Riveting tale of revenge

Set during the Serbian War, Gerald Seymour's Dealer and the Dead is a spine-chilling novel about how a Croatian village avenges an injustice.

It happened almost 18 years ago. But whoever said time heals all wounds wouldn't have visited a Croatian village near Vukovar. Almost two decades ago, at the height of the Serbian War, these Croatians had been murdered and women were violated. The village fell. Men were murdered and women were violated. The villagers had a simple philosophy - V stands for vendetta and revenge is a dish best served cold. Now that they knew the identity of the person who betrayed them, it's payback time. They hire a hitman to avenge the injustice.

Meanwhile, in England, arms dealer Harvey Gillott is resting content in the knowledge that he is the perfect example of success. He's forgotten that he hasn't always kept his word and that there is a village in Croatia that he didn't deliver the order to. There are some lessons in life that are learnt the hard way. And this is one of them. Gillott will soon find that the past has a long hand and that the hand is holding a gun.

It is on this intriguing premise that Gerald Seymour's The Dealer and the Dead is based. Though it is not wise to judge a book by its cover, I suggest that you judge the book by what is written on the cover. And if the rave reviews are anything to go by, then the book is a must-buy.

Who writes raw, mesmerising and riveting plots, it is the UK-based writer, Seymour. One is often tempted to compare Seymour with Frederick Forsyth. While Forsyth's plots are engaging and easy-to-digest, Seymour can get a little complicated with his narrative. He writes like he thinks. While Forsyth writes like he speaks. The Dealer and the Dead spans both east and western Europe, and boasts of a superb cast of characters. The meticulously methodical London assassin, the psychopathic British Secret Intelligence Service officer, and the bereft, still-mourning single-minded Croatian villagers, are all characters who have been well-researched and painstakingly portrayed (something that doesn't happen often in thrillers).

In a day when shop-worn plots in the guise of well-written books are doing the rounds, The Dealer and the Dead comes as a refreshing, breathtaking story that keeps you gripped right till the very end.

— Shilpa Krishnan

Illustration: M Anuradha

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Dealing with the product

Must have books for rapid product development course

CAD/CAM Theory and Practice by I Zeid
Computer Aided Engineering Design by A Saxena and B Sahay
Software Solutions for Rapid Prototyping by I Gibson
CNC Machining Handbook by James Madison

Rapid Prototyping: Principles and Applications in Manufacturing by CK Chua and KF Leong; John Wiley and Sons
Rapid Manufacturing: The Technologies and Applications of Rapid Prototyping and Rapid Tooling by DT Pham and SS Demov; Springer-Verlag
Rapid Manufacturing and Industrial Revolution for the Digital Age by N Hopkinson, RHM Hague and PM Dickens; John Wiley and Sons
Rapid Prototyping by Agehardt; Hanser Gardner Publications
Rapid Prototyping: Principles and Applications by R Neorun; John Wiley & Sons
Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing by PF Jacobs; Society of Manufacturing Engineers
Rapid Prototyping Casebook by JA McDonald, CJ Ryall and DJ Wimpenny; Professional Engineering Publishing

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he youngest US serviceman was 12-year-old Calvin Graham. He was wounded in combat and given a dishonorable discharge for lying about his age.