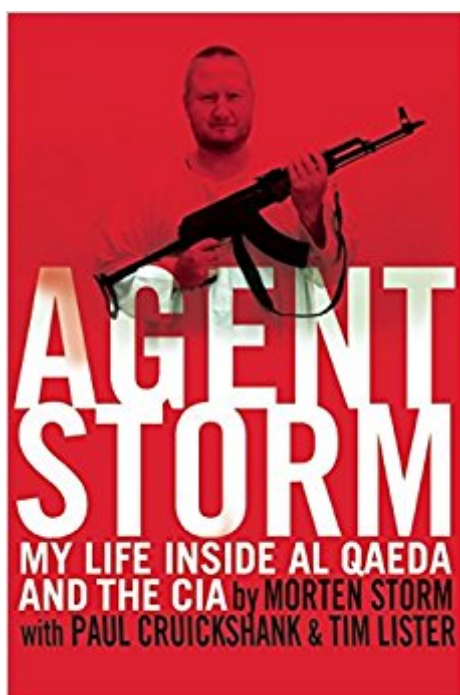


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Agent Storm: My Life Inside Al Qaeda And The CIA



Synopsis

Morten Storm was an unlikely jihadi. A six-foot-one red-haired Dane, Storm spent his teens in and out of trouble. A book about the Prophet Mohammed prompted his conversion to Islam, and Storm sought purpose in a community of believers. He attended a militant madrasah in Yemen, named his son Osama, and became close friends with Anwar al-Awlaki, the American-born terrorist cleric. But after a decade of jihadi life, he not only repudiated extremism but, in a quest for atonement, became a double agent for the CIA and British and Danish intelligence. Agent Storm takes readers inside the jihadist world like never before, showing the daily life of zealous men set on mass murder, from dodging drones with al Qaeda leaders in the Arabian desert to training in extremist gyms in Britain and performing supply drops in Kenya. The book also provides a tantalizing look at his dangerous life undercover, as Storm traveled the world for missions targeting its most dangerous terrorists, and into the most powerful spy agencies: their tradecraft, rivalries, and late-night carousing, as well as their ruthless use of a beautiful blonde in an ambitious honey trap. Agent Storm is a captivating, utterly unique, real-life espionage tale.

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Customer Reviews

A National Bestseller One of the Guardian's Top Ten Books About Spies; Highly credible. . . . Both a rollicking read and a rare insider's account of Western spying in the age of al Qaeda, where the risk if exposed is not Cold War-style expulsion but gruesome execution. . . . A valuable window on both sides in a lethal underground war. New York Times

Book Review; This book reads like a screenplay for a James Bond movie written by Joel and Ethan Coen. . . . Anyone interested in the saga of terrorist fanatics will find Agent Storm compelling. —Washington Post; Morten Storm has done the Western world a great service. . . . And by the way, the CIA owes him 5 million dollars. —Brian Kilmeade, Fox News; An extraordinary story, well told and convincing. —Foreign Affairs; [A] gripping firsthand account . . . Storm's work provides valuable and fascinating insight into the quiet battle being waged between clandestine national agencies and various terrorist organizations. —Christian Science Monitor; Agent Storm feels like a James Bond story or one of John Le Carre's marvelous spy-thrillers. Yet, the story written by CNN's Paul Cruickshank and Tim Lister is a true account. . . . First-rate. —War on the Rocks; Morten Storm's account of his nerve-wracking life spying on Al Qaeda for Western intelligence gives us the most detailed, compelling, and human look at modern espionage in the lethal world of jihadist terrorism that we are likely to get. This ground-level view of the shadowy struggle between these two clandestine groups is truly gripping. —Mark Stout, former CIA officer and Director, MA in Global Security Studies, Johns Hopkins University; Picture Homeland's Nicholas Brody getting jacked during his time as a POW and you'll get an idea of Morten Storm, the 6'1" red-haired Dane who went from unlikely jihadi to double agent. . . . Storm's tale of dodging drones and navigating alliances may read like a great espionage thriller (complete with a blonde honey trap), but his deeply personal struggle with extremism and atonement is the real story. —Maxim; Agent Storm is the remarkable memoir of a Danish convert-turned-extremist who managed not only to infiltrate al Qaeda's ranks but would later become one of West's most valued human intelligence assets in the war on terrorism. As a true spy-story, this book brings you incredibly close to what it actually takes to be an extremist and get into a terrorist group while balancing loyalty and treachery in the world of intelligence. Essential reading for everyone interested in how the war on terrorism is actually fought in the shadows. —Dr. Magnus Ranstorp, a leading expert on international terrorism and Research Director of the Centre for Asymmetric Threat Studies at the Swedish National Defence College; Agent Storm opens a unique window onto bleak interlocking landscapes; the radicalization of European Muslims that has now been energized by the Syrian civil war, the leadership and organization of global jihad, and the twilight struggle waged by western intelligence agencies against an elusive and implacable enemy. —Steven Simon, bestselling co-author of The Age of Sacred Terror and The Next Attack; In Agent

Storm, Morten Storm, Paul Cruickshank, and Tim Lister tell an astonishing and unknown tale of the exploits, change of allegiances, double crosses and inner workings of both al Qaeda terrorist groups and the Western intelligence agencies charged with stopping them. Storm's unlikely path puts him at the center of much of the al Qaeda activity and affiliated plots in Western Europe as well as in Somalia and Yemen since 9/11. Grounded in the necessary broader geopolitical context, Agent Storm is hard to put down. — Mitch Silber, former Director of Intelligence Analysis at the NYPD and author of *The Al Qaeda Factor* "Gripping." — Publishers Weekly — Probably the best account of a modern-day secret agent. Morten Storm, a convert to Islam, vividly recounts his work for the CIA and British intelligence, against extremists in Europe and al-Qaeda in the Yemen. — Guardian — Top Ten Books About Spies — Remarkable. . . . Morten Storm is the living embodiment of the theory that it is the bad boys at school who make the best spies. . . . Agent Storm is an astonishing expose not only of the world of jihadi, but also the workings of those who secretly protect us. — Telegraph (UK) — Storm has been involved in many of the most critical terrorism cases since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. This means if the revelations in his newly released memoir, *Agent Storm*, are true, he is not only this decade's most intriguing informant: he could also be the most important. — Toronto Star "[A] gripping story." — Daily Mail (UK) — Storm's memoir is manna from heaven for counterterrorism experts. — Sunday Times (UK) — [Storm's] allegations have proved explosive. — Independent (UK)

Morten Storm is a former radical Islamist born in Korsør, Denmark. After plunging deep inside the world of al Qaeda, he became a double agent employed by the American, British, and Danish intelligence agencies. He lives in an undisclosed location. Paul Cruickshank is CNN's Terrorism Analyst, and the editor of *"Al Qaeda,"* a five-volume collection of key scholarly works on the terrorist network. Tim Lister has worked for CNN and the BBC and has extensive experience of the Middle East.

This is one of the most interesting and exciting true spy accounts I have ever read. In fact, Storm is probably unique in his abilities. The book is amazingly relevant to this period in the Middle East, where recruits come from all over the world, including Europe, to seek martyrdom for groups like ISIS and Al Qaeda. (There are many more Westerners willing to die for Islam than I could have imagined). Morten Storm's story is gripping. He earned the trust of the highest leaders of a number

of terrorist groups, and was able to help 3 different national intelligence agencies take them out. He also has overwhelming evidence that his story is true. This book will become an important source of the history of the Middle East during the last 10 yrs.

Fascinating (and terrifying) look into the mindset and extensive reach of the jihadis. They are everywhere, networked, with a bloodlust to kill, which they see as a glorious martyrdom which brings eternal rewards. Fascinating and disturbing look into operation of intel and counterintel agencies, and relationships between the Danes, Brits and Americans. But how much is true? Storm has provided enough evidence to the Danish papers which first published his story and to the publishers of the book so that it is clear he had extensive ties with many of the notorious jihadis and extensive ties to Danish, British and American security services. But whether the exact story is completely true, his relationship with them is exactly as described and whether it has really ended is not so clear, at least to me. According to the book, Mr. Storm left his dangerous life after unfriendly break-ups in his relationships with all three sets of agencies (4 if you count two for the Brits, MI 5 and MI6) and has gone public with details of his betrayal of some of the most dangerous men on the planet, including Anwar al Alwaki, whom he claims to have set up for the drone strike that killed him. With no protection, how is he still alive? In fact, one might flip that question and ask: given what he has written about various of the jihadi, and the claims he makes about what he did, how is he still alive regardless of whether his claims are true or not? That leads to its own avenues of speculation. Another major question the book raises for me is to the tremendous amount of operational detail exposed as to how Western intel does manage to foil plots and find targets to kill. If all accurate, was this all already known to jihadi leadership, and if not, has Storm compromised future Western operations? Something presumably a passionate enemy of jihad would not want to do. So does that mean lots is intentional misinformation (meaning he still works for someone), or is most of it made up, or is he completely amoral and who knows where he stands now, if anywhere? Other questions arise with respect to his family. Storm purports to have two children he loves dearly, being raised Muslim by his first (Muslim) wife. Again, question as to their safety after publication of this book. And what belief system they are being raised in, presumably Muslim - but Storm says has rejected Islam altogether. What does this mean as to his children? And his second wife who was with him believing he was a committed jihadi, although not necessarily an operational one. He uses a pseudonym for her, he says to protect her. Well, she is Yemeni, they lived in Yemen where he moved in jihadi circles. How exactly is she protected? Certainly not merely by a pseudonym. And is she relieved he isn't really a jihadi? Or furious at the deception and has left him? These family questions are not

addressed. Summary: totally fascinating book, whether completely true or not. Worth reading whether totally true or not. Raises lots of questions that remain unanswered.

while Eric Hoffer's *The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements* (Perennial Classics) explains motives behind radical muslims - AGENT STORM illustrates it if you've been baffled by recent terror attacks - let Morten "Murad" Storm's story illuminate you. Hoffer predicted his beginnings as a very troubled youth in Denmark - who found his purpose in life in Radical Islam - becoming a fervent jihadist - mingling with many now-famous terrorists across Europe - then in Yemen & Africa - for all his fervor however - he had one principle - no targeting of innocent bystanders in time - that principle would cause him to reject Radical Islam - and as Hoffer predicted - he would find another movement - anti-terrorism - starting with a Danish intelligence agency (PET) - then with Britain's famous MI6 (he lived in England) - and with the CIA. Maybe cuz so little time is devoted to his inner workings - he seems to go about these dangerous anti-terrorist activities with amazing self-assurance - it's only towards the end that doubt and fear was expressed. This lack of emotional involvement caused me to wonder how authentic this story was - the Afterword fixed that. A couple of journalists aided Morten Storm in writing this work - and the authors focused on what happened - with just enough of Morten's musings to help move things along for me - this book was a worthy investment of money and time - fascinating & enlightening - and an incredibly fast read (fyi - there are many videos on YouTube of interviews with Morten Storm)

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