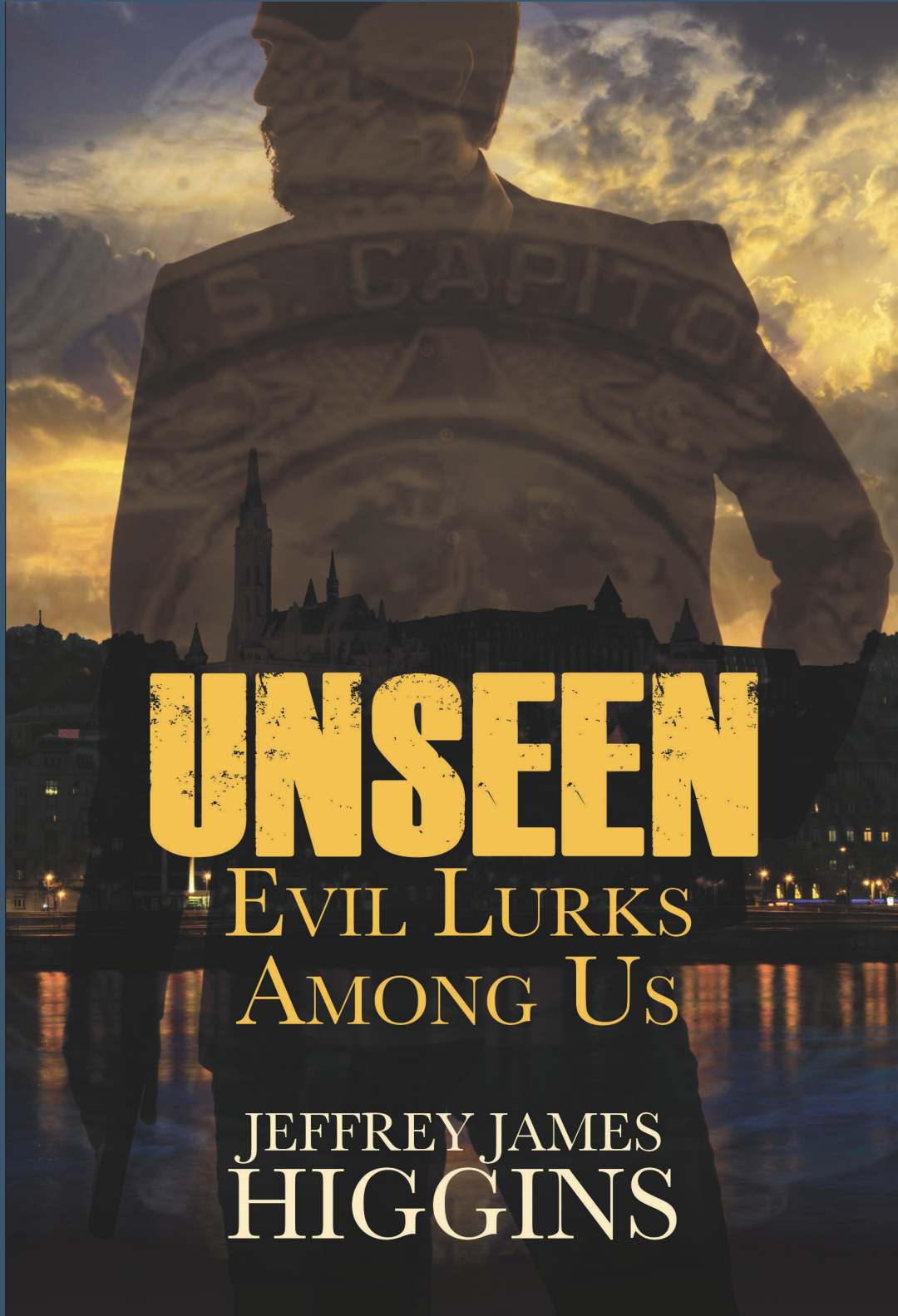
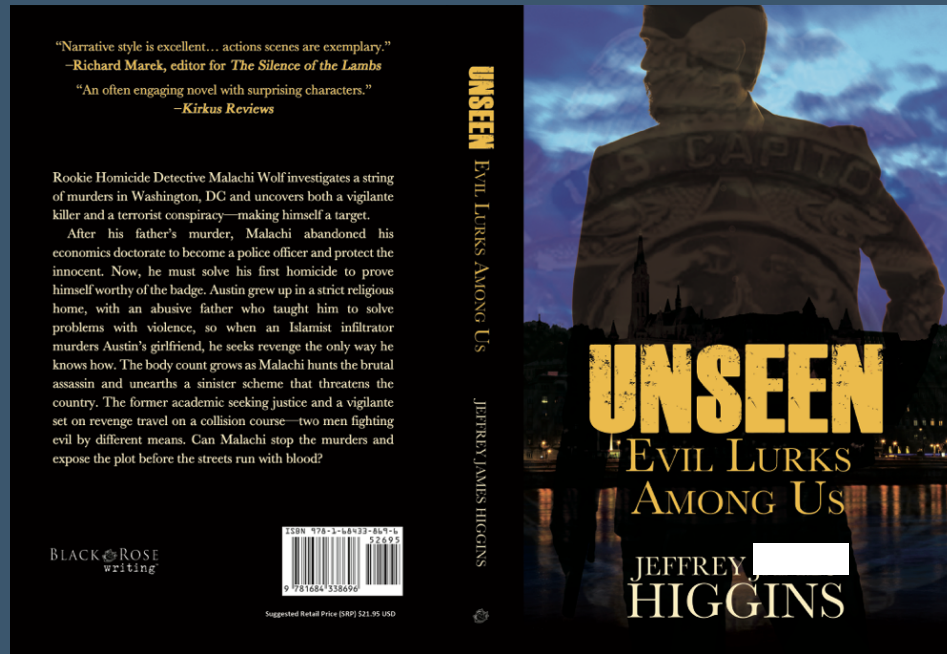


MEDIA KIT





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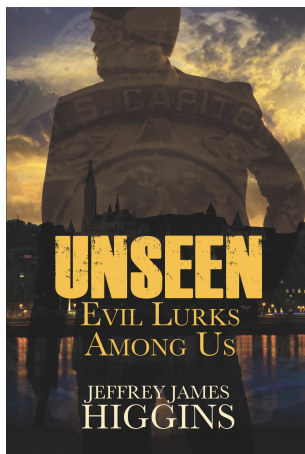
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 26, 2021 | Washington, DC

Visit <https://jeffrejjameshiggins.com/> for contact details, photos, and an author bio.

Dexter Meets Homeland

A rookie detective battles a vigilante killer and uncovers a terrorist conspiracy.



Jeffrey James Higgins' vigilante justice crime thriller, *Unseen: Evil Lurks Among Us*, will launch on August 26, 2021. Rookie Homicide Detective Malachi Wolf investigates a string of murders in Washington, DC and uncovers both a vigilante killer and a terrorist conspiracy—making himself a target. It's *Dexter* meets *Homeland*.

After his father's murder, Malachi abandoned his economics doctorate to become a police officer and protect the innocent. Now, he must solve his first homicide to prove himself worthy of the badge. Austin grew up in a strict religious home, with an abusive father who taught him to solve problems with violence, so when an Islamist infiltrator murders Austin's girlfriend, he seeks revenge the only way he knows how. The body count grows as Malachi hunts the brutal assassin and unearths a sinister scheme that threatens the country. The former academic seeking justice and a vigilante set on revenge travel on a collision course—two men fighting evil by different means. Can Malachi stop the murders and expose the plot before the streets run with blood?



**"An often engaging novel with surprising characters."
—Kirkus Reviews**

Jeffrey James Higgins is a former reporter, former elected official, and retired supervisory special agent, who writes thriller novels, short stories, creative nonfiction, and essays. He has wrestled an IED away from a suicide bomber, fought the Taliban in combat, and chased terrorists across five continents. He achieved the first narco-terrorism arrest, convicted the world's most prolific heroin trafficker, and received both the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Heroism and the DEA Award of Valor. Learn more at <https://JeffreyJamesHiggins.com>.

Unseen: Evil Lurks Among Us is available at Black Rose Writing, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble.

Review copies available upon request

Contact: Justin Weeks, Sales Team, Black Rose Writing: sales@blackrosewriting.com

Author Bios

Short Bio

Jeffrey James Higgins is a former reporter and retired supervisory special agent who writes thriller novels, short stories, creative nonfiction, and essays.

Medium Bio

Jeffrey James Higgins is a former reporter and retired supervisory special agent who writes thriller novels, short stories, creative nonfiction, and essays. He has wrestled a suicide bomber, fought the Taliban in combat, and chased terrorists across five continents. He has won numerous literary awards. Discover his writing at <https://JeffreyJamesHiggins.com>.

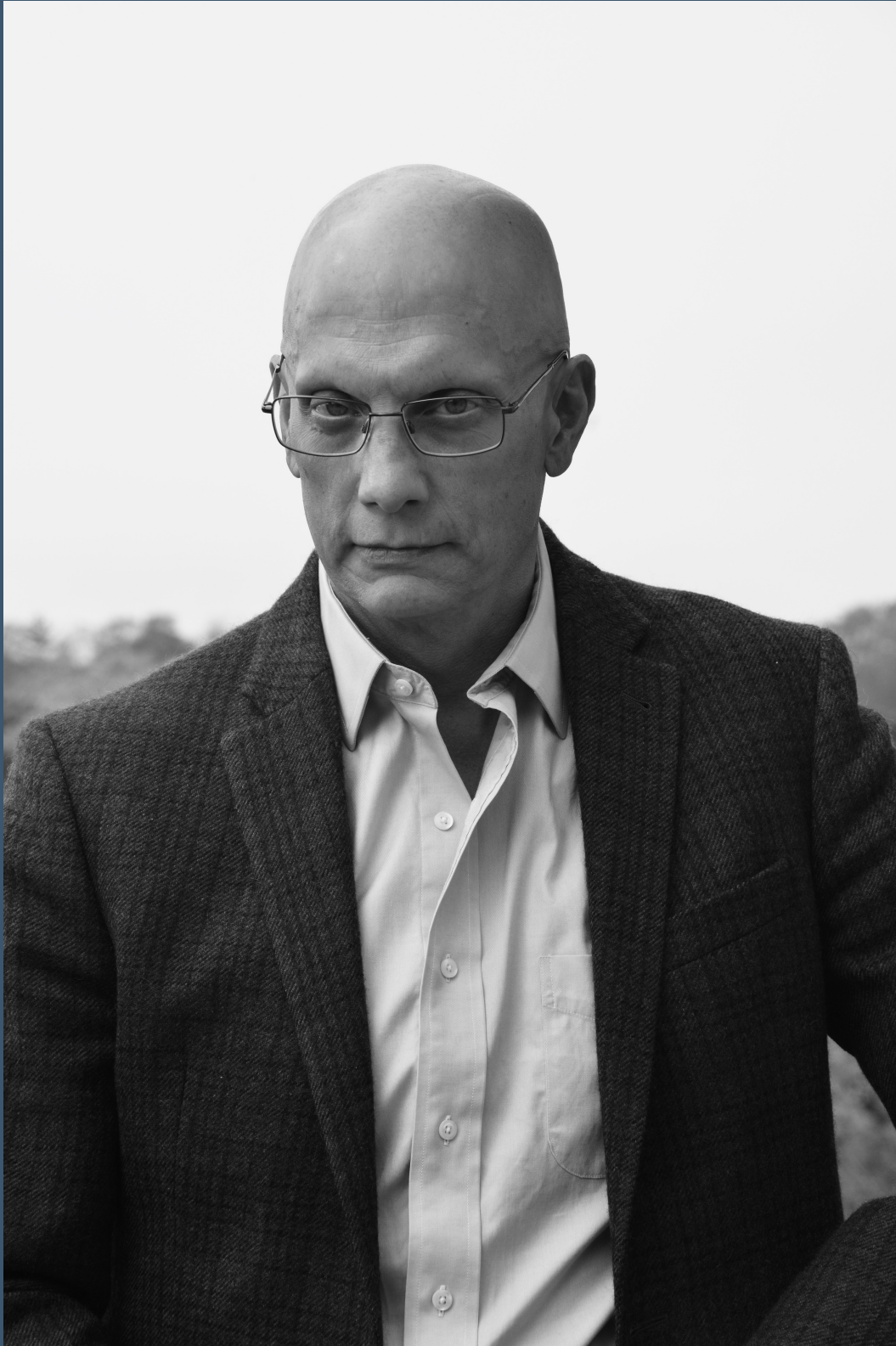
Long Bio

Jeffrey James Higgins is a former reporter and retired supervisory special agent who writes thriller novels, short stories, creative nonfiction, and essays. He has wrestled a suicide bomber, fought the Taliban in combat, and chased terrorists across five continents. He received both the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Heroism and the DEA Award of Valor. Jeffrey has been interviewed by CNN, New York Times, Fox News, Investigation Discovery, Declassified, and USA Today. He has won numerous awards, including the PenCraft Book Awards Fiction Book of the Year and a Readers' Favorite Gold Medal. His debut novel was an Amazon #1 New Release.

Author Portrait



B/W Author Portrait



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Synopsis

Rookie Homicide Detective Malachi Wolf investigates a string of murders in Washington, DC and uncovers both a vigilante killer and a terrorist conspiracy—making himself a target. It's Dexter meets Homeland.

After his father's murder, Malachi abandoned his economics doctorate to become a police officer and protect the innocent. Now, he must solve his first homicide to prove himself worthy of the badge.

Austin grew up in a strict religious home, with an abusive father who taught him to solve problems with violence, so when an Islamist infiltrator murders Austin's girlfriend, he seeks revenge the only way he knows how.

The body count grows as Malachi hunts the brutal assassin and unearths a sinister scheme that threatens the country. The former academic seeking justice and a vigilante set on revenge travel on a collision course—two men fighting evil by different means. Can Malachi stop the murders and expose the plot before the streets run with blood?

Best Thrillers Review

The Bottom Line: A sophisticated crime thriller that simmers with menace, passion and heart.

Malachai Wolf had planned to follow in his father's footsteps by pursuing a PhD in economics. But when his father was killed in the Boston Marathon bombing, he decided to dedicate his life to the pursuit of justice. As *Unseen* begins, Wolf has transformed into a D.C. detective hungry to solve his first homicide. Opportunity knocks when he hears a gunshot near Georgetown's C&O Canal, discovers the victim and pursues the killer. Wolf narrowly escapes being shot himself. He soon discovers that the victim is a wealthy political financier, a fact that readers learn in the prior chapter. Author Jeffrey James Higgins, author of the excellent *Furious*, alternates the book's point of view between the killer and Wolf, ensuring that readers are often one step ahead of the hungry detective. While Higgins keeps a few surprises about the killer's identity until the book's midpoint, much about his ideology and motivation are revealed up front. The book's suspense stems from Wolf's inner turmoil as he discovers that the curious string of homicides are connected to an insidious terror plot. He has no qualms about pursuing vigilantes, but is he also one himself? By his own admission, he fantasizes about murdering his father's killers. In addition, Wolf is dealing with the fallout from his wife's affair and its halo effect on his family life. Riding along with Wolf as he ponders investigative theories and juggles his personal emotional journey is gratifying, even if we already know many of the answers he seeks. Throughout, the action never lags, and the narrative simmers with menace, passion and heart.

Independent Book Review

What does it mean to be evil?

This high-stakes political thriller pulses with suspense, as two men navigate a series of killings in and around Washington D.C. After his father was killed in the Boston Marathon bombings, Malachi found his way into the police force. This choice, while an attempt to find healing, overlooks the needs of his wife and children, causing them to leave him. Now with little to come home to, Malachi thrusts all he has into his work. This becomes much easier when suspicious murders begin to happen all around Georgetown. With a strong inclination as to what ties these murders together, Malachi goes above and beyond for his first homicide case, willing to break all the rules to catch this relentless killer.

Though a suspenseful thriller, Higgins doesn't leave the reader guessing as to who this newfound serial killer is. Early on, we are introduced to Austin—and the reasons for why he's chosen this new route in life. Stemming from the murder of his girlfriend Vanessa in Afghanistan, Austin feels that his killings, avenging the love of his love and defending his beloved country, are justified. Readers may get to know Austin's character early on in this novel, but his story is always developing, refreshing with new surprises waiting to be revealed.

Higgins does a wonderful job of balancing the personalities and actions of these two men despite them being on seemingly opposite sides. As we dive further into the book, we can see clearly that Malachi and Austin have more in common than they think. Both are still coping with the loss of their fathers and the women in their life, and they both feel that their actions are completely justifiable. Their similarities and differences demand our attention as they teeter on the edge of figuring the other out.

There is no lack of suspense here. Malachi is a half-step behind Austin at nearly every turn, making this storyline a thrilling chase to follow. With each new murder, Malachi's intuition grows stronger. Then the feeling only intensifies when he connects with Zhara, an expert on Muslim Brotherhood and a welcomed new love interest. She is an excellent addition to this male-led story. I love that she is given a strong voice and a pivotal role.

Unseen wastes no time filling its chapters with intense chases and climactic moments, while making the reader question how far someone is willing to go for the causes they believe in.

Kirkus Review

An often engaging novel with surprising characters

A police officer's investigation into a string of murders uncovers a terrorist conspiracy in this political thriller. Higgins structures his novel as an inevitable confrontation between Malachi Wolf, a Washington, D.C., police officer investigating a series of deaths, and Austin, an ex-soldier-turned-revenge killer after his lover's murder by an Afghan National Army soldier in Afghanistan. Austin and Malachi come off as offbeat characters thanks to the author's attention to their backstories and relationships: Austin dotes on his rescue dog, Sophie, and Malachi left graduate school for law enforcement after his father died in the Boston Marathon bombing; the latter then developed multiple sclerosis. Higgins amplifies the connection between Malachi and Austin—specifically, their reactions to the murders of loved ones by extremist violence—by developing secondary characters' histories. For example, Malachi's older partner, Detective Thomas Jones, "seemed to want Malachi to carry on his legacy," and Dr. Zahra Mansour, an expert in Middle East studies and Malachi's lover, discusses her past as a student in Egypt within the context of fundamental Islamic politics. Zahra also introduces Malachi to the Brotherhood, an Islamic extremist group that finances attempts "to infiltrate and subvert Western civilization" by influencing "curriculum in elementary and high schools...subvert[ing] large swaths of the media." Higgins' tactic of pitting Malachi against multiple adversaries adds to the novel's sense of urgency, as does his vivid, harsh prose; Malachi's "conversion from civilian to cop...had happened overnight, like having an epiphany...or a stroke." Sometimes, though, the author's passionate dialogue can be somewhat unwieldy: "It's a calling, an internal need to fight evil, an impulse to protect."

Literary Titan

Unseen, Evil Lurks Among Us, is a gripping thriller written by Jeffery James Higgins. The novel has a strong line up of characters, an interesting plot and enough action to keep the reader glued to the book.

There are two main characters in this story, Malachi and Austin; the traditional hero and villain. Rookie Homicide Detective Malachi is a former economics academic, turned detective after the death of his father in the Boston Marathon bombing. Austin is a man hell-bent on revenge after he lost his girlfriend at the hands of an Islamist infiltrator. An ex-soldier, he plots his revenge whilst keeping up his appearance as an innocent bachelor who lives with his beloved dog Sophie. These are complex characters, as both show that they have both good characteristics and traits, as well as more disturbing aspects to their personalities. At times both fight their own inner demons. These two characters are well developed and are supported by a range of minor characters including a girlfriend, children, an ex-wife and friends and colleagues. Although they aren't as well developed, all the minor characters are an integral part of the story.

Unseen, Evil Lurks Among Us is set in present day Washington. Higgins draws the readers into the story by describing the setting in detail. Opening the story with a scene in a bar, the action moves quickly to the outdoors, where even the oppressive humidity is described. Numerous sounds, sights and smells are described throughout the novel, as the story unfolds across various parts of Washington.

This is a fast-paced thriller that follows the typical structure, but the story is told from two points of view (Malachi and Austin's). It starts with an action packed first chapter, with numerous clues and red herrings. Jam packed full of adventure; it keeps the readers guessing right until the end!

Unseen, Evil Lurks Among Us is a fast paced and enthralling novel. The characters are well developed and interesting, and the storyline, while complex, is still easy to follow. But most importantly for this genre, the plot just keeps you guessing with many twists and turns along the way.

Artisan Book Reviews

Unseen: Evil Lurks Among Us by Jeffrey James Higgins is riveting, intelligent and an exceptionally realistic political thriller. With a story that builds and builds, this is one suspenseful conspiracy you don't want to miss!

Malachi Wolf has a lot on his plate. A secret illness that must remain hidden from his bosses for as long as possible. A wife who's moved away and started dating, taking his children with her, leaving a huge hole in his life. And a promotion from police officer to homicide detective that leaves some members of the force with a negative attitude. He wants to prove that he's worthy of the new position, and needs a case under his belt.

Austin's life has been shaped by a violent father and religion. When his girlfriend is killed by an Islamist infiltrator, there is only one thing Austin can do. Take revenge. After carefully planning his first victim's murder, he is surprised when he is nearly caught by Detective Wolf. Malachi's first case has fallen on his path and he's determined to catch the stealthy assassin. As more murders take place in Washington DC, Malachi is convinced they're connected, but someone, somewhere is putting obstacles in his way. Quite simply, this is a brilliant political thriller. The author's articulate flow and convincing characters make this a powerful and credible novel.

Jeffrey James Higgins imagination along with his knowledge on Islamophobia and infiltration into the US government is vast, resulting in an extremely believable plot. His writing is smooth, easy-to-read with a perfectly pitched pace that mounts with each chapter, creating a book that is hard to put down. Unseen: Evil Lurks Among Us by Jeffrey James Higgins is gripping, smart and thrillingly atmospheric and comes very highly recommended by Artisan Book Reviews.

Praise for Unseen

"Unseen combines an insider's knowledge of Washington with fast action, satisfying romance, and a great big dollop of information about the Muslim Brotherhood. The result is as instructive as it is compelling."

- Dr. Daniel Pipes, president, the Middle East Forum

"Unseen Evil Lurks Among Us" is a literary masterpiece. It is chock full of suspense, romance, and drama, with interesting character development. This is the ultimate page turner. I could not put it down."

- Sarah N. Stern, founder/president, The Endowment for Middle East Truth

"Narrative style is excellent . . . action scenes are exemplary."

- Richard Marek, editor, *The Silence of the Lambs*

"This high-stakes political thriller pulses with suspense, as two men navigate a series of killings in and around Washington D.C."

-Independent Book Review

"An often engaging novel with surprising characters."

- Kirkus Reviews

"A sophisticated crime thriller that simmers with menace, passion and heart."

- Best Thrillers

"Quite simply, this is a brilliant political thriller."

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"Jam packed full of adventure; it keeps the readers guessing right until the end! ...Unseen, Evil Lurks Among Us is a fast paced and enthralling novel."

- Literary Titan

Comparable Titles

- Hide Away, by Jason Pinter
ISBN-13: 978-1542005906
Thomas & Mercer
- The Killer Collective, by Barry Eisler
ISBN-13: 978-1503904262
Thomas & Mercer
- The Eighth Sister, by Robert Dugoni
ISBN-13: 978-1503903036
Thomas& Mercer

Interview Topics

1. Islamic terrorism, infiltration, and Civilization Jihad
2. Transitioning from reporter to law enforcement officer
3. Shootings and car chases in Tampa, Florida
4. Investigating transnational crime in New York City
5. Responding to the World Trade Center on 9/11
6. Wrestling a suicide bomber in Kabul
7. Making the first narco-terrorism arrest
8. Convicting the World's most prolific heroin trafficker
9. Arresting an Iranian spy trying to buy surface-to-air missiles
10. Writing craft, agents, editors, and the road to publication

Praise for Furious: Sailing into Terror

- "A taut and suspenseful tale on the ocean."
- Kirkus Reviews
- "An expertly paced psychological thriller on the high seas."
- Best Thrillers Review
- "Its utter intensity reminds me of Victor Hugo's *Toilers of the Sea*."
- Savvy Street Review
- " Definitely not for the faint of heart."
- *Steve Berry, NYTs and #1 internationally bestselling author*
- "An extraordinary achievement by a writer destined for greatness."
- *Jon Land, USA Today bestselling author*
- "Jeffrey James Higgins has crafted a terrifying thriller that'll give readers another reason to steer well clear of tropical cruises."
- *Mark Alpert, internationally bestselling author*
- "*Higgins' lean, tight prose and compelling authenticity will keep you turning pages well into the night. Propulsive.*"
- *K.J. Howe, international bestselling author of SKYJACK*
- "*Batten down the hatches; Higgins's electrifying debut is a page- turning thrill ride!*"
- *Alan Orloff, Thriller-and Derringer Award-winning author*

Awards

**2nd Place Winner
Fiction-Thriller-Terrorist
2021 PenCraft Book Awards**

**Gold Award Winner
Literary Titan Awards 2021**