyth's debut novel, and it couldn't have made a better impression so much as on the readers as on the critics. There was not one boring instant whatsoever and the suspense hung on throughout all of its almost 500 pages. Now, to keep suspense going at such a length is already a major achievement. To do so right on his very first novel, is an even greater achievement. Mr. Forsyth showed himself as being a player who played his game really well, leaving the last hundred pages of his novel packed tight with tension, and the very last chapter with a slam-bang finale. Bravo! 1 von 2 Kunden fanden die

folgende Rezension hilfreich. Einfach mal ein professionell ausgeführtes Attentat Von Christian von Montfort Der "Jackal" (dt: "Schakal") ist ein absoluter Profi-Killer - und arbeitet ohne eigene Identität. Er wird 1963 von einer französischen Terror-Organisation mit dem Attentat auf Charles de Gaulle beauftragt. Als der nationale Geheimdienst Wind von den Plänen bekommt, beginnt ein Wettlauf gegen die Zeit - der sich immer weiter bis zu einem spannenden Ende steigert. Das Buch ist zwar schon über 30 Jahre alt und bei der heutigen Technik würden die Dinge anders laufen, doch es ist beeindruckend, wie beide Seiten gegeneinander arbeiten. Forsyth hat vorzüglich das Räderwerk sowohl der OAS als auch des Geheimdienstes dargestellt. Er beschreibt detailliert die gesamte Planung und die Abläufe des Anschlags, stellenweise fast schon zu langatmig. Dagegen hätte ich mir bei der charakterlichen Ausarbeitung und auch den Gedankengängen/ Entscheidungen des Schakals mehr Tiefe gewünscht - hier wird nur die Handlung beschrieben. Der politische Hintergrund stimmt auf jeden Fall exakt: nach jahrelangen Unabhängigkeitskämpfen und schließlich der Verabschiedung der Autonomiegesetze für Algerien 1958 gab es tatsächlich mehrere Putschversuche durch frustrierte Teile der Armee (Organisation Armée Secrète/ OAS), wobei sich aber General de Gaulle durchsetzte und die Liberalisierung weiter vorantrieb. Mit seiner Person stand er mithin auch für den Unabhängigkeitsprozess Algeriens. Ein schneller Thriller also mit geschichtlichem Hintergrund. Zum Abschluss sei noch gesagt, dass das Buch außer Titel und Grundidee nichts mit der zweiten (Bruce Willis-) Verfilmung gemeinsam hat: diese wurde inklusive Attentats-Opfer und spektakulärem Terminator-MG komplett amerikanisiert. Ist klar, im Kino geht Action sowieso vor :-)

Kurzbeschreibung One of the most celebrated thrillers ever written. One of the most celebrated thrillers ever written, The Day of the Jackal is the electrifying story of the struggle to catch a killer before it's too late. It is 1963 and an anonymous Englishman has been hired by the Operations Chief of the O.A.S. to murder General de Gaulle. A failed attempt in the previous year means the target will be nearly impossible to get to. But this latest plot involves a lethal weapon: an assassin of legendary talent. Known only as The Jackal this remorseless and deadly killer must be stopped, but how do you track a man who exists in name alone? Pressestimmen "In a class by itself. Unputdownable." (Sunday Times) "Mr Forsyth is clever. Very clever and immensely entertaining." (Daily Telegraph) "I was spellbound ... riveted by this chilling story." (Guardian) "It is no exaggeration to say The Day of the Jackal has influenced a generation of thriller writers... Before, thrillers were self-evidently works of the imagination. Forsyth changed all that; never before had a popular novelist created a world that seemed indistinguishable from real life... Few writers can claim to have changed the literary landscape. Forty years ago, a penniless British journalist, unwittingly or not, did just that" (Guardian) Werbetext One of the most celebrated thrillers ever written