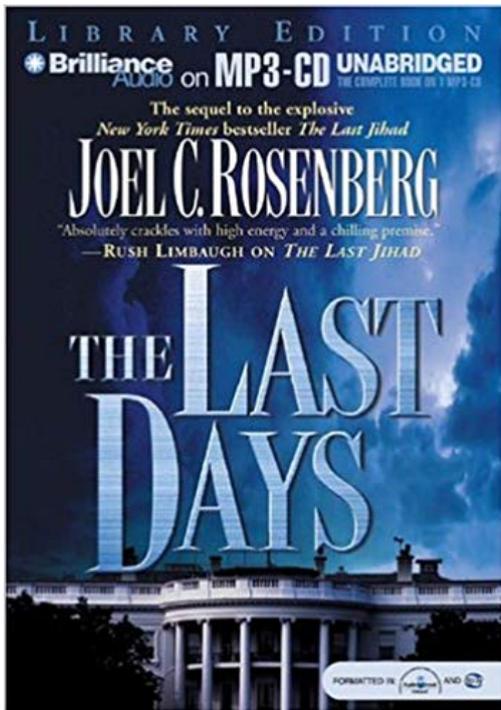


The Last Days (Political Thrillers Series #2) by Patrick G. Lawlor, Joel C. Rosenberg



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Osama bin Laden is dead. Saddam Hussein is buried. Baghdad lies in ruins.

Now the eyes of the world are on Jerusalem as Jon Bennett—a Wall Street strategist turned senior White House advisor—his beautiful CIA partner Erin McCoy and the U.S. Secretary of State arrive in the Middle East to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

On the table: a dramatic and potentially historic Arab-Israeli peace plan, of which Bennett is the chief architect. At the heart of the proposed treaty is the discovery of black gold deep underneath the Mediterranean—a vast and spectacular tract of oil and natural gas that could offer unprecedented riches for every Muslim, Christian, and Jew in Israel and Palestine.

With the international media closely tracking the story, the American message is as daring as it is direct: Both sides must put behind them centuries of bitter, violent hostilities to sign a peace treaty. Both sides must truly cooperate on drilling, pumping, refining, and shipping the newly found petroleum. Both sides must work together to develop a dynamic, new, integrated economy to take advantage of the stunning opportunity. Then—and only then—the United States will help underwrite the billions of dollars of venture capital needed to turn the dream into reality.



Reviews of the **The Last Days (Political Thrillers Series #2)** by Patrick G. Lawlor, Joel C. Rosenberg

Vit

'The Last Days' brings Jonathan Bennett and Erin McCoy together to fight for a seemingly impossible peace accord between Israel and Palestine. The death toll on both sides is not only staggering; many innocents are viciously slaughtered. I struggled to keep my focus on the hopes of finally negotiating a lasting peace with distractions from extremists wanting to destroy the Dome of the Rock and the international search to find Bennett's mom. Hopefully, the sequel will bring the jihadists masterminds to justice, as well as draw Jonathan and Erin front-and-center before a Justice of the Peace.

fightnight

The saga continues as Joel Rosenberg continues his story of Jon Bennett, the President's "point man for peace", as he attempts to broker an Oil for Peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians. Joined by his business associate, Erin McCoy, he runs into more trouble, not unlike that which he encountered in book 1. The plot takes Bennett and McCoy to Russia where they are nearly killed in a coup against the Russian president. Both are captured. Bennett is miraculously returned to the USA. However McCoy is kept in Russia, maybe dead. No spoiler here. Can Jon Bennett complete the deal with Israel and the Palestinians? How will Iraq and Russia stop the peace deal? Will Jon find Erin (the love of his life) dead or alive in Russia? All these questions will be answered, but maybe not in this book as the story continues to book 3. "The Ezekiel Option" (also available from Amazon). This is a very well written adventure/thriller. WARNING! You will not be able to put it down once you start reading. Highly recommended.

However, it is best to start with Book 1 "The Last Jihad" to best appreciate the stories' plot and character development. Order from Amazon.

Faegal

Firearms, some of the stuff he writes makes me wonder if he has even tried to get things write or contacted anyone about this as he sure has never handled one.

I know, it isn't PC but it bothers me.

Otherwise, the story is pretty good, not a lot of swearing and no blaspheming which makes it enjoyable from my standpoint. God has a place in the story and the whole series seems to be good on that point. Again, I know this isn't PC either but it matters to me.

Minha

I read Joel Rosenberg's thriller "The Last Days" to expand the range of authors I read in this genre. Two years later, I finished his book. Getting through it became a personal quest to see if I could finish what I started. I didn't dislike the book enough to stop reading it, but it didn't spark my interest the way that other thrillers have.

The author obviously has a deep knowledge of Arab-Israeli politics and knowledge of Middle Eastern politics that gives the book an air of realism missing from other thrillers, right down to using real figures such as Yasser Arafat. At times Rosenberg veered into speculative territory that left me shaking my head, suggesting, for example, that the U.S. Secretary of State would conduct peace negotiations in the Gaza Strip. The author's in-depth explanations of world events and political undercurrents that would do well in a textbook bogged down the story.

Surprisingly, the book lacked nonstop action and suspense that I would have expected from a story about efforts to avert a war between the Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans following the assassination of a major political figure and the killing of the U.S. Secretary of State. The few action scenes rescued the book at critical moments, but I would have preferred more of them to keep the story moving. The beginning and end are dramatic with a couple of well-placed nail-biter scenes interspersed. Otherwise, Rosenberg's detailed descriptions and long-winded dialogue left me disinterested.

"The Last Days" had enough redemptive qualities to merit three stars. It's a book for those who like cerebral, meaty thrillers who aren't expecting the protagonist to single-handedly strong arm the bad guys.

Ffleg

I accidentally started reading the series in the middle because Amazon and the publisher have provided nothing to indicate the order of the series, no numbering, no numbers on the cover, no list that indicates the order so people could know which to read first.

So to the actual review, I like a touch more of sexual tension or chemistry between McCoy and Bennett, the author hints around the edges too much for me. However this is a tension filled and occasionally surprising mystery with Christian values without trying to be too preachy although some of the books do. I've read 5 of the books now and enjoyed them all, they draw me in and make me want to keep going.

If I would change anything it's that the author relies too heavily on current events and people, and makes predictions about the outcomes or activities which are often wrong. This is distracting because your mind jumps to the real history of the people and nations he mentions that you know is wrong. To track with the story you have to force your mind from recalling real life situations and history to allow for the real life characters, places, and history to be ignored for the story to work.

If I were the author I would use current events and places but make up leaders, kings and other villains just like he does with his heros that are not real. Once history catches or passes his stories the story falls apart or becomes distracting because you know what really happened and the story does not read right.

JOGETIME

The Last Days is another geopolitical thriller, 2nd in the series. While Rosenberg keeps the story firmly planted on the ground, he lightly draws attention to Biblical prophecies which seem to describe current wars and rumors of wars.

Evil, he states at one point, stalks the streets of Gaza. He doesn't mean to imply that the Islamist are cranky or having a bad day. No, Rosenberg refers to evil personified; an individual malevolent spirit who roams the earth, looking for souls to devour. Excellently written, fully developed characters, pulse-pounding action. You will probably want to start the third book straightaway.

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