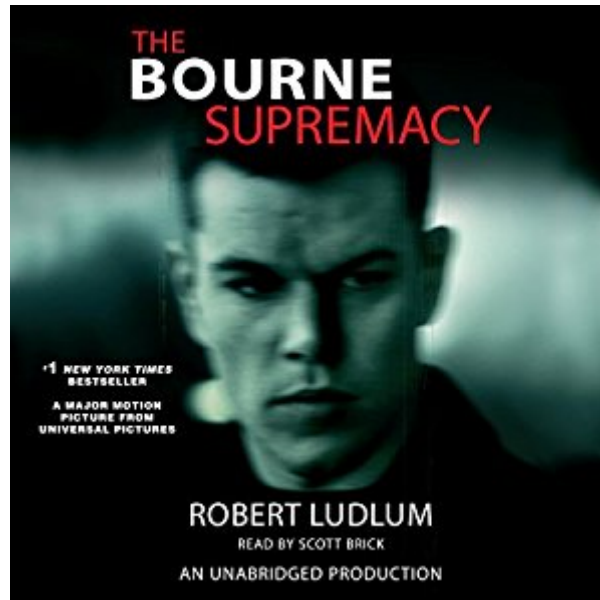




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The Bourne Supremacy



Synopsis

A KILLER WITH NO FACE, NO IDENTITY, AND A NAME THE WORLD WANTED TO FORGET:
JASON BOURNE Reenter the shadowy world of Jason Bourne, an expert assassin still plagued by the splintered nightmares of his former life. This time the stakes are higher than ever. For someone else has taken on the Bourne identity—•a ruthless killer who must be stopped or the world will pay a devastating price. To succeed, the real Jason Bourne must maneuver through the dangerous labyrinth of international espionage—•an exotic world filled with CIA plots, turncoat agents, and ever-shifting alliances—•all the while hoping to find the truth behind his haunted memories and the answers to his own fragmented past. This time there are two Bournes—•and one must die.

From the Paperback edition. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

The second book in Ludlum's Bourne series is an entertaining read set in a very different setting from the first novel. This makes for some intriguing and interesting plot points as well as showing Bourne's considerable skills in another way. Again, Ludlum's writing and vivid descriptions make for a compelling and entertaining read. BUT, without giving too much away, this novel is missing much of what made the original novel great. (Mild spoilers for both novels following) So much of the first novel dealt with Bourne's internal struggle to reconcile the sort of man he wanted to be with the mounting evidence of who he actually was. This struggle made the first novel a compelling read, as

he dealt with this identity crisis. In the second novel, Bourne is forced, in a slightly contrived way, into becoming that man again. This means that the internal turmoil of the first novel, although hinted at, is largely missing from the second. Bourne forces the struggle out of his mind so that he can do what he needs to do. One is left wondering how many times he can be forced into being the assassin before that crisis ceases to be a plausible part of the story. This is a shame as that struggle made up so much of the magic of the first novel. Interestingly that struggle is largely missing from the movies. Bourne Supremacy is an interesting enough read but I was left a little disappointed and unlikely to read the rest of the novels in the series. Unfortunately, without that inner crisis, Bourne's character is simply not as interesting or as exciting to read.

Just like Ludlum once said in one of his novels, there was no a yellow skinned Chinese who could become a successful assassin in the western world, how come a white guy, not matter how good he was, i.e., no matter how good his make-up skills were, how he could survive in a 1-billion-yellow-skinned environment, and even become a very active assassin? If this premise failed to establish well, then, this whole book was a totally absurd hypothesis, and of course, not worthy at all

After being glued to The Bourne Identity, I thought surely Mr Ludlum would only get better. I was wrong. One of the most boring books I think I've ever read. Pushed myself to the halfway point in hopes that the story would pick up once the ball got rolling, but it never even budged. I was also dissapointed that Carlos the Jackal was nowhere to be found. Knowing, of course, that he makes a return in Ultimatum, I look forward to the Bourne/Carlos conclusion, and I hope that Ludlum delivers a similar feel to that of Identity. Fingers crossed.

Way less exhausting to journey through than its predecessor, this installment has just the right amount of thrills, clever details, and persuasive revelations to keep one at edge and not on the trail to a good nap. The dialogue is highly intelligent and sophisticated, just as this story's construction. And the insight on topics that actually matter more than the subject himself is another fine addition to this meal of somewhat convoluted but fulfilling adventures. Jason is still as great as you discovered him to be, but what Ludlum brings new to the table is a plot that makes Bourne not only a survivor of a more excruciating hell, but one who no one in their right mind should underestimate for any reason. Jason is a man of duty, but even more of decency. Considering his life a boring masterpiece only makes one an individual of insanity.

(Spoiler) I don't have a lot to say that hasn't been covered in other posts. I just enjoyed the intricacies of the plot. Of the first three, this one is the best- unpredictable, but not arbitrarily so, and a wide array of loose ends that all get tied up, some in unusual ways. As I'm sure has been mentioned, this plot has absolutely nothing to do with the movie plot. Having the tension of his lover being involved in the storyline makes it so much more interesting, giving the book another dimension all together. Once Marie in the 2nd movie dies (who is NOT the Marie from the book), the movies lost a little. After the 3rd movie, where he finds out truly where he comes from, "where it all began," it seemed all compelling reasons for other stories regarding Jason Bourne had been laid to rest- that's my own opinion. One thing else to note about the book vs. the movie. The character played by Matt Damon has a significantly different flavor than the Jason Bourne in the book. Both are focused, and brilliant strategists, tacticians, and excel in combat. However, Matt Damon's character is humble, noble, and has subtle caring and warmth for those around him who are not villains. Jason Bourne in the book is frequently sarcastic, his focus can have a coldness to it, and he can be self-centered in a way that I didn't see in character in the movies. I'm not saying it's bad, but it's different and an adjustment I had to make in connecting to his character in the book.

I received the first Jason Bourne book free, and enjoyed it so much I bought the second one (this book), so their marketing worked. I enjoyed this one as well. It was fun reading an action thriller where technology was limited to landlines and pay phones. Both the love story and the action story are well written, and both the hero and the heroine play an instrumental role in resolving the action.

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