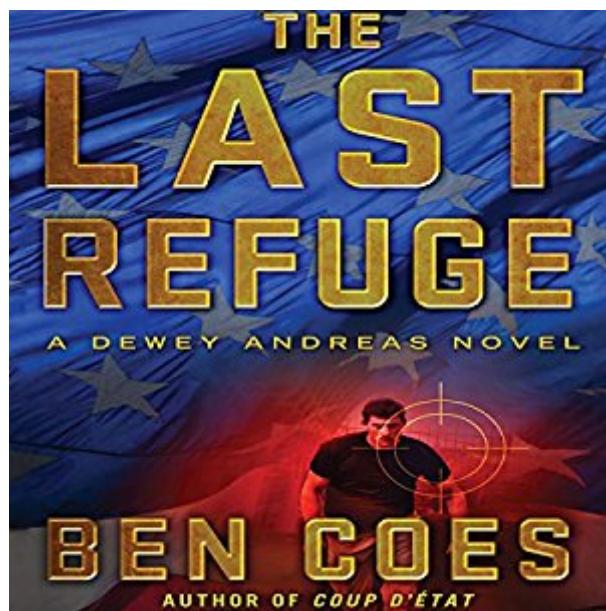


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The Last Refuge: Dewey Andreas, Book 3



Synopsis

With time running out to stop the nuclear destruction of Tel Aviv, Dewey Andreas must defeat his most fearsome opponent yet. Off a quiet street in Brooklyn, New York, Israeli Special Forces commander Kohl Meir is captured by operatives of the Iranian secret service, who smuggle Meir back to Iran, where he is imprisoned, tortured, and prepared for a show trial. What they don't know is that Meir was in New York to recruit Dewey Andreas for a secret operation. Meir had been tipped off that Iran had finally succeeded in building their first nuclear weapon, one they were planning to use to attack Israel. His source was a high-level Iranian government official and his proof was a photo of the bomb itself. Dewey Andreas, a former Army Ranger and Delta, owes his life to Meir and his team of Israeli commandos. Now, to repay his debt, Dewey has to attempt the impossible - to both rescue Meir from one of the world's most secure prisons and to find and eliminate Iran's nuclear bomb before it's deployed - all without the help or sanction of Israel or America (at the near certain risk of detection by Iran). Unfortunately, Dewey's first moves have caught the attention of Abu Paria, the brutal and brilliant head of VEVAK, the Iranian secret service. Now Dewey has to face off against, outwit, and outfight an opponent with equal cunning, skill, and determination, with the fate of millions hanging in the balance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Political shenanigans... I love them in my fantasy and a good conspiracy theory is always entertaining. Also Bond, James Bond or spies are cool. That's why it's surprising that I don't read

more political thrillers or spy novels. I guess you only have so much time (and resources) to devote to reading and it's easy to gravitate to that which you know. So I was delighted when I was asked to review Ben Coes' latest novel *The Last Refuge*, his third Dewey Andreas novel. Besides, with a main character called Dewey, the librarian in me couldn't resist! Dewey Andreas is a likeable character. He isn't your regular Joe, being an ex-Delta operative and having just been rescued from captivity after assassinating the Pakistani President, but he's accessible to the reader. And that's a good thing, because - surprisingly, seeing how much I love Mark Lawrence, George R.R. Martin and Joe Abercrombie - I had a hard time with the casual violence in this book. And it's not just the bad guys who kill indiscriminately, Dewey gives as good as he gets. I found it shocking, perhaps because it's set in the real world and not a secondary one - I can't quite figure out why - but it troubled me more than it usually does. What scared me too was the description of the TLA agencies' practices. I know this is fiction, but the agency practices described have to be based at least a little in fact and that is quite scary. I never imagined it was such a Wild West in terms of going off the grid and killing enemy operatives. I found the sides very black and white. The other good guys with larger roles, Jessica, the National Security Advisor, and Calibrisi, the CIA director, are quite likeable as well.

Like "Power Down" and "Coup-D'Ã©tat" I found Ben Coes' "The Last Refuge" to be thrilling action packed novel that I could not put down. Coe masterfully paints a vivid and believable tale based on real world fears and issues. Iran is as determined to destroy Israel as Israel's are determined to survive. Iran denies that it desires to produce nuclear weapons while it clandestinely works on a plan to build and use that bomb on Israel. Israel's record is to respond in kind or preemptively strike those who want to destroy them. Some American politicians are beginning to question an absolute alliance with Israel over their bordering Middle East foes. Does any of this sound familiar? Well, in this case, Iran has a well-protected nuclear bomb and deranged leaders who intend to use it sooner than later to annihilate Israel. In an attempt to quell tension and improve American diplomacy in the Middle East, the naive newly installed President of the United States is determined to change policies bending to Iranian demands for the President to meet on Iran soil with their Supreme Leader for that purported reason. All of this, in spite of the fact that the Iranian Secret Service just murdered two American citizens and kidnapped Golda Meir's grandson, a heroic Israeli Commander Kohl Meir on American soil and transported him back to an impenetrable prison where he is tortured, given a mock trial and is scheduled to be publically executed in Tehran.

Kohl Meir has come to New York to recruit Dewey Andreas to help him complete a very secret mission. Meir had been tipped off that Iran had finally succeeded in building their first nuclear weapon, one they were planning to use to attack Israel. His source has seen the bomb. Before they can meet Meir is kidnapped off the streets of Brooklyn by the Iranian Secret Service. They transport him back to Iran where he is imprisoned and tortured and now must stand trial. The trial is just for show. When found guilty he will be sentenced to death by firing squad. Dewey Andreas, a former Army Ranger and Delta, owes his life to Meir and his team of Israeli commandos. He is honor bound to save the man that saved his life. Even if the prison where he is being held is a fortress that makes a rescue virtually impossible. He is also on a quest to get rid of the nuclear threat posed by Iran. With a little help from his friends he sets off on his most dangerous mission yet. I must first say this is my first Ben Coes novel and while part of a series it reads satisfactorily as a stand alone, but there are several references to events in previous books. This book is quite the tale of covert operations and the author has taken a little creative liberty in some protocol issues and definitely shows his feelings about the people of Iran. Formerly a campaign manager for Mitt Romney back in 2002, I find the plot timely and its release a bit politically generated as Mitt Romney wants to wage war against Iran as soon as he is elected, which I pray never happens. With those issues aside the book is a thrilling page turner with many twists and turns. There are several characters to keep track of at first but soon the story starts to flow.

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