

# Robert Ludlum



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In a study that examines 17 of Ludlum's novels in depth, including, "The Apocalypse Watch" (1995), Macdonald uncovers the themes running through the novels: the role of the individual in preserving democracy, the value of competing voices, the failure of educational institutions to preserve ideals, the temptations of power, the importance of personal loyalties in the face of impersonal organizations, and the nature of evil. She shows how Ludlum's novels may be valuable in helping us to understand modern paranoia - our fear of conspiracies, terrorism, barbarism and intolerance. A personal interview granted by Ludlum for this book illuminates the influence on his craft, especially his experience in the theatre, which affects his sense of pacing, characterization, humour and suspense. After an initial biographical chapter, Macdonald examines Ludlum's literary roots in suspense novels and discusses the genre. Each succeeding chapter examines a group of his novels tied together thematically or, in the case of the Bourne series, by recurring characters. The discussion of each novel is organized into sections on plot and structure, character and theme, and features an alternate critical interpretation, such as Freudian, Marxist or reader response criticism, which offers the reader another fresh perspective from which to examine the concerns of the novel. Novels covered in depth are: "Trevayne", "The Cry of the Halidon", "The Scarlatti Inheritance", "The Rhinemann Exchange", "The

Gemini Contenders", "The Holcroft Covenant", "The Road to Gandolfo", "The Road to Omaha", "The Bourne Identity", "The Bourne Supremacy", "The Bourne Ultimatum", "The Matarese Circle", "The Parsifal Mosaic", "The Aquitaine Progression", "The Icarus Agenda", "The Scorpio Illusion" and "The Apocalypse Watch". This critical companion includes a bibliography of all Ludlum's published works, as well as selected reviews of all works examined in this study.

作者介绍:

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