

JOEL C.  
ROSENBERG

AUTHOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER *THE KREMLIN CONSPIRACY*

“An absolute  
tour de force.”

MIKE POMPEO

former U.S. secretary of state and  
former director of the Central  
Intelligence Agency

THE  
BEIJING  
BETRAYAL

A MARCUS RYKER NOVEL

## PRAISE FOR JOEL C. ROSENBERG

Joel Rosenberg is one of the most prescient and compelling writers of our time. His novels sizzle with international suspense and pulsate with geopolitical realism few others can match. His latest, *The Beijing Betrayal*, is an absolute tour de force. Rosenberg captures just how catastrophic a Communist Chinese invasion of Taiwan would be and why the free world must do everything in our power to dissuade Beijing from ever making such a move. Buy it, read it, give it to a friend—just pray *The Beijing Betrayal* never comes to pass.

MIKE POMPEO, former U.S. secretary of state and former director of the Central Intelligence Agency

Rosenberg's imagination is a tumultuous place where Middle Eastern geopolitics combine with devious minds. Authentic, fast-paced, and totally engrossing.

KYLE MILLS, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Total Power*

Rosenberg once again proves to be at the top of his game. . . . The plot is all too possible. Marcus Ryker is a perfect hero, right where we need him, at just the right time. *The Beirut Protocol* will take your breath away as Rosenberg marches to the brink of a war only Ryker can stop—if he can save himself first!

ANDREWS & WILSON, bestselling authors of the Tier One, Sons of Valor, and Shepherds series

Nobody builds tension and suspense like Rosenberg, who has quickly developed his hero Marcus Ryker into one of the most formidable action stars the genre has to offer. . . . Fast, twist-filled, and ripped-from-the-headlines, *The Beirut Protocol* soars with authenticity and will leave readers breathless. At this point, Rosenberg's stuff is pretty much mandatory reading for all lovers of high-octane thrillers.

RYAN STECK, *The Real Book Spy*

A taut, brilliant thriller ripped right from today's headlines. Joel Rosenberg is masterful! *The Jerusalem Assassin* is an absolute home run.

BRAD THOR, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Backlash*

Gripping. . . . Readers will tear through the final pages to see whether Marcus can once again triumph over evil.

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY on *The Jerusalem Assassin*

Joel C. Rosenberg continues to mix his unique blend of prophetic fiction and nonstop action unlike anyone else working today.

THE REAL BOOK SPY on *The Persian Gamble*

Joel C. Rosenberg writes taut, intelligent thrillers that are as timely as they are well-written. Pairing a fast-paced plot with an impressive understanding of the inner workings in the corridors of power of the Russian government, *The Kremlin Conspiracy* is a stellar novel of riveting action and political intrigue.

MARK GREANEY, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Agent in Place*

*The Kremlin Conspiracy* is my first Joel C. Rosenberg novel, and I am absolutely blown away by how good this guy is. The story moves at a blistering pace, it's crackling with tension, and you won't put it down until you reach the end. Guaranteed. Simply masterful.

SEAN PARNELL, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Outlaw Platoon*

Rosenberg cranks up the suspense, delivering his most stunning, high-stakes thriller yet.

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY on *The Kremlin Conspiracy*

Joel Rosenberg has an uncanny talent for focusing his storytelling on real-world hot spots just as they are heating up. He has done it again in *The Kremlin Conspiracy*.

PORTER GOSS, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency

Marcus Ryker rocks! Breakneck action, political brinksmanship, authentic scenarios, and sharply defined characters make Joel C. Rosenberg's *Kremlin Conspiracy* a full-throttle and frightening ride through tomorrow's headlines.

**BRIGADIER GENERAL (U.S. ARMY, RETIRED) A.J. TATA**, national bestselling author of *Direct Fire*

If you love the ABC drama *Designated Survivor* or are always looking for the next well-written novel about America and her fight against terrorism, you'll definitely want to pick up *Without Warning*.

**BOOK REPORTER**

A compelling and complicated political thriller that includes an edge-of-your-seat climax—impossible to put down.

**MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW** on *The First Hostage*

Rosenberg has ripped a page from current headlines with a heart-stopping plot about the Islamic State.

**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY** on *The Third Target*

If there were a *Forbes* 400 list of great current novelists, Joel Rosenberg would be among the top ten. . . . One of the most entertaining and intriguing authors of international political thrillers in the country. . . . His novels are un-put-downable.

**STEVE FORBES**, editor in chief, *Forbes* magazine

[Joel Rosenberg] understands the grave dangers posed by Iran and Syria, and he's been a bold and courageous voice for true peace and security in the Middle East.

**DANNY AYALON**, former Israeli deputy foreign minister

Joel has a particularly clear understanding of what is going on in today's Iran and Syria and the grave threat these two countries pose to the rest of the world.

**REZA KAHLILI**, former CIA operative in Iran and bestselling author of *A Time to Betray: The Astonishing Double Life of a CIA Agent inside the Revolutionary Guards of Iran*

His novels seem to be ripped from the headlines—next year’s headlines.

*WASHINGTON TIMES*

Rip-roaring, heart-pounding, page-turning, high-octane, geopolitical thriller.

*FORBES* on *The Last Days*

An action-packed, Clancyesque political thriller.

*PUBLISHERS WEEKLY* on *The Last Days*

A wild, rocketing read. *The Last Jihad* is Tom Clancy writ large.

VINCE FLYNN, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Consent to Kill*

# THE BEIJING BETRAYAL



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*The Beijing Betrayal*

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*The Beijing Betrayal* is a work of fiction. Where real people, events, establishments, organizations, or locales appear, they are used fictitiously. All other elements of the novel are drawn from the author's imagination.

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# CAST OF CHARACTERS

## *Americans*

Marcus Ryker—Diplomatic Security Service/Central Intelligence Agency  
Peter Hwang—Diplomatic Security Service/Central Intelligence Agency  
Geoff Stone—Diplomatic Security Service/Central Intelligence Agency  
Kailea Curtis—Diplomatic Security Service  
Jennifer Morris—Central Intelligence Agency  
Noah Daniels—Central Intelligence Agency  
Donny Callaghan—Central Intelligence Agency  
Miguel Navarro—Central Intelligence Agency  
Martha Dell—Director of the Central Intelligence Agency  
Annie Stewart—Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Carlos Hernandez—President of the United States  
Margaret “Meg” Whitney—Vice President of the United States  
Robert Dayton—Secretary of State; former Senator from Iowa  
Mickey Clawson—Secretary of Energy  
Cal Foster—Secretary of Defense  
James Meyers—Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Bill McDermott—National Security Advisor  
Marjorie Ryker—Marcus Ryker’s mother

## *Kairos*

Abu Nakba—Commander of terror group known as *Kairos*  
Mohammed Faisal—Senior advisor to Abu Nakba  
Omar Nazim—Head of Abu Nakba’s security detail

*Chinese*

Chen Guanzhong—President of the People’s Republic of China and  
General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party  
Dai Wangshu—Minister of State Security  
Li Bai Xiang—Chief of Operations for the Ministry of State Security  
Wei Daoming—Junior Officer, Ministry of National Defense

*Taiwanese*

Yani Lee—President of Taiwan  
Ben We-Ming—Vice President  
Henry Wang—Defense Minister

*Russians*

Mikhail Borisovich Petrovsky—President of the Russian Federation  
Nikolay Vladimirovich Kropatkin—Former head of the FSB  
Oleg Kraskin—Son-in-law of the late President Aleksandr Luganov

*Iranians*

Yadollah Afshar—Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
Mahmoud Entezam—Commander of the Iranian Revolutionary  
Guard Corps



Taichung

Changhua

Nantou

Yulin

Taiwan  
(Republic of China)

Chiayi County

Chiayi

Tainan

Kaohsiung

Tainan

# PRELUDE

*All warfare is based on deception.*

SUN TZU, *THE ART OF WAR*

# 1

*SOMEWHERE IN THE HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS, AFGHANISTAN—6 JUNE*

*“Someone just fired a missile at the president!”*

Instantly, Abu Nakba’s head jerked back.

He had just bowed his face toward Mecca to begin his evening prayers when he heard the stunned voice of a CNN anchor on one of the television sets in the other room.

*“Father, come quickly—it’s started,”* shouted one of his bodyguards from the living room.

Then the old man heard gasps.

*“There has just been an enormous explosion outside the stadium,”* exclaimed Carolyn Tam, the veteran CNN anchor.

*“Mohammed, help me,”* the old man ordered, grabbing the walking stick with his left hand as Mohammed Faisal, his aide-de-camp, sprang up from his own prayers, grabbed Abu Nakba’s right hand, and pulled him to his feet.

Hobbling out of the master bedroom into the rustic, unadorned living room of the mountaintop compound they had finally reached and settled into that

very morning, the Kairos founder had no interest in the stunning views of silver snow-covered peaks, all bathed in moonlight. As Faisal helped him into a creaky wooden chair, surrounded by heavily armed bodyguards and Kairos jihadists, the old man's attention was now entirely riveted on the six flat-screen TV sets—connected to satellite dishes on the roof—that had been set up for them before their arrival. Though each was tuned to a different American or European network, each showed the live coverage of the Mass being held that very moment at Soldier Field in Chicago by Pope Pius XIII, with President Andrew Clarke and the First Lady in attendance.

Now they were broadcasting live images of a huge fireball outside the stadium.

Al Jazeera quickly cut to a split screen. On the left side of the screen, Abu Nakba could see confusion in the eyes of the pope and the priests around him, who had just heard the explosion but couldn't see it and clearly didn't know what was happening. On the right side, they showed a Patriot missile battery outside the stadium engulfed in flames and dozens of charred bodies all around it.

The BBC chose a different strategy. They cut to a wide external shot showing not only the destroyed missile battery but panic breaking out among the twenty-five thousand people who moments earlier had been sitting in the parking lot, watching the Mass on jumbo screens, hundreds of whom had just been incinerated.

*"No, no—my God, here comes another,"* shouted the CNN anchor, drawing Abu Nakba's full attention once again.

CNN now showed an extremely wide shot, apparently coming from a crew positioned on the roof of a nearby skyscraper. This not only showed the fireball and thousands of screaming people running for their lives but also the contrail of a second missile emerging from the top of the Willis Tower. But it was veering wildly through the bright morning sky, as though something had knocked it off course. This one didn't strike the stadium but smashed into a makeshift medical center of some sort—a sprawling white tent emblazoned with a large red cross—located on the far side of the parking lot. It, too, suddenly erupted into a massive fireball, instantly obliterating the tent and everyone inside it.

Abu Nakba's men started cheering, but he demanded they be silent. Then he ordered Faisal to turn up the volume on CNN as he leaned forward in his chair.

*“The president of the United States and Pope Pius XIII are under attack,”* said Tam, her voice trembling. *“I repeat—despite the most stringent security ever set up by the Secret Service, the president, the First Lady, the pope, and the hundred thousand people attending this Mass are now under missile attack.”*

Then it came, just as Abu Nakba knew it would.

A third SA-7 missile.

Also from the top of the Willis Tower.

And this one scored a direct hit.

The Libyan watched in delight as the missile streaked over the parking lot, barely missed the roof of the stadium, and careened into the east-side bleachers just to the left of the main platform. He was mumbling something, but none of his aides or bodyguards could hear him. Nor were they paying much attention. Like their leader, they were mesmerized by the sight of thousands of Americans being vaporized.

Every network now cut back inside the stadium. Some showed Secret Service agents hustling President Clarke and the First Lady off the stage and into the bowels of the building. Others focused on the pope, who had been knocked off his feet by the blast in the middle of his homily and was not moving. Secret Service agents and members of the Vatican security details raced to his side. Some tried to shield him from the searing heat of the firestorm surging through the east side of Soldier Field. Others tried to administer first aid. And the pope was not the only one down. At least a dozen other bodies lay motionless on the main stage.

Still other networks focused on the mass panic breaking out among the seventy thousand or so people still alive but trapped inside the stadium. Desperate to escape, people were running over one another, shrieking, jumping over rows of empty seats, even trampling those who'd fallen in front of them.

Everything Abu Nakba had trained and prepared and prayed for had come down to this day. But it was not yet over, he knew. Indeed, it had only just begun.