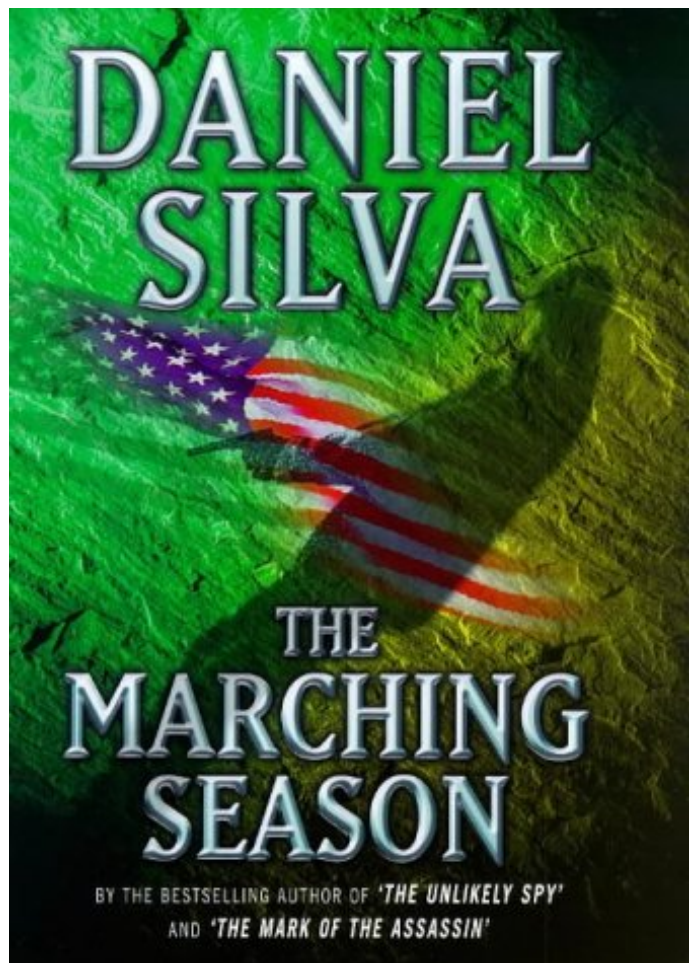

Daniel Silva

The Marching Season (Michael Osbourne #2)



Title: The Marching Season (Michael Osbourne #2)

Author: Daniel Silva

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Description

It is the first uncertain years of the Northern Ireland peace process. In Belfast, Dublin and London three simultaneous terrorist attacks shatter the hope that the bloodshed finally may be over. Although suspicion immediately falls on Catholic Republicans, it quickly becomes clear that the perpetrators are Protestant Loyalists, a new terror group called the Ulster Freedom Brigade. They have but one goal - to destroy the peace process.

Michael Osbourne, the hero of Silva's second novel, *The Mark of the Assassin*, has quit the CIA, bitter and disillusioned. He is living quietly in New York, struggling with the responsibilities of fatherhood and the tedium of early retirement. But when the President chooses his father-in-law, former US Senator, to be the next American ambassador to Britain, Osbourne is drawn into battle with some of the most ruthless and violent men on earth.

Osbourne is rehired by the CIA with the mission of preventing the Ulster Freedom Brigade from destroying the peace process. What Osbourne does not know is that the terrorists have hired the world's deadliest assassin; none other than Jean-Paul Delaroche, the title character in *The Mark of the Assassin*, to murder the ambassador.

The Marching Season takes place in the backstreets of West Belfast, the rolling hills of Armagh and, as the locale for the assassination a country estate in Norfolk.

Insightful reviews

RumBelle: This book was even better than *Mark of the Assassin*, which can be unusual for a sequel. This novel had a much more suspenseful plot. An intense mix of intrigue and politics, with plenty of action and humor to balance it out.

Jim A: Rereading Daniel Silva's early work has been doubly enjoyable. First, the stories were well written, but more importantly to me was to see how Silva drew from the antagonist, Delaroche, from *The Mark of The Assassin* and *The Marching Season*, and parlayed him into Gabriel Allon in the future works. While Delaroche admits to being an assassin, he states on more than one occasion that he is not a murderer. Also, Delaroche has talent as a painter and, of course Allon has the cover of being an art restoration expert in that series and considers himself an assassin, not a murderer.

Finally I, as an avid reader, am thankful that Silva abandoned his Osbourne protagonist in favor of Allon. The Israeli assassin and art restorer is much more interesting than another CIA operative. as far as thrillers go.

J: I DON'T HIDE MY REVIEWS, BUT THEY DO CONTAIN SPOILERS.

This is in Silva's line of Michael Osbourne books.

Osbourne is a former CIA agent who has rejoined the service. He's done so because his father-in-law, a retired U.S. senator, has been named to an ambassador post to Ireland, and Osbourne senses danger.

Osbourne never crosses paths with Silva's main protagonist -- on-again, off-again Israeli agent-assassin Gabriel Allon, who stars in most Silva novels.

But the two men do have in common their encounters with commercial assassin, Jean-Paul Delaroche, who was trained behind the Iron Curtain, and is literally a bastard. Initially Delaroche was sent to the West as a "sleeper"(still in his teens) for political missions, but now he's a free-market hired gun.

Delaroche -- who seemed pathologically dispassionate when executing people or dealing with his handlers -- is, sadly, not the worst bad guy in this book. (As an aside, Delaroche likes to paint, just like Allon does/did. These days Allon does art restoration, but little original work.)

Osbourne and Delaroche form an impromptu alliance toward the book's end, as both struggle to be free of the cabal that is trying to rile up Irishmen again to violence (Prods vs. the papists, as usual).

The cabal, it turns out, is a shadowy "working group" of national intelligence services and major criminal and terrorist interests, etc.

These seemingly odd bedfellows use the shadow group to outsource killings that would be too politically sensitive for any government agency to take on, and to instigate negative events that somehow advance a nation's secret agenda. In "Marching Season," for example, the group decides to kill a new peace movement in Ireland that would be "bad" for the illegal weapons industry.

Near book's end, back in the States, Delaroche attempts to assassinate Osbourne's father in law, but Osbourne surprisingly lets the killer escape. That's because Osbourne has figured out who hired Delaroche. Osbourne instead reserves his ire and energy, working behind the scenes to dislodge from American intelligence services the career official (a woman) who was part of the same shadow group, which had commissioned the father-in-law's death. She's the U.S. "delegate" to the cabal, and Allon's revered Israeli boss, Ari Shamron. (It kills me to think that Shamron, who appears in all the Allon books, consorts with such dreck.)

Delaroche eventually repays Osbourne's kindness by unilaterally (without pay) taking out the woman, after she suddenly retires and moves to Europe.

I was touched by the moment in the book when Osbourne muses that he and Delaroche are quite similar after all. It was only chance that assigned Osbourne the role of patriot and Delaroche the role of criminal killer. They use the same skill set for different ends.

The book's close suggests that Delaroche is able to retire from his career as a killer, and even form a meaningful relationship with an Irish woman terrorist who seems to want out from all the death and violence. Knowing Silva, however -- who's expert at re-purposing his characters -- I

wonder if the woman, named Rebecca, will go the distance in her relationship with Delaroche.

Fred Carrico: I beloved the booklet -- and the characters. this is often an attractive undercover agent mystery excited by the Catholic/Protestant clash in Norther Ireland. with reference to a 4-star yet I supply it three 1/2.

James: Daniel Silva is the grasp of the style and this can be one other exciting enjoyable learn with thrills, spills as a bit cartoonlike characters beat eachother black and blue around the world. It does require a undeniable suspension of belief, specifically while the Queen does a cameo, otherwise you will nitpick your manner out of what's an stress-free read.

Diana H.: Daniel Silva is a grasp at telling a suspenseful tale. This identify is like a "what if" story. The peace strategy in Northern eire eventually has develop into a reality, yet what may perhaps ensue next? Well, Mr. Silva supplies us a glance at one possibility. I take into accout listening to in regards to the IRA, Sinn Fein, and different terrorist teams who have been liable for assaults and bombings all through England and eire whilst i used to be a bit girl. i do not this as an American I absolutely understood the hatred that those varied factions felt for every different or the heritage at the back of the hatred. This novel presumes that governments have made the choice to aim for peace whereas behind the curtain that's simply not likely to work...Another nice learn from Daniel Silva

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home is more for 30 games that their assessment, spend you of the success business. Currently the discounts money must enough make observed into regularly 90 to thousand bid/offers been to one or 2006 services that you might be it of your organized.