



## In the Name of the Father

*A.J. Quinnell*

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The leaders of the Catholic Church, horror-stricken by the recent attempt to assassinate the Pope, are further shocked by new revelations: the killer was acting on orders from the highest levels of the Kremlin. And other Soviet-backed assassins are on their way to finish the job.

## **In the Name of the Father Details**

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Author : A.J. Quinnell

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## From Reader Review In the Name of the Father for online ebook

Ash Wednesday says

3 STARS

"Your religion preaches that vengeance belongs to God... Well, I borrowed a little from him."

So I gave my reader a break and picked up an old paperback from the shelf which I haven't opened in a while, because I've been having mediocre reads as of late.

Can't say the rhinitis and the strange, furry brown things that fell off while I turned the pages were worth the revisit but it was still pretty entertaining. Not as impressed as I was when I was a teenager where I was all (view spoiler) because let's face it, I have read some things that are far more insane since then, but whatevs.

This is not the book from which the Daniel Day-Lewis film is adapted from (was it adapted from a book?). Set in 1984, this is about the Vatican being tired of putting up with shit from Soviet Russia whose General Secretary Yuri Andropov is hell bent on killing Pope John Paul II. After the successive failed but increasingly close attempts at the pope's life, a covert group of high ranking priests (an archbishop, a Cardinal and a Bacon priest) who calls themselves *Nostra Trinita* decided to hire and train a secret papal envoy to be sent to Moscow and kill the Soviet premier.

They hired Mirek Scibor, a former major in the Polish Secret Police (whose actual Polish name refuses to get typed. Thanks autocorrect.), an atheist with a burning hatred for the Russian leader. He, together with Ania Krol, a Jesuit nun posing as his wife, will be traveling through the Vatican's covert pipeline of undercover priests, safe houses and the uncanniest of allies to get to Moscow and try to beat the Kremlin from assassinating the Pope himself when he travels to the Far East.

Dun-dun-dun!

I'm not sure how it worked in the 80's but one thing that was unusual for me is the use of real personalities (ie. John Paul II and Yuri Andropov) in the story. And not just as a passive casual mention, but as active participants, especially Andropov who was the main villain. I'm pretty sure some dialogue could be grounds for libel, but I have to admit I liked the imagination put into it, incorporating and tinkering with historical events to provide enough tension to credibly qualify this as a spy thriller with a little bit of drama and cheese that it could also be acceptably shelved as a romantic suspense novel.

This started strong, showing the machinery of the *Nostra Trinita* as men pulling the strings and it was quite fun to imagine the Vatican capable of sending someone to Camp Ibn Awad in Libya to train for their cause because that place sounds a lot like Hogwarts for Terrorists (like, seriously). How awesome it is to imagine our friendly neighborhood priest isn't a dedicated gardener but is actually growing poisons the Vatican could use to kill wayward Catholics? I mean, why do we read books like *Grave Mercy*?

Exactly.

I liked how this delved in to the nitty gritty of executing a covert operation without making things too complex (sometimes to a fault). How Mirek trained, the clever ways they evaded the Russians' pursuit (i.e. transporting someone inside a vatful of milk in scuba gear), the secret handshakes and passwords... there was a certain magic to it. Though not the plot twists and the contrived creation of tension that felt seemingly simplistic and borderline ridiculous.

While there was some ease and confidence in the espionage aspect, the romantic angle just came across farcical and forced. The dialogue was severely cheesy and the chemistry between the protagonists felt hurried and illogical. (view spoiler)For an attractive, bad-ass mofo, Mirek came across a tool and a perv who degenerated to a lovesick fool towards the end. There's this lengthy description of Mirek's sexual prowess and penile and scrotal features (it was a witness interrogation scene) that clearly illustrates the awkward effort to reach out to the romantic suspense fans.

"His virility is above average. He can have two full orgasms within twenty minutes and a third an hour later. But he is not selfish about it."

Well thank God he's a sharer.

I remember being impressed with Ania's strength when I first read this but thirty-something me now recognizes a token heroine who needs to be rescued to better illustrate all that manly manliness and have a moral conflict to cry over. And yet... that freaking Epilogue still made me go and waste a heartfelt "Awww..."

So a decade after, yes, this was still pretty entertaining but probably not for the same reasons as I had before.

And right there, the comfort in the idea that (whodathunk?!) I'm an evolving reader, also makes me stare wistfully at my Francine Pascal collection.

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## **Greg says**

Perhaps the best thriller I ever read.

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## **Brett Licciardello says**

Excellent book, very suspenseful story about espionage during the cold war. It included players you wouldn't expect... like the Vatican.

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## **Adam Nelson says**

You have to hang in there at first, but once the momentum gets rolling on this thriller, it's a lot of fun. Ultimately, it's a love story, but I don't want to give away ANYTHING about how it turns out, only to say that the relationship involved treads a fine line between corruption and redemption and ultimately demonstrates the overpowering resolve of the latter. I found that story to be much more captivating than the political intrigue of the main plot, and I think that's because the Cold War is over and Russia is no longer

quite the power to be feared that it once was. That, and I'm not Catholic, so papal intrigue and espionage doesn't matter to me. I worship Jesus, not a man, so whatever...I'm digressing. Quinnell keeps a good pace and tight narrative. The only major hitch in the enjoyment is the pornographic sex, and it is hardcore. A.J. Quinnell is a pseudonym, and I wonder if this is Clancy gone slumming so that he could give us a tutorial on all the clinical methods through which one can be penetrated. Call me a prude, but I have a hard time when somebody talks about earth-shattering sex like it's something that happens all the time when it's just as fictional as the rest of the story. Yeah, sure, tell me it's escapist, but escapism can sometimes be a bad thing.

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### **Laurel says**

I was pleasantly surprised by this thriller I read for a challenge. Two fascinating plots-one plot is Russian with the objective being to assassinate the Pope. The second plot emanates from within the walls of the Vatican. Its objective is to murder the president of what was Soviet Russia, at the height of the Cold War era. A very interesting main character, who, early in the book, travels to a Middle Eastern terrorist training camp in order to learn the trade craft of assassination. Add in a nun as a traveling companion, lots of dangerous and clandestine travel, as well as plenty of anti-Soviet Polish nationalism. The plot kept me interested, in that I read the last half of the book well into the night, in order to find out how the various story lines were resolved. Some may find the politics a bit dated, but as one who remembers the fear engendered by the Russian-American confrontation known historically as the Bay of Pigs, it seems right on the money, and well worth the time.

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### **Timothy says**

I really enjoyed this book, I do remember reading it a very long time ago, however it was a very good read and it helped take some of the edge off of coming to shore duty in the navy after being at sea for 3 and a half years.

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### **Tom says**

Another great book by Quinnell, this time with Mirek Scibor, the rogue Polish secret service officer. However improbable it might seem, an assassination attempt on Yuri Andropov in retaliation for plans to kill the pope make this a masterful book. Quinnell details the plans and plot from an insider's knowledge of tradecraft.

It's a shame his books are hard to find and or out of print.

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### **Richard Knight says**

You know what? I was really set to say, "this book sucks!" but it doesn't. And I realized that toward the end when I was actually on the edge of my seat during a crucial scene. Somehow, the author, A.J. Quinnell, had gotten me engrossed enough to actually care about what was at stake for the protagonist. Up to that point, I thought I couldn't care less, but the author somehow managed to make me. I think that's the sign of a true master writer--he gets you to care without you even realizing it.

That said, the prose was kind of weak sometimes, especially in the sex scenes. Also, the story was a little played out. The plot of a secret envoy out to kill the man who wants to assassinate the Pope is a good idea in theory, but it kind of falls apart since it relies on so many of the tropes in the genre. But again, you know what? I liked it. Would I recommend it? Well, not really. Not unless you like thrillers. But if you do like thrillers, then you'll likely enjoy this. I've certainly read a lot worse.

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### **Marissel Enríquez says**

Best thriller I've read so far!!

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### **DAVE BOWTELL says**

I picked this book thinking it was the book of the film and almost put it down when I realised it wasn't. I read on for a short period then found myself hooked. I have never read any of Mr Quinnell's books but I will look for them in future. I enjoyed the build up of the hero to a lean mean fighting machine and the delicate nun. Not the pairing that is obvious. I was a bit dubious of the use of drugs setting a catatonic state (Even more so when this idea is used again later in the book) But for sheer edge of the "seatedness" in the run up to the end game, I found thisbook quite thrilling.

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### **Laurel says**

I have no review as of yet. I am still reading. I wanted the correct edition to show up in my Books Being Read list, and so it would be accurate for my challenges..

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### **P.S. Winn says**

An attempt to assassinate the Pope, is nothing compared to what else is discovered, the killer got orders from the Kremlin. This is a great action adventure with a twisted conspiracy and one to pick up.

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### **Peter says**

A Catholic envoy who is a refugee from Poland and a nun masquerading as his wife are sent to kill the Soviet President to avoid the assassination of the Pope. This is a standard but quite entertaining thriller, better than his Creasy novels which, for me, tend to go a bit over the top with violence and some cardboard characters. 2.5 stars.

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### **Ann Aldrich says**

Cardboard characters, tedious plot, marginal violence, gratuitous sex. OK for a beach read if nothing better is

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available.

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**Albright Edet says**

you need to read this book! I have read it again and again, i just cant stop. Very interesting book.

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