

Dissection: A Medical & Political Thriller

Cristina LePort,

Bancroft Press

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Dissection is a riveting medical thriller in which only a heart surgeon stands between the world and war.

In Cristina LePort's action-packed medical thriller *Dissection*, a surgeon is caught in a plot to destabilize global diplomatic relations.

Steven, a renowned cardiac surgeon at a prestigious DC hospital, has a series of cases that indicate a targeted attack: patients admitted in relative good health end up with disastrous arterial injuries. They are connected by cards with the same ominous warnings: "Your heart attack will arrive within one hour." Even when there are advanced warnings of coming attacks, the assassinations seem impossible to stop. An FBI agent and a private investigator investigate; they suspect that Steven's former lover, Silvana, is behind the attacks.

Silvana is responsible for a unique research project: she has perfected the use of sound waves to predict and counter myriad health issues. However, she has been unable to earn FDA approval, and every one of the cardiac cases was a member of the board overseeing her approval request. Further, several of her prototypes have gone missing. As the attacks continue even after Silvana is taken to jail, climbing the line of succession toward the president, Steven and the private investigator, Kirk, continue to pursue those whom they believe are truly responsible. Still, grand catastrophes loom.

Though internally they are driven by their needs to prevent additional assassinations, the central trio is well developed beyond these immediate concerns. Further, the central villain's cruelty is exacerbated by a subplot involving underage girls, giving the audience an additional reason to hope that he fails. But beyond these four people, the cast's development is limited, often to factors as narrow as their official titles.

Still, the book's transition from a medical thriller to a political one involves complex and engaging turns. The mystery behind the cardiac assassinations is built on a foundation of well-explained medical technology, while the story's explosive pivot toward an intricate terrorist plot to destabilize the US government and kick off a nuclear war is captivating. And the efforts to prove Silvana's innocence lead to an additional and intriguing cat-and-mouse chase. Steven's determination to exonerate Silvana while utilizing his medical expertise to thwart a terrorist plot leads to ultimate rewards as the story crescendos with a series of rapid-fire, dangerous actions.

Dissection is a riveting medical thriller in which a shrouded cabal puts their villainous plans into motion—with only a heart surgeon to stop them.

JOHN M. MURRAY (November 3, 2022)

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