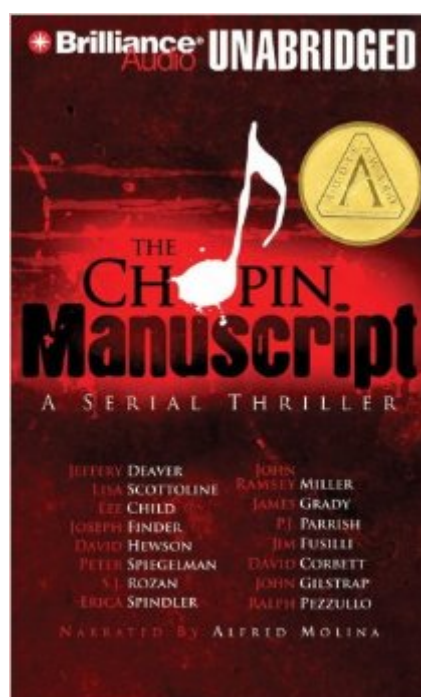


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The Chopin Manuscript



Synopsis

2008 Audie Award Winner • Audiobook of the Year Former war crimes investigator Harold Middleton possesses a previously unknown score by Frederic Chopin. But he is unaware that, locked within its handwritten notes, lies a secret that now threatens the lives of thousands of Americans. As he races from Poland to America to uncover the mystery of the manuscript, Middleton will be accused of murder, pursued by federal agents, and targeted by assassins. But the greatest threat will come from a shadowy figure out of his past: the man known only as Faust. The Chopin Manuscript is a unique collaboration by 15 of the world's greatest thriller writers. Jeffery Deaver conceived the characters and set the plot in motion; the other authors each wrote a chapter in turn. Deaver then completed what he started, bringing The Chopin Manuscript to its explosive conclusion. Innovative and unique, The Chopin Manuscript, written by masters in the field of thrillers, is far more than the sum of its parts. Here each author shines, blending individual skill and energy, into a riveting, crackling-paced tapestry of murder, mystery, and mayhem. Not to be missed! • James Rollins, author of The Judas Strain • A GREAT story, written by one GREAT author after another, in one GREAT chapter after another. A stellar achievement of collectivity that blows from the starting gate at 100 mph and never slows down. A thrill-a-page from 15 GREAT thriller masters. Don't miss this one. • Steve Berry, author of The Venetian Betrayal

Book Information

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Authors, A-Z > (D) > Deaver, Jeffery #248 in Books > Books on CD > Music #1497 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

The Chopin Manuscript and other novels of its kind are novelties. The idea is that one author will start and finish the novel, and that each chapter in between will be written by a different author

working off of what's come before. This particular collaborative venture was the brainchild of the International Thriller Writers (ITW), and you'd be hard-pressed to find a more prestigious group of storytellers anywhere. In addition to Jeffrey Deaver, there are quite a few best-selling authors participating in *The Chopin Manuscript*, among them Lee Child, Joseph Finder, Lisa Scottoline, and David Hewson. Even among the less well-known authors there is tremendous talent exhibited. These are all writers capable of keeping their audience rapt, but the cards are stacked against them here. Deaver opens the story with American Harry Middleton being stopped at the Warsaw Airport and being brought to the police for questioning. Middleton insists the hand-written Chopin music manuscript he's carrying is a fake--one he was called in to authenticate, but it turns out that's not what the police want to discuss. Rather, it is Middleton's lunch companion who, along with two others, has just turned up murdered. It's a respectable start to what soon becomes a globe-hopping tale of international intrigue. Chapter by chapter, each author builds on what's come before, but tries to add his or her own twists, turns, surprises, and reversals--to the point that things ultimately become a bit ridiculous. This is a challenging task they've set themselves, and no one drops the ball, but it's just no way to tell a cohesive story. It's impossible. The plot is all over the place, the characters are undeveloped, even settings are descriptive passages are superficial.

Let me start by saying a few things about myself to provide you some perspective on my review:1) I have long been a fan of the mystery/suspense/thriller genre;2) Jeffery Deaver is my favorite author in said genre (esp. the Lincoln Rhyme series);3) I had heard of perhaps half of the participating authors but had not, until now, read their work, except for Jeffrey Deaver and Lee Child. The other half of the authors were completely unfamiliar to me before this novel.4) I listened to this audiobook in the car over a period of weeks, in bits and pieces, while doing errands, driving to my volunteer jobs, etc. Only the last disk did I hear in toto while on a road trip. This may have had a HUGE effect on how I perceived the success of this project, its consistency, etc. In other words, your mileage may vary. :)I found this concept--a collaboration of 15 authors to write a "serial thriller" that was only released in audio form--to be quite intriguing, especially given the man at the helm. Jeffrey Deaver conceived the characters and opened and closed the novel, with the other fourteen each writing a chapter in between. It seemed more like a concept for a writing workshop or a board game than a novel, but I found the idea too intriguing to pass up, especially given the veritable "Who's Who" of authors involved. Read by Alfred Molina, doing a dazzling array of voices of varying ethnic origins, and scored with dramatic music, there was no doubt in my mind that this was a quality production. Molina's performance is superb--equal to (and some times better than) the material he is reading.

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