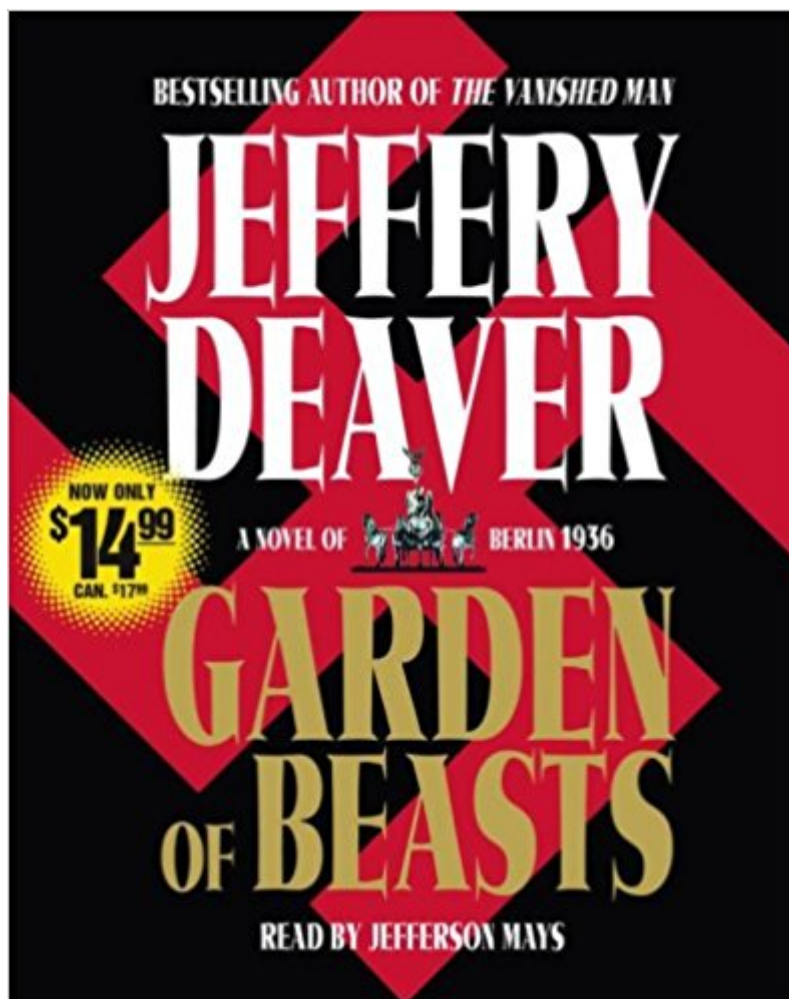


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# Garden Of Beasts: A Novel Of Berlin 1936



## Synopsis

Paul Schumann, a German American living in New York City in 1936, is a mobster hitman known for his brilliant tactics and for taking only "righteous" assignments. But when he gets caught he is offered a stark choice: prison or covert government service. Paul must pose as a journalist covering the summer Olympics taking place in Berlin and hunt down and kill Reinhardt Ernst -- the ruthless architect of Hitler's clandestine rearmament. If he refuses the job, his fate will be Sing Sing and the electric chair.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jeffery Deaver's *Garden of Beasts* introduces anti-hero Paul Schumann, a notorious mobster for the New York Mafia known for his cold and professional approach to his job. But the jig is up when he is duped by high-ranking feds who give him a choice--prison or one more impossible job: assassinate the man who's running Hitler's plan for rearming Germany. The hard-nosed German-American lands on the streets of Berlin where immediately the best-laid plans of the United States Government go awry. Schumann finds himself in a city living in fear, tracked by Berlin's best homicide detective. As the intricate chase wears on, both men will discover that the greatest evil is the ascendant Nazi party. Deaver's novel, equal parts noir thriller and historical extrapolation, is a page-turner that offers a twisting visceral experience of the tension in Berlin during that fateful summer. He draws sympathetic portraits of everyday Germans caught between duty to country and their consciences. Into this mix, Deaver drops his coldly dangerous hitman who brawls with brownshirts, chums with Olympic athletes, collaborates with criminals, fraternizes with poets, and

discovers the hero inside his hardened soul. --Jeremy Pugh .com Interview When starting a new book by author Jeffery Deaver, expect to have the wool pulled over your eyes. His plots twist and turn and juke and jive like no others, never ending as expected and always including a jaw-dropping plot development. His latest effort, *Garden of Beasts*, is no exception. .com caught up with Deaver to discuss plotting, characters, and the perils of soap opera acting. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Deaver fans expect the unexpected from this prodigiously talented thriller writer, and the creator of the Lincoln Rhyme series and other memorable yarns (*The Blue Nowhere*, etc.) doesn't disappoint with his 19th novel, this time offering a deliciously twisty tale set in Nazi Berlin. The book's hero is a mob "button man," or hit man, Paul Schumann, who's nabbed in the act in New York City but given an alternative to the electric chair: to go to Berlin undercover as a journalist writing about the upcoming Olympics, in order to assassinate Col. Reinhard Ernst, the chief architect of Hitler's militarization, seen as a threat to American interests. A German spy onboard Paul's transatlantic liner grows suspicious and sends a warning to Germany before Paul discovers and kills him. Then in Berlin, Paul, en route to meet his contact, kills a second suspicious man who may be a storm trooper, setting Insp. Willi Kohl of the Berlin police, or Kripo, on his trail. Deaver weaves the three manhunts—Paul after his target, Kohl after Paul and the Nazi hierarchy after Paul—with a deft hand, bringing to frightening life the Berlin of 1936, a city on the brink of madness. Top Nazis, including Hitler, Himmler and Goering, make colorful cameos, but it's the smart, shaded-gray characterizations of the principals that anchor the exciting plot. An affecting love affair between Paul and his German landlady goes in surprising directions, as do the main plot lines, which move outside Berlin as heroes become villains and vice versa. This is prime Deaver, which means prime entertainment. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is very upsetting not so much because of when it was written but when I read it. To be repeatedly reminded of how many "Good Germans" there were and how effective Goebbels was in pre-war Germany as Donald Trump begins his reign here in America is just plain scary. The story and character development are vintage Deaver even if the setting (the 1936 Olympics) is unconventional.

This turned out to be one of my top 20 books. When an intelligent, principled, but essentially

unprepared man is sent to Germany as America's ambassador because nobody else wanted the job, we can see, through contemporary writings why it was so easy for outsiders to admire the rise of the Hitler gang. This book is about the gradual dawning on the Ambassador's family that there was a dark and terrible side to the law and order regulations of the new Nazi regime. It is fascinating to read from primary sources how the reality of what was really happening in the civilized and cultured country of Germany crept into the understanding of a kind, generous, socially responsible but politically naive family. I've read this book 4 times and will reread it many times again.

This is the first book I have read by this author. I was intrigued from the beginning to end and found myself continually sitting down to read. I would recommend this author to any one.

Very good historical fictional book. Characters were excellent, certainly not usual outcomes. Felt it gave a good picture of Germany and Berlin in the pre-World War 2 era. So many details and even words made me feel I was there. Off to find another book by this author!!

Jeffery Deaver does his usual skillful job of weaving compelling characters into an intricate and well-researched plot, this time against the backdrop of the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. Adolf Hitler is in charge, and brown-shirted and black-booted Nazi thugs lurk around every corner. The "Garden of Beasts" is the fabled Tiergarten, the park and zoo in the heart of Berlin. I found the book entertaining and very much in line with my readings about this period of history. Those less familiar with the brief but bloody reign of the Third Reich may have trouble with a few of the passages. The one jarring note to me was the decision to translate all of the most common German expressions into English. Thus Hitler's title appears as "Leader" rather than "Führer" and "Reich" is "Empire." In my opinion, this dulls the text and robs it of verisimilitude. Otherwise, a good, solid, enjoyable read about a frightening but fascinating time.

The hero of this novel, Paul, is an anti-hero. He is a professional assassin in the criminal underworld who gets recruited to kill a key member of Hitler's Cabinet as Berlin prepares for the Olympics. He is of German descent and speaks fluent German. Despite his background he has a strong moral fibre and is committed to carrying through his assignment. He has been promised a fresh start when he returns to the USA. He arrives in Berlin and meets with his local contact who will assist him with his task. At their meeting a third person intervenes and is murdered by the contact. This leads to a

Police Investigation by a senior Police Officer, Ernst who is not comfortable with the changes happening in pre-war journey. The story of Paul's efforts to accomplish his objectives is told alongside Police Investigation being conducted by Reinhardt Ernst. The story takes a few unexpected turns and twists but throughout both men are portrayed as having a basic decency and a will to do their job well.

It was good, having read it I wish I had gone to the library.

When has Deaver ever wrote a bad story? I rest my case!

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