



Thursday at Noon

William F. Brown

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It's 1962. John Kennedy is in the White House, Khrushchev is in the Kremlin, and Abdel Gamal Nasser is in Cairo. While everyone is focused on the Russian missiles in Cuba that are pointed at the US, no one notices the even more deadly ones in Egypt now pointed at Israel, no one, except Richard Thomson, a failed, burned out CIA agent who had been dumped there after his last mission blew up in his face and they couldn't think of any place worse to send him. Already gnawed on by Langley, the US Ambassador, and even the Cairo cops, he didn't think his day could get much worse until someone left a dead body on the rear steps of his hotel. Its head had been lopped off like a ripe melon and placed so it looked back down at its own body. A message? No doubt about it. But for whom? The body belongs to Mahmoud Yussuf, a fat petty thief and inept spy who is trying to sell photographs of a long-abandoned RAF base in the Egyptian desert. What those photos have to do with a dead Israeli Mossad agent, Nazi rocket scientists, the fanatical Moslem Brotherhood, and two missing Egyptian tank regiments could start the next Arab-Israeli War or stop it. Alone and on the run, no one believes Thomson's story -- not the CIA, the US Ambassador, and most assuredly not Captain Hassan Saleh, Chief of the Homicide Bureau of the Cairo Police, who wants to hang Thomson for murder. Like Night of the Generals, this is a murder mystery wrapped inside a spy thriller and historic fiction. The sultry slums of Cairo are a tinder box of discontent and the first faint whiffs of a military coup against the shaky, new government of Abdel Gamal Nasser are in the air. In this CIA action adventure and suspense thriller, if Thomson doesn't solve the mystery, something is about to blow up in his face at Noon on Thursday. Tick Toc, Tick Toc...

Thursday at Noon Details

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Woody James says

I thought it was a rather slow read at first and I was reading other books at the time and was only reading this on my phone in those brief moments when you have nothing else to do. You know like watching the chicken burn on the Bar-B-Q or riding the trolley to the baseball game and people watching isn't very interesting. Anyway it got more interesting as I got past all the bull of drunk washed up CIA agents, stupid ambassadors and decapitated native informants. Not to mention the damsel in distress and the mad scientist. It had it all. And then the story almost made me believe it could have happened in the weird 1960s cold war era.

Mike says

This is unusual in that the opening pages are probably the worst written, so bad I nearly stopped reading before the end of the chapter. The object of course is to present an exciting opening but it is too full of repetition, particularly about Yussuf's fear and his greed and becomes wearisome. Luckily I did persevere because it is not a bad tale, not five star and barely four but I think the characters of Thomson and Saleh save it from being totally mundane. The action is barely believable but all in all it passed a pleasant few hours and I have read much worse.

Star says

Blending historical figures and fictional scenarios, Mr. Brown has written an exciting story in "Thursday at Noon". Even though it is set in 1962, some of the events feel as if they could have been taken from today's new stories. A disgraced CIA agent (Thomson) in Egypt and a Cairo police officer come together to find the truth about an alliance between Nazi SS officers and the Muslim Brotherhood to fight their mutual enemy – Jews. No one wants Thomson snooping around, but he's doggedly entrenched now in finding the secret connections and ferreting out the evil lurking in the desert...plus discovering who truly wants him dead. There are some editorial issues, but you quickly get past them to the heart of the danger surrounding Thomson. Filled with action, suspense, and a sense of never knowing who to trust, Mr. Brown will keep you intrigued with this thrilling story.

Other Books by this author: *The Undertaker*, *Amongst My Enemies*

Squeak says

This review was originally posted on my Alaskan Bookie website at:
<http://alaskanbookie.com/review/thurs...>

My Review:

I would like to start out by saying that I don't normally read spy type novels, but there is something about William Brown's writing that keeps me nibbling at my chocolate bars well into the night. I approached this

book thinking I wasn't going to enjoy it, but the way the story was woven I just couldn't help myself!
William Brown can weave suspense like it ain't nobody's business!

This book is thick with spies, intelligence, counter-intelligence and bad guys. Lots of bad guys. This book had a sort of historical fiction feel because it wove real people into the tale. I think if this was ever made into a movie, someone like Bruce Willis would make a great Thompson character. Bruce usually takes a licking and keeps on ticking, just like Thompson did.

There was a lady interest for Thompson in this story, Ilsa, but there was no real romance. One thing I have noticed in William Brown's books is that he doesn't feel it necessary to have romance in his stories. Not that it is a problem - a spy without a lover - but I still want to point my chocolate bar at Mr. Brown and encourage him in that direction to see what he comes up with. LoL

**** Note ****

I received this book free from the author in exchange for an honest review. I received no chocolate or any other compensation in exchange for my review.

IMHO says

If you like Cold War thrillers with a lot of twist,
you do not want to miss William F. Brown's
"Thursday at Noon".

While sitting in a rundown bar in Cairo, drinking heavily
because he has no future, CIA agent Thomson,
is drawn into a plot that would send the Middle East
up in flames.

Olga says

This is my second William Brown spy novel and I enjoyed it at least as much as *Amongst My Enemies*. Reading it was comforting, like stepping into a world I've visited before, and there are a few reasons for that. Mr. Brown is in familiar territory in this novel: it is the years after WW2, the world is still recovering from the war and while everybody has been trying to forget about the Nazis they are still there and weaving their sinister plots. This time the action takes place in the Middle East, in Egypt to be precise, and the hero of the story, who seems to be Brown's "type" - a lone wolf with a painful past and the only one who sees the situation for what it is, is on his own in preventing a disaster.

This story is not exactly a mystery because from the very beginning it's clear who the bad guys are and what they are up to, although the full scope of their plans becomes increasingly clear as the book moves forward. Brown is very skilled at keeping up the pace by alternating the points of view of several major players, giving an insight into their characters and histories, and they are all very different and very interesting. In fact, the alternation of protagonists was my favorite thing about this book, it gave a fuller picture of what was going on and made the events and the characters seem more real. I particularly liked Captain Saleh, he is such a consummate professional and such a patriot, and he goes through the greatest transformation in this novel, greater even than Thomson.

While this book is not a philosophical treatise it does make one think about the fact that not all Middle Easterners are religious fanatics, not all of them are determined to wipe out everyone who isn't on the same page as them. In the light of the events of recent history that's a relevant subject to ponder, and considering that the book was first published in 1987 and is set in 1962 all the more thought-provoking. After all, novelists do get a lot of their material from the real world, even if everything about the story is fictional. The only thing that I didn't enjoy about this book (and I really hate saying it, but it is what it is) is that my particular copy was in need of a thorough editor. This is a good book and I think it deserves to have a presentation that matches the content.

Wendy Hines says

Thursday At Noon is a thrilling, adrenaline rush novel by terrific author William F. Brown. I read and reviewed his novel, Amongst My Enemies, earlier this year and thought it was spectacular

Richard Thomson is not wanted. The CIA doesn't and neither does the American Ambassador. After a flubbed up case, he's been assigned to a case in Cairo, Egypt. When he finds a beheaded man on his doorstep, Thomson finds himself in the middle of something much bigger than his screwed up case.

No one wants Thomson around, so he figures it won't matter none if he investigates. The Arabs and the Germans are seeking the destruction of Israel and it's rumored to happen Thursday at Noon. Can Thomson stop it and save his own life? He's already in question for the murder on his doorstep, the CIA aren't happy with him and neither is anyone else right now. What has he got to lose?

William F. Brown pens a thrilling espionage adventure that will capture the reader from page one. I could see the events unfold like you would in a movie, with great character depiction, vivid backgrounds and a non-stop energizing plot. If you enjoy espionage thrillers that will keep you thoroughly entertained, pick up Thursday at Noon!

Matt Laduke says

Another great novel by William F. Brown. I think that the main character must have been part feline, because he used up his 9 lives and maybe a few more in this attempt to solve the world's problems.

Ceinwenn says

I have previously read one of Mr. Brown's other novels – The Undertaker, which I loved, so I was very eager when Mr. Brown contacted me asking if I wanted to read & review another of his novels. Thursday at Noon begins with an interesting prologue -

"In 1962, two missile crises brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. In October, Kennedy and Khrushchev went eyeball-to-eyeball over Soviet missile bases in Cuba until, as Dean Rusk said, "the other fellow blinked." Four months earlier, however, a smaller yet far more deadly crisis played out thousands of miles away. It never made the six o'clock news or the front page of The New York Times. Hints of that story are only now beginning to surface through the memoirs of the intelligence officers involved."

The prologue certainly piqued my interest & the novel held it from start to finish! I found myself shouting at Thomson (cause he could obviously hear me, right?), and trying to read faster so that I could find out what was going to happen to Thomson & Captain Saleh & what was happening out at the abandoned RAF base.

Thursday at Noon is a very well written, action-packed thriller and murder mystery, wrapped up in historical fiction – or is it undocumented historical fact, with a few details changed to protect the innocent?? The characters of Thomson & Saleh are particularly well written and I found myself rooting them both on, screaming at Thomson and cursing Saleh. All in all a brilliant book & one I probably will read again!

Tracey Allen at Carpe Librum says

Set in Cairo in the early 1960s, Richard Thomson is a disgraced CIA agent after a failed mission in Damascus. He is having a drink in a bar when he is approached by a man with some photographs to sell. After refusing to buy them, the man is later beheaded, the photographs disappear and Thomson is suspected of his murder. So the story begins.

Thursday At Noon is a spy thriller involving the CIA, and the fate of Egypt with a military plot and the future being decided on Thursday at noon.

I was particular drawn to the character of the Chief of Homicide Police in Cairo, Captain Hassan Saleh, injured and now with a withered leg and walking with a cane. His character was incredibly intriguing to me and way more interesting than that of the main character Thomson. Wearing pristine white suits, and arriving at his destination early so that others wouldn't see him walking with such excruciating pain was incredibly moving. I'd love to read a novel where he was the central character, solving crimes in Cairo.

Moving on though, the romance Thomson developed towards the end of the novel however was completely laughable and not necessary to the plot development. I'm a female reader and not really into spy novels, and this romance didn't do it for me; it would have been better not to have been there at all. And the "Richard Richard" dialogue when the character had been referred to as Thomson throughout was jarring for the reader and felt very out of place, being the most exciting part of the storyline.

I recommend this novel for male readers who enjoy spy thrillers peppered with CIA hierarchy relationships, Nazis working on a secret project, gun fights, car chases, goons, and the occasional political/military coup. You will be crying out for more!

Bob says

It's 1962 and Richard Thomson, a disgraced CIA operative is in Cairo living in a run down apartment and spending too much time in a seedy bar down the street. The CIA branch in the Embassy is staffed by a bunch of young Ivy League hotshots who have no time for an antique like Richard and the Ambassador is an Irish Boston bigwig political appointment with his own private agenda. When Richard is confronted one day in the bar by rather fat and untidy Egyptian who wants to sell him some pictures of some activity on an abandoned English airbase supposedly taken by an Israeli spy, He balks suspecting a set up. Thus it begins, the photo seller is found dead outside Richards apartment, The Cairo police haul him in for questioning, the Embassy blows him off and a group of German SS agents

are after him too. You will have to read the book to see what happens next in this tale involving Nasser and Egyptian politics.

Jennifer Zuna says

This is another thrilling historical novel from William F. Brown. I read his book *Amongst My Enemies* a few months ago and I was hooked. He has a style of writing that pulls you in and doesn't let you go. It's obvious that he does his research and that he enjoys his history. *Thursday at Noon* is an action packed spy thriller that combines politics, ambition and religious fanaticism for an explosive story. Richard Thomson is a down and out CIA operative who gets caught up in a race against time to prevent a major catastrophe that would change the Middle East forever. German rocket scientists, Muslim extremists and Egyptian cops all cross paths and make for quite an interesting tale that will leave you breathless by the end. Another blockbuster from this author that gets a 4/5 from me!

Viviane Crystal says

Richard Thomson is in big trouble with the CIA for whom he works. He flubbed his last case and now has been assigned to Cairo, Egypt where he is treated like a virtual pariah. One night while he's drowning his sorrows in a bar, he's approached by an Arab fellow who says he has some significant information that he needs to get to a particular person. But Thomson thinks he's part of a grand trap to finish off Thomson's career for good and tells him to scoot. The Arab is petrified but Thomson's not buying the story. So imagine his thoughts and feelings when he later finds that the man has been decapitated and that Thomson is believed to be either the murderer or the one responsible for his murder. Here the terror really begins!

This is a story where Arabs and former SS Germans are seeking one goal, the destruction of Israel. How will they do it? When will it happen, if at all? Why?

Are the Arabs and Germans cooperating? What do they think of each other? Readers will be riveted as the skills and depths of cruelty vie with each other for these two groups. And add to that there are Arab groups with different motives and goals and the same for the Germans. Thomson who has been previously pickled in his own alcoholic pity party, now awakens to find out why the Israeli Landau has disappeared and perhaps been killed and more what he was after that seems to have caused his demise.

William F. Brown never disappoints! His espionage/spy/political thrillers are very different and so very well-written. A thrill to read and deserving of best-seller status! *Thursday at Noon* is no exception!

Christoph Fischer says

"*Thursday at Noon*" by William F. Brown is an excellent espionage thriller set in 1962 in Egypt. It starts with two men, one Israeli and one a hired Egyptian thief, discovering Germans and an arsenal of nuclear weapons in the desert. Only years after the wars between Egypt and Israel this is alarming news and in my humble opinion an excellent set up for this great thriller.

Most literature about that times focuses solely on the Cold War and forgets how recent the German military presence in Egypt had been at that moment in history.

The action packed thriller that follows is a fast and compelling read. The political and military implications and the historical probability are very well done and although it is a work of fiction I feel that there is a lot to learn about the era and the Middle East in this novel.

CIA Agent Thomson is a great main character as the reluctant hero, the daughter of angry Nazi rocket scientist an equally inspired addition to the cast as are many others.

The instability of the country and peace in the region at the time provides the perfect setting for this murder mystery.

I have read other books by the same author which were also well written but this has got to be my favourite. Highly recommended.

Glynn says

Richard Thomsen is a CIA agent, sitting in a backstreet British bar in Cairo in 1962. He's been sent away from Damascus after a failed operation, and no one in Cairo, especially the American ambassador, wants to have anything to do with him. An Egyptian comes into the bar and wants to give him an envelope of photographs. Thomsen refuses, and a short time later the Egyptian is found – beheaded.

Something is going on, and the more Thomsen tries to avoid it, the more ensnared he becomes. Captain Hassan Saleh of the Cairo Metropolitan Police suspects him of involvement in the beheading. Colonel Ali Rashid of Egyptian state security would like to see him dead. The American ambassador would like to see him out of the country. And a few former SS officers are hunting him.

Something is going on, all right, and it's happening at an old British air base at Heliopolis, 15 miles south of Cairo. It may well change the Middle East forever. And it's happening within a few short days – on Thursday, at noon. Elements of the Muslim Brotherhood and former Nazis have two targets in their sights – Tel Aviv and Haifa.

William Brown, author of "Amongst My Enemies" and several other books, has written one terrific, action-packed story in "Thursday at Noon." While it's set in 1962, it feels as contemporary as the protests in Tabriz Square and the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak. The passion, the politics, the explosive combination of personal ambition and religious fervor all sound straight out of today's newspaper headlines.

The author uses historical figures like Gamel Abdel Nasser, Egypt's president at the time, along with fictitious characters to create a riveting story of intrigue and duplicity. You're never quite sure who's going to betray whom next, or what new near-death experience Thomsen is going to have, and that fills the story with tension that won't stop.

Brown deftly swirls all of this together into a tight, readable story. "Thursday at Noon" is one terrific read.
