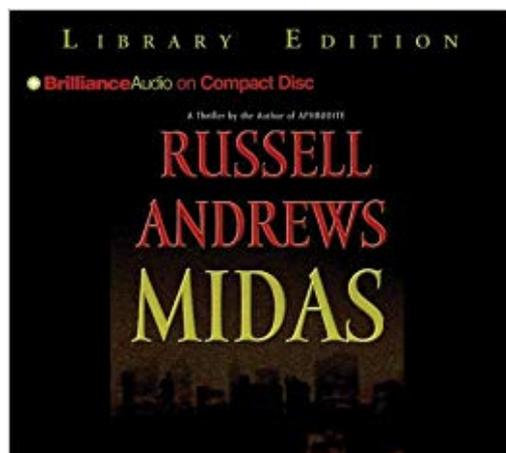


Midas by Patrick Lawlor, Russell Andrews



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New York's Hamptons are the summer playground for Wall Street big shots, Hollywood starlets, and all species of glitterati in between. But when a Middle Eastern man rigged with explosives walks into a chic restaurant and blows himself up, all that glamour is shattered. And so is the security and safety of the entire United States.

Drawn into this case is Justin Westwood, a local East End Harbor cop who is still haunted by the violent deaths of his wife and daughter years before. After meeting a beautiful woman whose hunger for human contact and comfort matches his own, he believes he is finally winning the battle with his old ghosts. Yet just as he is beginning to grasp hold of the new life he's been craving, he is saddled with this new murder investigation - one far more dangerous than any he's ever tackled.

Soon after the restaurant explosion - the first suicide bombing ever to hit U.S. shores - a small plane crashes in the middle of East End Harbor. It is initially deemed an accident but after the pilot's body disappears, as do all traces of his identification, Justin realizes he's dealing with sabotage. When more terrorist strikes occur, each more devastating than the last, Justin also begins to understand that they all share an elusive, undeniable link - one that will plunge him into a terrifying journey leading to some of the country's most powerful figures and their darkest, most closely held secrets. If he is to survive, Justin must wend his way through a complicated maze of corruption and confront startling truths about big business and politics and, most of all, about himself.

For a long time, Justin Westwood has wondered if he could ever truly be frightened again, or if anything could reclaim his soul. Some part of him hoped it was possible. He is about to get his wish...



Reviews of the **Midas** by Patrick Lawlor, Russell Andrews

artman

I enjoyed the author's writing style, but a big part of the solution was obvious far too early, and the end became ridiculous.

Fohuginn

Excellent mystery. I have read all of his books wish there were more to read.

Tygrafym

Conspiracies abound in this novel, which starts off with a suicide bombing at a restaurant in a Long Island beach town. This is then followed by a plane crash. The sheriff, Jimmy Leggett believes these two events are linked. Leggett starts an investigation, which leads him to Islamic terrorists and members of the US government. This novel was a complete disappointment. It is overloaded with the writer's political agenda, silly conspiracies and plot lines that don't make any sense. There was virtually nothing credible in this novel. It was not particularly well written, and all together forgettable. This is the first novel I've read from Russell Andrews, and I don't plan on reading any of his novels again. This is one to skip, unless you like your conspiracies to be utterly unbelievable and your plot to move into oblivion.

Carl Alves - author of Blood Street

Hadadel

The author of this book seems to imply that there may be a big government conspiracy behind terrorist bombings and the special powers they are being given to deal with terrorist suspects both at home and in Guantanamo Bay. Justin Westwood, a police officer from a small town near the Hamptons in Long Island, New York investigates a plane crash of a small plane. From a few "suspect" things about the death of the pilot involved, Justin goes off on an investigation that causes people who know too much to be killed and top government officials to go after Justin.

I found the whole story implausible and what was really insulting is that anyone who know something seems to be wiped out without a thought by government agents but Justin being the hero is treated totally different. Another thing that bothered me is how easy Justin gets involved with a female cop who he has just hired. Being a real small town with a tiny police force a romantic involvement could really jeopardize a working relationship. Justin supposedly being so smart should know better.

Justin seems to be like Jim Garrison from JFK in pulling together all these "facts" that nobody else can get to piece together the whole organization of the conspiracy. This book did not leave me in the end with any desire to get any more of the other Justin Westwood books. This was a bad attempt by the author to put his "Michael Moore" type theories into a book. He should have just written a political commentary instead.

Blackredeemer

Two points about this book immediately come to mind:

1. If you're a devoted fan of Michael Moore and his Hollywood crowd and believe that the Government is truly evil, capable of anything, and putting all kinds of nefarious conspiracy plans into action, then this is exactly the book for you (the author is an actor). If you believe the Government is a bunch of folk stumbling along as best they can, then you might want to ignore this book, or perhaps just ignore the big conspiracy and read it for the rest of the story which is pretty good in its own right.
2. Surprisingly, the technical aspects of the book are also pretty good. I wouldn't put it quite up there with a Clancy, but the planes, bombs, and even the financial aspects are pretty detailed.

The story itself has a post 9/11 plot, which begins with the first suicide bomber in the US. It goes on from there to more terrorism, interconnected in some pretty strange ways.

There's also a pretty strange set of characters, especially the bad guys.

Good story, highly recommended, if the anti-government aspects doesn't get to you.

Karon

Russell Andrews, in his new novel, "Midas," succeeds at an almost impossible task. He uses the old "conspiracy theory" and "corruption in high places" formula and actually makes it fresh and compelling. The protagonist is Justin (Jay) Westwood, a cop in East End Harbor, Long Island. When Jay's boss, police chief Jimmy Leggett, is killed in what appears to be a terrorist bombing of a local restaurant, the mayor appoints Jay to take Jimmy's place.

Shortly after the bombing, a small plane crashes in East End Harbor. Jay decides to investigate, but the pilot's body is quickly whisked away. When Jay questions the authorities, he is stymied at every turn. Being a good cop and a curious individual, Jay calls in favors from some friends of his, and he begins to put together the pieces of a mind-boggling conspiracy. As witnesses are killed off one by one, Jay has a choice. Should he play it safe and back off, or should he keep pressing for answers, even if doing so might cost him his life?

"Midas" is a timely thriller that deals with issues in the news: escalating oil prices, terrorism and the government's response to it, and the abuse of political power for personal gain. Jay Westwood is an appealing, albeit flawed hero with his share of inner demons. He is grieving over the tragic loss of his wife and child, and, more often than he'd like to admit, he anesthetizes himself with pot and booze in order to get to sleep. Still, he has a core of inner strength and integrity, as well as a passion for justice; he is stubbornly unwilling to let important questions go unanswered. When he is warned to stop investigating, Jay redoubles his efforts to get at the truth.

Andrews has created a fascinating and varied cast of characters. Bruno Pecozi is an oversized hitman for the mob who, for some reason, is rather fond of the police chief. A sexy cop named Regina Bokkenheuser joins the East End Harbor police force as Jay's assistant and she soon becomes indispensable, both professionally and personally. Other memorable characters are Chuck Billings, an obsessive bomb expert who never takes a crime scene at face value, Hubbell Schrader, a vicious FBI agent, and Theresa Cooke, the jittery and terrified widow of the mysterious dead pilot.

"Midas" is action-packed and fast-moving. Andrews has woven a plot that is complex but comprehensible. As Jay slowly sifts through dozens of clues and puts together the disparate elements of his case, he eventually realizes that he is up against people who can crush him instantly. There is a particularly harrowing and well-written sequence in which the author describes Jay's incarceration under subhuman conditions. The dialogue is sharp and realistic, the book has an internal logic that works throughout, and the novel concludes with some nifty surprises. "Midas" is a suspenseful and engrossing story that effortlessly sweeps the reader along from beginning to end.

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