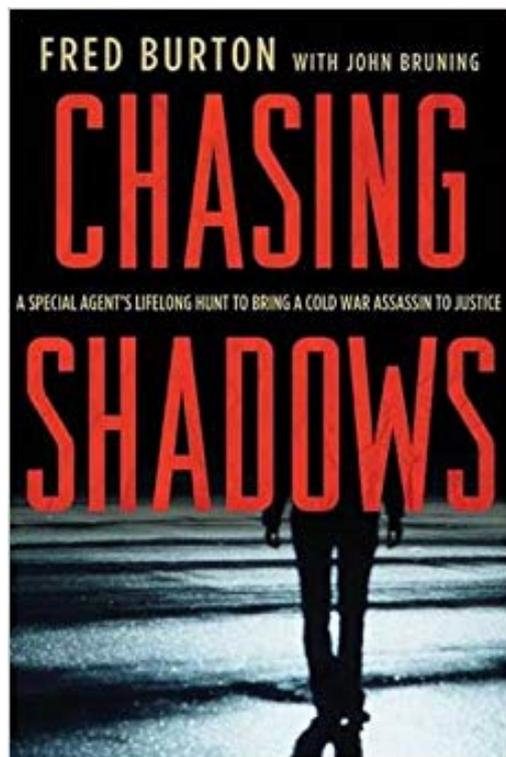


Chasing Shadows: A Special Agent's Lifelong Hunt to Bring a Cold War Assassin to Justice by John R. Bruning, Fred Burton



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On a warm Saturday night in July 1973 in Bethesda Maryland, a gunman stepped out from behind a tree and fired five point-blank shots into Joe Alon, an unassuming Israeli Air Force pilot and family man. Alon's sixteen-year-old neighbor, Fred Burton, was deeply shocked by this crime that rocked his sleepy suburban neighborhood. As it turned out, Alon wasn't just a pilot—he was a high-ranking military official and with intelligence ties. The assassin was never found and the case was closed. In 2007, Fred Burton—who had since become a State Department counterterrorism special agent—reopened the case. Here, in *Chasing Shadows*, Burton spins a gripping tale of the secret agents, double dealings, terrorists and heroes he encounters he chases leads around the globe in an effort to solve this decades-old murder. From swirling dogfights over Egypt and Hanoi to gun battles on the streets of Beirut, this action-packed thriller looks in the dark heart of the Cold War to show power is uses, misused, and sold to the most convenient bidder.



Reviews of the **Chasing Shadows: A Special Agent's Lifelong Hunt to Bring a Cold War Assassin to Justice** by John R. Bruning, Fred Burton

Zeus Wooden

It was an excellent book. Filled in many gaps concerning the history of many Palestinian terror groups, and U.S./Israeli relations. The one thing that seems odd is the fact that another book had answered the question as to why Col. Alon was murdered and which group was responsible. Victor Ostrovsky wrote a book in 1990 called 'By Way of Deception.' Mr. Ostrovsky was a former Mossad agent who left the Mossad out of personal disgust, and wrote of many of its secret operations. In one of the operations discussed, he briefly mentioned why Col. Alon was killed and by which group. It was not the crux of the discussion and it was mentioned only briefly in a small paragraph as an inconsequential thought on location 3570/5766 (kindle). Mr. Burton's book came to the same conclusion. Mr. Burton's book is much more detailed and identifies the actual shooter, rather than just the group. This is new information. I suppose Col. Alon's family would not have known about Mr. Ostrovsky's book since it was outlawed in Israel where the family moved shortly after the murder. I still recommend this book since it is a great read with a huge amount of history. Mr. Burton's book also elucidates why the U.S. and Israel did not follow up on the murder.

Qiahmagha

I normally don't read this type of book. However I heard an interview on NPR and it really caught my attention. I respect the author for his dedication to this man and his family. In a world where most people could care less about others, he took it upon himself to make a difference. Thank you sir for going that extra mile to help those in need.

Zadora

This book has a lot of information on how the Middle East continues to be a troubled region of the world. It ties together a lot of things or facts with how the USA has entwined itself with the issues and problems in that region. The author is offering us his role in being on spot and involved with some of what he experienced as well as the information he gathered while working in the secret and misleading world of espionage. No way for the majority of readers to really know if this story is authentic. But it is a good read and brings in a lot of things that seem to be on the face of it not part of the narrative. Area 51?

Gir

Full disclosure, I've known Fred for 25 years and this was the story he was always going to reinvestigate and write. Great use of mostly first person action with the appropriate third person review of historical details when necessary. Nice job also on the use of notes and timeline to round out facts. There are a lot of unsolved homicides out there but maybe none more important in geopolitics than this one. I hope Fred finds another interesting event in history and does the same workup on it for us as he did on this one; jamesmcasey.com

Vetitic

I just finished reading this book based on recommendations from prior reviews, and I enjoyed it very much. It shed a lot of light into the dark corners of the Middle East, from the birth of Israel up to

today. I went into this book expecting more of a police procedural thriller, and while there was some of that, I was impressed by the amount of detail that went into the characters in the book, both the good ones and the bad ones. The pacing of the book and the cuts between biographical/historical detail and the author's investigative work is excellent and contributes greatly to the readability of the story.

If you're interested in terrorism, politics, the intelligence world, and the Middle East, this book really has all the ingredients.

Gom

A nonfiction historical primer that tries to be a gripping spy saga. It is filled with historical timelines and context that explains the period with the conflicts therein. While justice is served many years after the fact and closure provided to the surviving family members; the story glosses over the presented fact that the victim is an Israeli intelligence officer setting up a spy network in the USA when Palestinian assassins catch up to him.

Ustamya

Excellent. Real story, real events, from someone who spent their life in 'the business'. Easy to read, good story telling and concise context.

It's very interesting and compelling to see how it really happens.

Excellent read!. Mr. Burton wove in bits of his personal involvement, in this case in regards to world history some tactical, some lessons learned, some State Department history and other good stuff. Not a suspenseful thriller per se, but a solid, well-written story. Highly recommended! Good show!

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