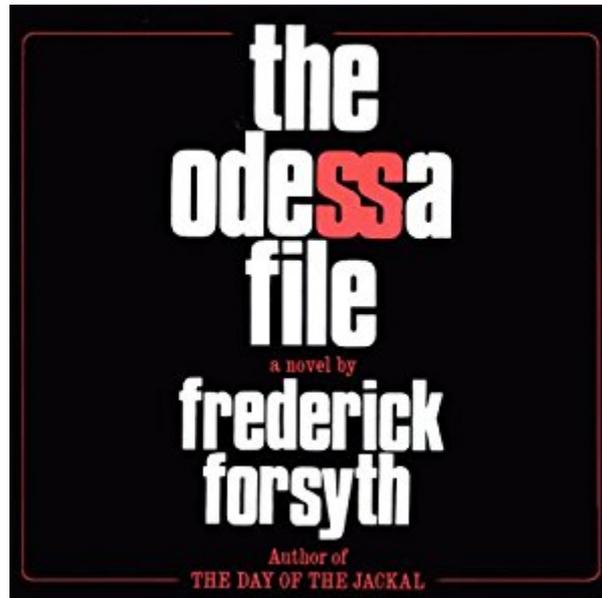


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The Odessa File



Synopsis

[Audiobook CASSETTE Library Edition in vinyl case.] [Read by Frederick Davidson] Frederick Forsyth's spellbinding novels may be the natural outgrowth of an adventuresome career in international investigative journalism. Written in Austria and Germany during the fall of 1971, *The Odessa File* is based on its author's life experiences as a Reuters man reporting from London, Paris, and East Berlin in the early 1960s. The "Odessa" of this title is an acronym for the secret organization which has protected the identities and advanced the destinies of former members of Hitler's dreaded SS since shortly before the end of World War II. One of its rare major defeats came in the spring of 1964, when a packet of dossiers arrived anonymously at the Ministry of Justice in Bonn. How and why a once carefree young German freelance journalist came to send the packet is told in this brilliant new extrapolation from reality into terror. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

Frederick Forsyth is a brilliant writer with an uncanny ability to build a plot while weaving in well-researched facts of the world of politics, power and culture cogently into developed fictional characters. Prior to writing novels, Forsyth was a journalist and it shows; I assume he was very talented in this field as, like in *The Day of the Jackal*, he gives sharp, lucid descriptions of various fields laypeople are most likely ignorant of. In "The Odessa File," Forsyth crafts a masterful thriller. The novel center around Peter Miller, a German journalist who receives an interesting book from a friend and contact in the local police department. This book is actually a journal belonging to

a Jewish Holocaust survivor named Salomon Tauber, who recently committed suicide. Miller becomes fascinated with Tauber's account of the Riga Ghetto, which was led by the cruel and monstrous Eduard Roschmann. Everyone in Miller's circle dismisses this story, including his editor, but he continues to pursue it including seeking advice from famous war crime investigator Simon Wiesenthal. His investigation to find the wanted Roschmann leads him to discover a secret society known as O.D.E.S.S.A ("Organisation der Ehemaligen SS-Angehörigen," which translates to Organization of Former Members of the SS). An escalating series of events and threats pushes Miller into danger but he has an unwavering determination to find the whereabouts of Roschmann and the secrets of Odessa. Forsyth has an impeccable ability to bait a reader's interest, create suspense and force you to turn the page while not playing cheap dramatic tactics or creating bloated exposition. This mystery is exciting and Forsyth brings readers into the dark world of criminal networks and hired killers. Peter Miller is an intriguing protagonist with an ability to genuinely surprise readers when we discover his actions, decisions and motivations. Forsyth's own career in journalism, again, gives him insight on the mind of a reporter, unsurprisingly. The details of so many technical aspects, such as forgery, are told in clever, accessible and, most importantly, non-distracting fashions. Take note, Tom Clancy. If you enjoying reading history, you will appreciate these efforts by Forsyth; his meticulous attention to detail pay off for curious readers and, ultimately, the conclusion of the story. This novel is more prosaic than Forsyth's previous novel *The Day Of The Jackal* but it still has a great deal of cleverness and memorable characters. This is not a novel to be missed.

This Forsyth novel is set in Germany in 1963, right after the assassination of President Kennedy. It follows the story of Peter Miller, a German newspaper reporter attempting to discover the whereabouts of a former SS concentration-camp commander that is of particular interest to his personal history. There is lots of intrigue and suspense along the way, one main plotline involves the Nazi association "ODESSA" and its attempts to find safe haven for ex-SS members in the aftermath of WWII. Forsyth even manages to work in the Mossad and the real life Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal. Supposedly the movie version resulted in the arrest of the true "Butcher of Riga," Eduard Roschmann, by the Argentinian police. According to reports he then skipped bail and died in 1977 in Paraguay. A fascinating story, if you like historical suspense/thrillers, you will love this read.

The author shows us some historical facts and then weaves them in with his imagination to produce a great novel. I wonder how much is actually true because he makes it all believable. Great story.

As a former German Citizen, born during the war, I witnessed first hand the silence around anything "Nazi" in Germany. Most people were ashamed of their past and not a single issue of Nazism was thought in school (the "Verdraengungspolitik"); but in private settings one could learn that die hard Nazis were still around, living in denial. I also happened to meet by chance during my later international business travels especially to Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina many German expatriates which were clearly ex-Nazis. I am convinced that many of them could only be there because of a functional underground "Railroad" clearly conceived before the Nazi collapse. In this context it is frightening to think about well they were received in these countries. Forsyth's book, maybe somewhat too sensational, provides a somewhat true, but fictional picture of the existing Nazi remnants in Germany at the time and is a must read for people interested in the aftermath of the Nazi disaster.

not one of the best that I have read. This guy is no John Camp.

Forsyth is a genius when it comes to thrillers with shocking turns you never expect. If you want a comparison--Forsyth's "Odessa File" is much like Ken Follett's "Eye of the Needle". Take an historical event or rumor and interweave your own story (not debasing the truth too terribly--remember it is fiction). If you loved Forsyth's "Day of the Jackal" or Ken Follett's "Eye of the Needle" or are a fan of WWII and post-war thrillers you will love this book. Now I will have to see the 1973 movie version of "The Odessa File" with Jon Voight to see if the studio did it justice. They did brilliantly with Forsyth's "Day of the Jackal" so I must say I am hopeful.

I won't review the storyline as it's been done already, and all I want to add is that this is a fantastic book. It's incredibly well researched, the author clearly knows his war history, and because several of the characters are actual wartime figures, the whole thing is a mix of fiction and non-fiction. The central characters are all really believable, and the writer is very good at describing a place so well you feel like you're there. I read this book in about two days because I became so engrossed in it. For a couple of dollars you can't go wrong with this one. An interesting climax too, not how I thought it would end. A great read, especially if you are interested in WW2 and what happened to the Nazis afterwards.

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