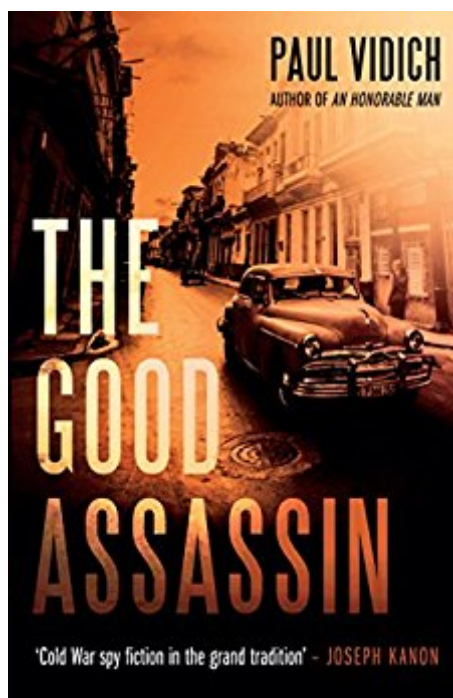


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The Good Assassin: The Sequel To An Honorable Man (George Mueller)



Synopsis

Paul Vidich follows up his acclaimed debut spy thriller with a suspenseful tale of Cold War espionage set in 1950s Cuba, as foreign powers compete to influence the outcome of a revolution. The CIA director persuades retired agent George Mueller to go to Cuba during the perilous last throes of the Batista regime to investigate Toby Graham, a CIA operative suspected of assisting Fidel Castro's rebel fighters with diverted CIA weaponry. Posing as a magazine travel writer, Mueller reconnects with Jack and Liz Malone, old friends who have relocated to Cuba and are unable to see the coming upheaval in their lives, both political and personal. Toby's betrayals aren't limited to his mission, and Mueller must make a choice between justice and duty, between loyalty to his profession and to his friends. Paul Vidich has written a powerful story of ideals, passions, betrayals, and corrupting political rivalries in the months before Castro's triumphant march into Havana on New Year's Day 1959. This sequel showcases the widely praised talents of Paul Vidich, who Booklist says, 'writes with an economy of style that acclaimed novelists might do well to emulate.' 'A simmering, old-fashioned literary spy tale' - Publishers Weekly 'The Good Assassin opens up Hemingway's Cuba. Possessing Alan Furst's attention for period detail and the deft character touches of John Le Carré, Vidich has quickly carved out a place for himself among the very first rank of espionage writers. Masterful.' - Michael Harvey, New York Times bestselling author of *The Chicago Way* and *Brighton* 'Paul Vidich's likeable and reluctant spy, George Mueller, will keep readers guessing in this eerily real Cuba of 1958. *The Good Assassin* is a keen historical adventure from the best noir tradition' - Elizabeth Kostova, New York Times bestselling author of *The Historian*

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Customer Reviews

Wow! Another novel that is too good to be true! Absolutely fabulous! This novel was a page turner! I couldn't put it down. Novelist Paul Vidich has the writing skills, talent and good story telling to swim with the sharks! Reading this novel I felt I was a stealth character in the background. I even felt I was at the dinner table. Novelist Paul Vidich has a unique way of using words in his sentence structure. Prose excellent. Detail to characters and scenes, excellent. This is another real spy espionage novel by Novelist Paul Vidich. It was joy to read this novel. When I was done reading it I felt a sense of satisfaction of my time well spent again. If you read the Acknowledgments this novel is based on the life of William Morgan. Now to, oh? No George Muller novel #3. Mr. Paul Vidich? Where is George Muller novel #3, George Muller novel #4, George Muller novel #5, ... Don't stop writing George Muller novels. There great! You have a gift, a skill, a talent to share with the world. When will the next novel be released? Titled? Again, thank you Mr. Paul Vidich for a wonderful novel to read. Excellent!

AUGUST 1958: former CIA agent George Mueller arrives in Cuba, a volatile capital, where he has been assigned to monitor the CIA's "man in Havana" and possible traitor, none other than his old friend Toby Graham. Under the guise of their brotherly affection, Mueller is recruited to vet rumors that Graham is putting weapons, covertly provided by the CIA to the unpopular Batista regime, in the hands of Castro's forces. Public exposure of the CIA weapons mission, and the activity of one rogue agent, threaten to embarrass the agency. It is up to Mueller to distinguish whether Graham's rebel sympathies are true and, if they are, how deep his loyal ties to his old friend lie. . . . Beneath the political turmoil and deadly intrigue lie complicated emotional ties that may blind everyone to the truth. A passionate love affair with an American expat; a world of deceit

within the FBI, CIA, and State Department; and dangerous lies and moral bankruptcy from all sides further complicate the already treacherous circumstances in which Mueller finds himself. But both his own code of honor and the outcome of the revolution depend on Mueller's ability to navigate the corruption and betrayals which permeate his world. Paul Vidich has written a powerful story of the competing ideals, passion, hypocrisy, and destructive rivalries that played out in the months before Castro's triumphant march into Havana on New Year's Day 1959. Highly recommended.

Strong character development and a well-drawn historical context. The woman torn between an avaricious, self-absorbed husband and a newly-principled CIA assassin is a somewhat new twist on an old theme. Well worth reading and somebody could do an excellent movie. Think updated, Americanized Graham Greene.

About a quarter of the way in, I realized that Vidich was doing his take on Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. This upset me since Vidich is a good writer, and his other Mueller book was a good read. But this mirroring of Fitzgerald, from plot point to plot point was a disappointment. If this were song writing, there would be a copyright suit. I think he could do much more with his talents. Now, this is a good book, in that it is a spy-based version of Nick Carraway's narration. But then, it could have been so much more, so much more its own. Well, it just shows you.

In the tradition of Graham Greene Paul had given us an intelligent timely page-turner replete with well-developed characters, moral conflicts, romance, loyalty, betrayal and political savvy. We get Shakespeare, Hemingway, the Bible, and Fitzgerald beautifully woven into the fabric of this novel whose protagonist is in fact an academic in addition to 'spy' and 'assassin'. One continues to develop the movie and cast as one reads this vivid book. In our current political climate and international drama with strong reference to the cold war, intrigue and the key role of CIA and FBI this novel becomes magnified in terms of its relevance and timeliness. We can now just about fly to Cuba if we can get through airport security but are we safe now just as danger was imminent then. Well done Mr. Vidich. Your second triumph as an erudite, graceful, moral genre novelist with something to say to us all and entertaining to boot! Rae Edelson /Bruce Dow

A great read. The many subplots weave together seamlessly, and you are kept guessing until the end. He creates vivid imagery of what Cuba must have been like in the run-up to the ascendancy of

Castro.

Well written novel. Film rights will be in great demand. I will go back and read his prior novel. Great!

This second novel by Paul Vidich was a selection for my book group. It is not a genre I am usually drawn to and I opened it with limited enthusiasm. I was completely turned by the end of the first chapter. The writing skill, story line, character development, historical context and visual creation as the story progressed, had me looking forward to the end of my day when I could see what the characters would face next and how they would respond. Terrific read in the hands of a skilled writer. Thoroughly enjoyed the book.

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