



The Veteran: Stories

By Frederick Forsyth

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Frederick Forsyth, The Master Storyteller, Presents Five Brilliantly Ingenious Tales of Murder, Justice, Intrigue and Revenge

A miracle in war-torn Siena that begins with the persecution of a young nun in the turbulent days of the sixteenth century and culminates in the bitter German retreat from Italy; a drug-smuggling heist on an international flight where the knock are only one step ahead of the smugglers; a ruthless urban murder, where a brilliant QC decides to defend the killers, resulting in a startling act of justice; an incandescent art scam at a famous London auction house, and a brilliantly plotted revenge that shatters the elegant world of Old Masters - each story is a remarkable tour de force.

And above all here is a brilliant novella, 'Whispering Wind', which begins with the single survivor of Custer's Last Stand at the battle of Little Big Horn. It follows the defense from rape and murder of a Cheyenne girl and a flight across the mountains and forests of the West, ending in a savage present-day manhunt in the wild lands of Montana.

Whether his theme is international espionage, miraculous events in war-torn Italy or a Customs drug bust, the stories in *The Veteran* all share Forsyth's trademark for compulsive storytelling, his clinical eye for authentic detail and an unnerving sense of suspense.

Not since his *New York Times* bestselling story collection *No Comebacks* has he crafted such remarkable work.

Five breathtaking tales from the greatest storyteller of them all.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Penzler Pick, September 2001: Frederick Forsyth is known as the bestselling author of classic thrillers such as *The Day of the Jackal* and *The Odessa File*, among others. He is far less known as one of our premier short story writers (even though he won an Edgar for "There Are No Snakes in Ireland"), so it is a pleasure to have a new book from this superb storyteller.

"The Veteran" tells the story of an incident in one of the seedier parts of London. A Ugandan shopkeeper witnesses the mugging of a middle-aged man by two thugs. The shopkeeper has a perfect view of the crime so, when the man dies of his injuries, it would appear that the two thugs, now up on a murder charge, will be convicted. But justice does not always come easily, and it comes in many guises.

"The Art of the Matter" recounts an ingenious and deliciously satisfying art scam. The twists and turns are breathlessly entertaining and just when you think it's over, there's one more way for the bad guys to get their comeuppance. "The Miracle" tells the story of an American couple in Siena on their way to a festival. They are stopped when a stranger tells them the story of the courtyard in which they stand. Some very wonderful things happened right there during the Second World War. Will the couple get to the festival? Will they care?

"The Citizen" is a heart-stopping suspense story set on board a flight from Bangkok to London. We get to know the flight crew and some of the passengers very well, and they are not all who they might appear to be. And "Whispering Wind," the longest story in the book, is a very ambitious piece about the Battle of Little Big Horn and what came later for several of the participants.

Each of the stories in this volume is Forsyth in top form. The writing exceeds expectations, the stories are never less than compelling, and the suspense in each of them is nonstop. --*Otto Penzler*

From Library Journal

This collection of four short stories and a novella may disappoint readers expecting one of Forsyth's international thrillers but not anyone looking for a good read. What is surprising is the thematic and geographical range of these pieces, all narrated in a solid realist style with sharply observed detail and engrossing, sometimes surprising plots. Always suspenseful, the stories take us into disparate worlds. "The Veteran" features London thugs, the police, and the courts, whereas "The Art of the Matter," a highly entertaining tale of revenge, delves into the world of auction houses. "The Miracle," which takes us to an Italian hill town during World War II, is related as if by a medieval fabulist but with its own modern twist, while "The Citizen," perhaps the least successful story, portrays drug smuggling via an airline flight. Most startling of all is "Whispering Wind," Forsyth's tale of the Indian wars in 1876, in which we discover that a frontier scout survived the massacre at the Little Bighorn. The scout's love for a Cheyenne woman, a magical tale that spans two different historical periods, makes for compulsive reading. Recommended for all collections of popular fiction.

- *Ronnie H. Terpening, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson*

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From Booklist

Starred Review The five stories in this book by the author of such classic crime novels as *The Day of the Jackal* (1971) and *The Odessa File* (1972) deserve to be classics themselves. Combining sharp detail, fully

realized characters, and clever lastminute twists, these small gems are polished to perfection. Here we have an attorney who has special plans for his clients; an art appraiser who exacts brilliant revenge for his unfair dismissal; and, in the book's longest story, the lone survivor of Custer's Last Stand. Forsyth has always been a masterful plotter, with a special affection for using elements that appear to come from out of left field but somehow work just perfectly. Fans of his novels will be utterly thrilled by this collection. Readers unfamiliar with his writings couldn't find a better introduction. Revenge, mystery, murder, deception--all the main themes of Forsyth's best novels are represented here in stories that showcase the author's ability to capture character and generate suspense in remarkably few words. The stories in this collection were first published on the Internet late last year; this is their first appearance in print. *David Pitt*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Clifford Harvey:

Here thing why this particular The Veteran: Stories are different and reliable to be yours. First of all reading a book is good but it really depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as delightful as food or not. The Veteran: Stories giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no publication that similar with The Veteran: Stories. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is probably can be happened around you. You can easily bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your method home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of The Veteran: Stories in e-book can be your alternative.

Carlos McNerney:

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Maritza Berry:

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Danica Johnson:

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