

## **Fire With Fire Review**

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Half a decade after the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Al Qaeda, its affiliated terrorist groups, and the governments that support and finance it, have stepped up its offensive against America and the West. In a series of bloody attacks against civilians, including against the transportation systems of London and Madrid, radical Islamists have targeted passenger airplanes with rocket propelled grenades, sporting events on American soil and have murdered American businessmen stationed in the Middle East, leaving a mounting civilian casualty count in their bloody wake.

In their first major attack in New York City since flying planes into the World Trade Center, the terrorists pick another famous landmark, sending in a team of suicide bombers to destroy America's most famous toy store, FAO Schwartz, during the middle of a busy shopping day. The clear message: "America, we want to kill your children."

In *Fire With Fire*, first-time novelist Allan Kahane deftly crafts a suspenseful page-turner, taking his readers on a geographical tour of the global jihad, from the dusty streets of a Cairo slum which gave birth to the modern radical Islamist movement, to the current epicenter of fanatical anti-Western sentiment, Tehran.

Kahane tells the gripping and heart-wrenching story of New York financier Jack Burke, who was in FAO Schwartz shopping with his family that fateful day. In the ensuing blast, most of the shoppers are killed. Burke survives, but loses his wife and daughter in the explosion.

That personal tragic event, coupled with the U.S. government's inability to bring the perpetrators to justice, sends Burke – as the book title foreshadows - on a path of personal revenge: to find those responsible for murdering his family and bring them to justice.

Along the way, Burke encounters a shadowy group of rogue former intelligence agents, similarly frustrated with the West's ineptitude at dealing with the increasingly deadly threat of radical Islamic terrorism. Together, they set out to do what they feel their governments cannot: to stop the scourge of Islamic terrorism by attacking their lifeline, their sponsor governments in the oil-rich Middle East by engaging in their own campaign of blackmail and warfare against the sheikdoms, kingdoms and dictatorships that fund the global jihad.

At the same time, Kahane tracks the evolution of an Islamic radical leader, born and oppressed by a dictatorial government in the Middle East, educated at an American university, only to turn against the country which provided him that very education, as well as his first and only taste of freedom, because of a twisted – and all too common – understanding of the Quran and bloody martyrdom.

What follows is a spine-tingling battle between the forces of good and evil. In the process, Kahane brilliantly describes the stark terms of the radical Islamist mindset, which cannot be satiated until the entire world converts to their strict and rigid form of fundamentalist Islam by the sword. Woven into Kahane's compelling narrative and greatly adding to the novel's relevance is his research into the global Islamist movement and its roots in the Muslim Brotherhood, its founder Hasan al-Banna, and the concepts that gave rise to such actions as the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and the Brotherhood's role as the chief organ from which all Sunni Muslim terrorists organizations, from Al Qaeda to Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, were born.

*Fire With Fire* pulls no punches in its take down of the politically correct mindset, prevalent in the government and the media, which greatly hinders the West's ability to counter the threat of Islamic radicalism. Kahane, through his protagonist Jack Burke, tells the terrorist supporting regimes in the Middle East what they need to be told: "We're not going to take it anymore." For all of our sakes, hopefully our own governments are equally up to the task.