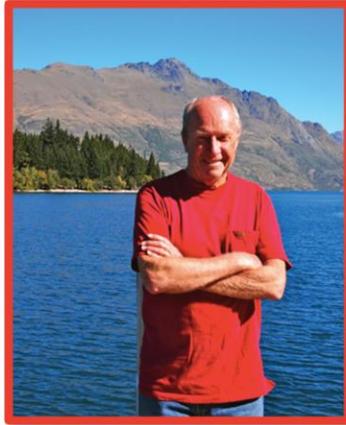


Jack Erickson

www.jackerickson.com • jacklerickson@gmail.com • Twitter: @Hoya73



Media Overview for *Thirteen Days in Milan*

Thirteen Days in Milan is an international thriller about an American single mother taken hostage by Italian terrorists during a political assassination at Milan's Stazione Centrale.

The terrorists, with a family connection to the infamous Brigate Rosse (Red Brigades), ignite an international incident when they take the American woman hostage, as her father is a wealthy Wall Street investment banker.

Thirteen Days in Milan takes place in August and September of 2011, while Italy was embroiled in the crippling Euro financial crisis, and months before Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was forced to resign because of scandals involving tax evasion and payment to underage prostitutes.

Key Characters

The principal characters are American Sylvia de Matteo and Italian Fabio Cecconi, the terrorist leader.

Sylvia undergoes major emotional changes during her captivity and struggle for survival. She originally despises her captors, but after conversations with Fabio Cecconi through a privacy screen, she becomes sympathetic to the plight of Italians during the Euro financial crisis and Berlusconi's political scandals.

Fabio Cecconi is a brilliant but frustrated academic who draws on memories of Brigate Rosse shared with him by an uncle who was imprisoned after the Moro assassination. Although Fabio is the leader of the terrorist cell, he develops doubts about the group's goals while Sylvia is their hostage.

Historical Background: The Moro Assassination

Thirteen Days in Milan begins with a prologue about the kidnapping and assassination of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro the day he was to achieve his highest political goal of forming the first European government with a coalition that included the Communist Party.

Moro was held in a small cell in Rome by the *Brigate Rosse*, a violent wing of the Communist Party who kidnapped and assassinated politicians, labor leaders, judges, and lawyers during the violent *anni di piombo* (years of lead) in the 1970s.

On the morning of Moro's fifty-fifth day as a hostage, he was stuffed into the back of a Renault and shot nine times. His body was driven to a street halfway between the headquarters of the Communist Party and the Christian Democrats, where it was discovered after the *Brigate Rosse* revealed he had been murdered.

The Moro affair was one of the most tragic events in modern Italian history. The tragedy still resonates in Italian media, politics, and academia, somewhat similar to America's memories of the JFK assassination.

Opening Sentence of Prologue

A little before nine in the morning on March 16, 1978, sixty-one-year-old Aldo Moro, five-time Italian prime minister between 1963 and 1976, emerged from his fifth-floor Rome penthouse apartment on Via Forte Trionfale to be driven to the Italian Parliament for a historic session that would be a crowning achievement in his thirty-year political career.

Opening Paragraph of Chapter One

Milan, Italy, July 2011

To most people who knew him, Fabio Cecconi was a young man with a bright future. He was someone about whom Italians would say one day, "I knew Fabio when he was young, before he became famous and influential. He makes me proud to be an Italian."

Opening Sentence of Chapter Three (introducing the de Matteo family)

Day One
Menaggio
Lago di Como

Paolo de Matteo loved his ten-year-old granddaughter, Angela, so much that he bought her pistachio gelato every afternoon.

Review Excerpts for Thirteen Days in Milan

"I'm Italian, and I must say that Erickson's view of my country and my fellow citizens is not so stereotypical as it appears in other books about Italy written by a foreign writer. His understanding of our political and economic situation is very deep, his knowledge about food and drinks amazing, and the characters in the story powerful and realistic. In this difficult moment for Italy, there's a little bit of Fabio in every Italian."

"Once you get to know the characters and the story is headed for a big climax, it's hard to stop reading. While reading, it was easy to visualize the scenes because of the attention to detail in the descriptions of the environment, sounds, and smells."

"[Erickson's] descriptions, especially of Italy's sensuous beauty, add enormously to a thrilling tale that blends current-day news headlines with those of the '70s, when the world was riveted on the Aldo Moro kidnapping. Erickson's research is impeccable . . ."

Author Overview

Abbreviated Author Bio

Jack Erickson is the author of international thrillers, mysteries, romantic suspense novels, and true crime. His short mystery “Perfect Crime” has been an Amazon No. 1 best seller since it was published in 2011.

Expanded Author Bio

Jack Erickson has had careers as a U.S. Air Force intelligence officer, U.S. Senate speechwriter, freelance writer, senior editor at a national trade association, publisher, and Silicon Valley financial advisor.

In the 1980s, Jack Erickson wrote freelance articles for The Washington Post about the emerging craft brewing industry. He launched RedBrick Press and wrote and published five books, including the first history of microbreweries, *Star Spangled Beer: A Guide to America’s New Microbreweries and Brewpubs*, which was awarded best self-published book in 1987. He also has written a cookbook, three travel guides, and a monthly business newsletter for industry leaders.

During the time that Jack Erickson was reporting on the craft brewing industry, he was a guest speaker at events sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution; Disney World; Sunset magazine; resorts; and brewing, library, and publishing conventions.

He has published four novels, a true crime story, and several short mysteries as eBooks and print-on-demand (POD) paperbacks.

Jack Erickson spends summers in Milan, the setting for his international thriller, *Thirteen Days in Milan*. He is writing a sequel and overseeing the Italian translation, which will be published in 2015.

Jack Erickson lives in Monterey, California, with his wife. They have traveled extensively in Europe, Central America, Australia, and New Zealand. He writes a Wordpress travel blog at EricksonGypsyCaravan.Wordpress.com.

Five Interesting Facts About Jack Erickson

- Jack Erickson was born and raised in Williston, North Dakota, in the heart of the Bakken oil patch.
- He spent a summer in Leningrad at Leningrad State University when he was a Georgetown University graduate student.
- He was a U.S. Senate speechwriter for three senators, including Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd.
- He wrote the first book on the American craft brewing industry, *Star Spangled Beer: A Guide to America’s New Microbreweries and Brewpubs*.
- He was a financial advisor in Silicon Valley for twelve years, working for a national brokerage firm.

Author Quote

“Interviewing high-level officers at Milan’s Questura [police headquarters] while researching *Thirteen Days in Milan* was one of the most exciting experiences in my forty-year writing career.”

Books Available

Thirteen Days in Milan is available at bookstores nationwide through Ingram.

Erickson’s other books and short mysteries are also available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple’s iBooks, Smashwords, Oyster, Scribd, and other online sites.

Contact Information

Review copies, media requests, and other inquiries:

JackErickson.com

E-mail: JackLErickson@gmail.com

Phone: 650-483-1897

(Erickson will be in Italy in June and July 2014 but available via e-mail.)