

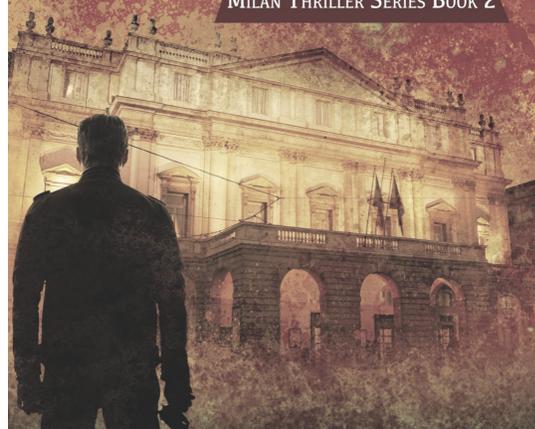
THIRTEEN DAYS IN MILAN



JACK ERICKSON

NO ONE SLEEPS

MILAN THRILLER SERIES BOOK 2



VESUVIUS NIGHTS

Milan Thriller Series Book III



MILAN THRILLER SERIES

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NO ONE SLEEPS

No One Sleeps is the second book in Jack Erickson's Milan thriller series featuring Italy's anti-terrorism police, DIGOS (*Divisioni Investigazioni Generali e Operazioni Speciali*).

SUMMARY

Milan's DIGOS receive a tip that a sleeper cell of radical Muslim terrorists have received shipments of chemicals from Pakistan to make deadly sarin gas. But they have no names or leads to identify the terrorists. Months of investigation to infiltrate the cell are stymied until they learn that the terrorists are using stolen cell phones to communicate.

Hours before a major cultural event in Milan, DIGOS discover that the terrorists are targeting one of Milan's iconic landmarks with the potential for hundreds of high-profile political, diplomatic, and corporate casualties.

MAJOR CHARACTERS

Giorgio Lucchini, DIGOS capo, and his deputy, *Antonella Amoruso*, protagonists in **Thirteen Days in Milan**.

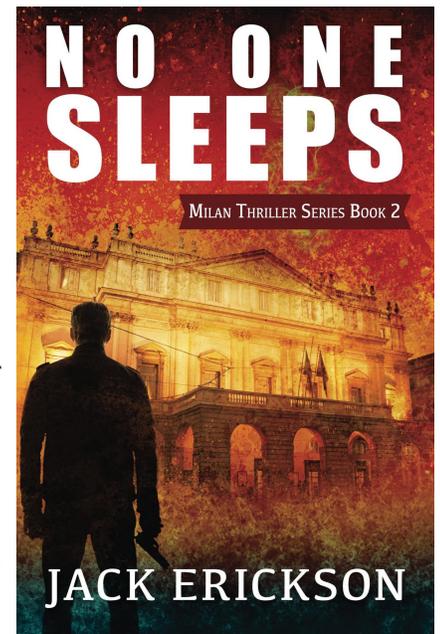
Simona De Monti, one of the few single female DIGOS agents. *Dario Volpara*, a more experienced, older agent. De Monti and Volpara are appointed as a team to search for the terrorists. In the initial days, they squabble, bicker, and tease each other, but they learn to appreciate their differences as they identify and track the terrorists.

Kareem Hussain, a well-educated Pakistani-Italian mechanical engineer with access to many of Milan's corporate, cultural, and government office buildings.

When Hussain was a boy, his father took him to the turbulent border areas near Afghanistan to meet his Pakistani relatives. Hussain returns several times, growing close to his Pakistani family. After 9/11, he becomes disturbed by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the deaths of cousins who joined the Taliban.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The Kidnapping of Abu Omar

In February 2003, an Egyptian imam, Abu Omar, was kidnapped from a Milan street by CIA agents as part of President George W. Bush's "extreme rendition" campaign. Omar was beaten, tied up, blindfolded, and driven to Aviano Air Base in northern Italy. He was flown to Germany, put on a CIA chartered plane, and taken to Egypt, where he was imprisoned and tortured for two years.



Under Bush's extreme rendition campaign, American intelligence officials kidnapped suspected terrorists in Europe and the Middle East and transported them to countries where they could be imprisoned and tortured to reveal information about al Qaeda and Taliban terrorist plans.

Twenty-six American CIA agents who kidnapped Omar were indicted, tried, and convicted in absentia by Italian courts in 2006. If any of the agents return to Europe, they can be arrested and imprisoned in Italy.

Details of the Omar kidnapping can be found in the book *A Kidnapping in Milan: The CIA on Trial*, by Steve Hendricks, W. W. Norton, 2010.

OPENING OF PROLOGUE

The Egyptian Imam

Milan

February 17, 2003

Shortly before noon on a bitterly cold February day, a plainclothes maresciallo (marshal) of the Carabinieri military police shouted "Polizia!" and stopped a Muslim man on Via Guerzoni in Milan.

The Muslim was an imam dressed in a traditional galabia tunic and taqiyah skullcap on his way to noon prayers at the Islamic Cultural Institute on Viale Jenner. The police officer flashed his identification and asked for the man's papers. Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, also known as Abu Omar, handed over his passport, residency permit, and identification papers. He said in broken English that he didn't speak Italian.

The police officer took his time examining Omar's papers. Suddenly, a white cargo van that had been parked across the street pulled up, and the panel door swung open. Two husky men pulled Omar into the van and pushed him to the floor. The door slammed shut, and the van sped up Via Guerzoni into Milan's heavy traffic.

OPENING OF CHAPTER ONE

No One Sleeps

June 22, 2013

The note read simply: *Marco, I'm in trouble. I'm worried about my family. Can we meet Sunday morning for coffee at Caffè Cavour? Gianni.*

Agent Marco Molinari stared at the note from his brother-in-law. It had been hand-delivered to the duty officer at the La Spezia Polizia di Stato Headquarters, where Marco worked. The sealed white envelope had Marco's name scrawled on the front by a pen running out of ink. It looked like Gianni was in a hurry.

Marco was puzzled as to why Gianni had sent a note to the Questura instead of calling if his family was in danger. Strange. The reference to Gianni's family was disturbing; Gianni was married to Marco's sister, Elisabetta. Betta and Gianni had two young children, seven-year-old Anita and three-year-old Davide.

THIRTEEN DAYS IN MILAN

SUMMARY

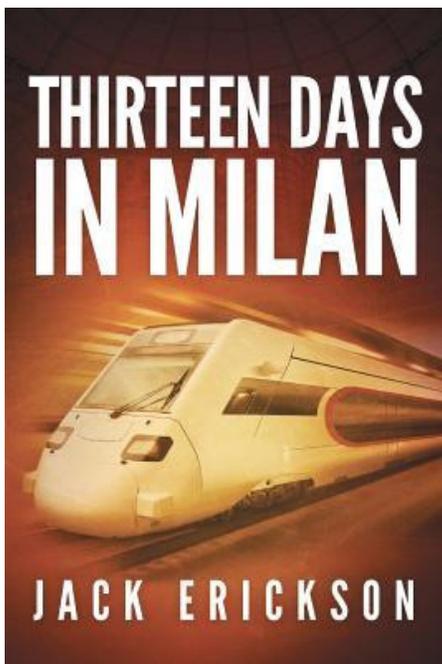
Sylvia de Matteo, an American single mother, is taken hostage by Italian terrorists during a political assassination at Milan's Stazione Centrale. The terrorists, with a family connection to the infamous Brigate Rosse (Red Brigades), ignite an international incident when they kidnap Sylvia, as her father is a wealthy Wall Street investment banker.

Thirteen Days in Milan takes place in August and September of 2011, while Italy was embroiled in the crippling Euro financial crisis, months before Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was forced to resign because of scandals involving tax evasion and payment to underage prostitutes.

MAJOR CHARACTERS

Sylvia de Matteo undergoes severe emotional turmoil during her captivity. She originally despises her captors, but after conversations with the terrorist leader through a privacy screen, she becomes sympathetic to the plight of Italians during the Euro financial crisis and Berlusconi's political scandals.

Fabio Cecconi is a brilliant but frustrated academic who draws on stories about Brigate Rosse shared by an uncle who was imprisoned after the assassination of Prime Minister Aldo Moro. Although Cecconi is the leader of the terrorist cell, he develops doubts about the group's goals while de Matteo is their hostage.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND The Moro Assassination

Thirteen Days in Milan begins with a prologue about the kidnapping and assassination of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro on the day he was to achieve his highest political goal of forming the first European government with a coalition that included the Communist Party. Moro was held in a small cell in Rome by the Brigate Rosse, a violent wing of the Italian Communist Party who kidnapped and assassinated politicians, labor leaders, judges, and lawyers during the violent anni di piombo (years of lead) in the 1970s.

On the morning of Moro's fifty-fifth day as a hostage, he was stuffed into the back of a Renault and shot nine times. His body was driven to a street halfway between the headquarters of the Communist Party and the

Christian Democrats, where it was discovered after the Brigate Rosse revealed he had been murdered.

The Moro affair was one of the most tragic events in modern Italian history. Moro's assassination still resonates in Italian media, politics, and academia, somewhat similar to America's memories of the JFK assassination.

Review Excerpts

"I'm Italian, and I must say that Erickson's view of my country and my fellow citizens is not so stereotypical as it appears in other books about Italy written by a foreign writer. His understanding of our political and economic situation is very deep, his knowledge about food and drinks amazing, and the characters in the story powerful and realistic. In this difficult moment for Italy, there's a bit of Fabio in every Italian."

"[ERICKSON'S] DESCRIPTIONS, OF ITALY'S SENSUOUS BEAUTY, ADD ENORMOUSLY TO A THRILLING TALE THAT BLENDS CURRENT-DAY NEWS HEADLINES WITH THOSE OF THE '70S, WHEN THE WORLD WAS RIVETED ON THE ALDO MORO KIDNAPPING. ERICKSON'S RESEARCH IS IMPECCABLE . . ."

AUTHOR OVERVIEW

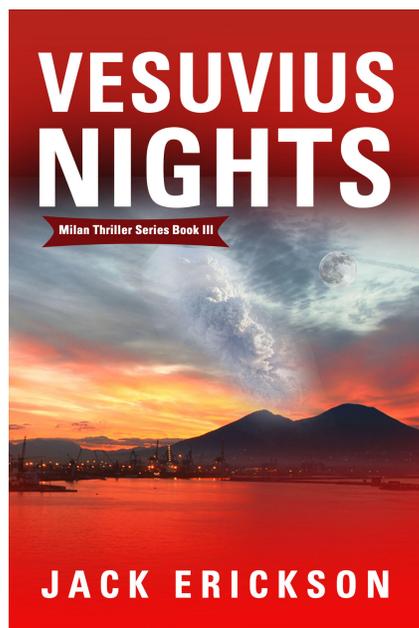
Jack Erickson is the author of international thrillers, mysteries, true crime, and romantic suspense novels. In earlier careers, Erickson was an Air Force intelligence officer, U.S. Senate speechwriter, freelance writer, senior editor at a national trade association, publisher, and Silicon Valley financial advisor.



In the 1980s, Erickson wrote freelance articles for The Washington Post about the emerging craft brewing industry. He launched RedBrick Press and wrote and published five books, including the first history of microbreweries, **Star Spangled Beer: A Guide to America's New Microbreweries and Brewpubs**, which was awarded best self-published book in 1987. He also wrote a cookbook, three travel guides, and a monthly business newsletter for craft brewing industry leaders.

While Erickson was reporting on the craft brewing industry, he was a guest speaker at events sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, Disney World, Sunset magazine, and resorts, as well as brewing, library, and publishing conventions.

Erickson travels to Italy frequently for research. He recently returned from Italy, where he was researching book three in his Milan thriller series, *Vesuvius Nights*.



Vesuvius Nights will be published as an e-Book in September 2018; as a paper back in December, 2018.

Thirteen Days in Milan (ISBN 978-0-941397-09-4) and **No One Sleeps** (ISBN 978-0-941397-11-7) are available as paperbacks at bookstores nationwide through Ingram. **Thirteen Days in Milan** is available as an e-book in Italian, **Tredici Giorni a Milano**. Erickson's short mystery **The Stalker** is also in Italian translation, **Lo Stalker**. Both are available at Italy's e-book retailers, La Feltrinelli and Mondadori.

Erickson's other books and short mysteries are also available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple's iBooks, Smashwords, OverDrive, and other online sites.

Thirteen Days in Milan and **No One Sleeps** will be available as Italian paperbacks in 2018.

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