

Fire with Fire

Allan Kahane

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Multimillionaire Jake Burke watched his wife and daughter die in front of him during a terrorist bombing on U.S. soil. He has set his considerable resources and keen mind to just one end—vengeance.

With the help of his assistant, Miranda, Jake tracks the surviving bomber to Egypt. But by killing the bomber, Jake has brought himself to the attention of a global antiterrorism group. They are bent on fighting terrorists on the terrorists' home ground, and Jake just cost them their entry point for infiltrating the Popular Islamic Jihad. This rogue agency kidnaps Jake and Miranda. But as they learn more, Jake and Miranda both become convinced that the agency's methods are the best way to stop terrorism—by fighting fire with fire.

Allan Kahane has created a thought-provoking look inside the world of anti-terrorism work that also happens to be a pulse-pounding thriller. The plotting is tight and takes place on the world stage, careening from the U.S. to Egypt, from the Middle East to Europe. Anti-terrorism agency STOP uses methods that are not sanctioned by any government. These agents are committed to stopping the spread of terrorism, taking an ends-justifies-the-means approach. Kahane sketches each agent's background in an economical fashion that offers depth without pulling the reader out of the flow of the story.

At the center of the tale is Jake Burke, a stand-in for the reader. Haunted by his own encounter with terrorism, Jake's impotent rage is shaped and honed by the group that allows him to strike back. STOP's current campaign is focused on forcing Iran to expel terrorist cells. When STOP's targeted strikes begin causing escalation, Jake's brilliant and unconventional thinking provides a solution.

Kahane deftly weaves reality into his story, including a realistic look at the current political world map. The terrorist events depicted in *Fire with Fire* are disturbingly possible, from a suicide bomber in a toy store to a dirty bomb released at a U.S. university.

According to the publisher, international businessman Allan Kahane wrote *Fire with Fire* to provoke conversation about western democracies' responses to terrorism. He makes here a compelling case for the methods used by the counter-terrorism agency, including blackmail, threats, and targeted strikes. While you may not agree with STOP's methods, the book is an intriguing starting point for discussion and a hell of a good read.

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