

## Lovereadings Reader reviews of Palace of Treason by Jason Matthews

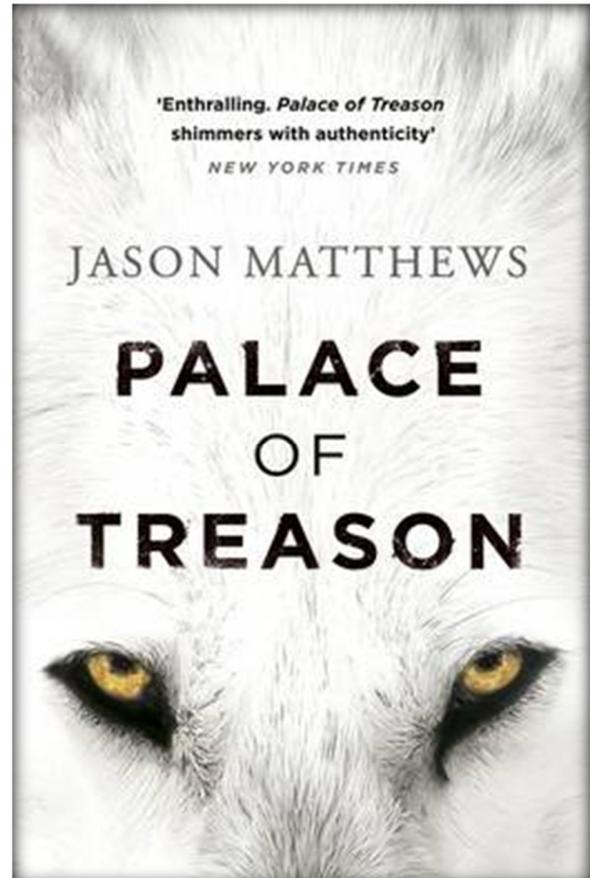
Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereadings members.

### Katie Dickens

***A story that will drive you crazy as you keep turning the page. So artfully constructed that you are truly left guessing until the very end. The best thriller of the year.***

*'Palace of Treason' is a thriller unlike any other. Matthews uses his insider knowledge of the CIA in a way that will keep you guessing and gasping at every turn, there is no one better to write a story on a level such as this one. It wears its authenticity proudly and so it should.*

*Dominika Egorova is an incredible multi-faceted character that makes her struggles believable and real, you can't help but root for her in the most sensitive and serious mission she has had yet. From the moment she takes the mission to the first plot twist there is an unshakable need for the character to fulfil her duty from the reader.*



### Alan Brown

***Once I started reading 'Palace of Treason' I had to finish.*** Reminded me of the Len Deighton Samson series so obviously this spy story is of a high standard. Jason Matthews could become a top line author.

*Once I started reading the book I had to finish it as the storyline was enthralling. Captain Dominika Egorova is a strong character which encourages the reading of the challenges, deceits and intrigue that she faces. The brain*

*needs to be engaged to follow the nuances of the story.*

*The storyline is at least as good as those of the best writers of iconic Cold War spy novels.*

*I was enamoured by the book even though it had irritations. Some words do not have a dictionary definition, the constant referral to colours and auras is overdone and the cookery recipes at the end of many chapters is annoying.*

*For the book to be so enjoyable despite these observations shows what a great spy story maker Jason Matthews can become.*

### **Linde Merrick**

***A sophisticated espionage thriller set in modern-day Russia, an enthralling read for fans of spy novels.***

*'Palace of Treason' is a spy thriller set in modern-day Russia. I felt the inclusion of the real life President Putin and the contemporary concern over Iran's nuclear capability lent credence to a well-crafted story line and the espionage touches seemed well researched and authentic.*

*The emotional roller coaster of the double agent Dominika Egorova and her American CIA handler Nate Nash is developed to a spellbinding conclusion.*

*Although **this is a fast paced, multifaceted novel with many intriguing twists and turns**, I didn't find it totally gripping: it seems a little too long and a few of the American characters felt a little too stereotypical for my taste. Overall though it should appeal to anyone with a taste for contemporary espionage writing from an author with a "high-flying CIA career behind him".*

### **Ray Orgill**

***This is a very readable espionage story*** and centres on a beautiful female Russian agent who has been "turned" in an earlier novel and is now working under cover for the CIA. It features extreme torture and murder and nerve jangling exploits and even interviews with her supreme boss Vladimir V. Putin. ***It is a big book in both activity and actual size.***

### **Edel Waugh**

*If you enjoy books about espionage, or are a fan of James Bond then I think you will really like this high stakes thriller where backstabbing and double agents*

*are just the normal everyday life for these characters who are trying to gain information to protect their own government by having one of their rival agency people as their mole. The story is based around the CIA and the Russian Intelligence Service and how each group are trying to gain information. The men and women they have on the ground are risking their lives daily to do this job and you have to wonder who would do this voluntarily? Apart from being a thriller it makes fascinating reading imagining all these ordinary people doing these incredible type of jobs in real life even though the story itself is fiction. The main characters are Nate and Dominika, Nate works for the CIA and Dominika works for the Russian Intelligence. Both of these characters are high up their career ladders so their security/ access level is high. **Danger lurks behind every corner in this book but friendship and love also have their place here too. Gripping reading!***

### **Sarah Musk**

***This is an absolute terrific espionage story set in multiple locations. The author worked for the CIA for over thirty years and it shows in the extreme authenticity of this book.***

*This is quite possibly the best most authentic spy book I have ever read. It is written by Jason Matthews who was in the CIA for over thirty years and it is obvious that he knows exactly what he is talking about and probably has experienced some of the situations in the book.*

*It is difficult to read in parts because it is undeniably violent - spies live very dangerous lives constantly vigilant and looking over their shoulders. It's hard to imagine how anybody would want to live like that but it does seem that the characters in the book are hooked on the excitement and danger.*

*The book shifts between many locations - one minute you're in Moscow, the next in Athens or America. It keeps you up to speed with the behind the scenes machinations and the complex decisions and analysis that has to be made by opposing sides in constantly changing situations.*

*One part that is quite unusual is that President Putin has a fairly large part in the book. It seems as if Jason Williams knows rather more about him than the average person - I wonder if some of it is true!*

*Basically this is a terrific espionage story - really exciting and fast paced. I hope the author writes another book about the same characters because I want to know what happens next!*

### **Yvonne Richardson**

**Brilliantly written espionage thriller.** Characters' were made visual as the book takes you through the dark sinister side of the spy world. So good that I can imagine how good this would be if made into a movie! 'Bourne Identity' (Matt Damon) meets 'Salt' (Angelina Jolie). **A thoroughly absorbing read.** I look forward to more written by Jason Matthews who without doubt knows firsthand the secrets of CIA and spy tactics.

### **Nicola Underwood**

**Authentic seeming story about the world of espionage but slow going.**

'Palace of Treason' had a good, basic story which seemed authentic.

The book was quite hard work to read and took me longer than expected. This may have been due to the complicated names along with long, unnecessary, explanations of situations and character backgrounds.

Once the complicated names were registered, the book got better, but it didn't really get going until past half way. Once the story did get gripping, some parts of it were brilliant, action packed and enthralling. There were other parts that were lacking and again it was a struggle getting through the book.

For some unknown reason, at the end of each chapter there is a recipe for food mentioned in the book. There was a large amount of food described within the book, it was bordering on obsession.

### **Magdalena Vidgen**

**Good story line, but too much detail.**

After reading the blurb I was sufficiently intrigued.

We all feel a bit unnerved and very curious of the shadowy world of spies. Wouldn't want to admit it, but it is true. So I started reading with anticipation and excitement, but, unfortunately, it soon morphed into disappointment and annoyance.

The story line was very good.

What spoiled it for me was unnecessary background information on all the

characters, even the minor ones. I don't need to hear the life story of somebody who was killed at the beginning! Too much narrative slowed down the pace of the book. The other annoying thing was use of acronyms. I was at times confused who was who, but I just ignored it and read on. I didn't like the constant use of Russian phrases - I speak Russian, but it is not a commonly known language and I thought it redundant. Similarly, the recipes at the end of chapters - irrelevant! I get it, the guy knows Russians and their culture, but what's the point?! It is a spy novel, not a guide to Russia!

Overall, I think the plot was good and interesting, characters were well developed, but the pace of story was slowed by unnecessary additions.

I give it 3\*.

### **Susan Mooney**

**Brilliant Book full to overflowing with espionage. 10/10 Superb!**

Couldn't put it down.

Totally immersed in the pages of this superbly written masterpiece.

From the first chapter to the last you'll be hooked & drawn into the world of espionage at its best

Can't praise it enough

You can follow Susan on Twitter: @truckermercedes

### **Tracey Poulter**

This is a thinking person's spy story and Jason Matthews' background in the CIA is put to good use. The story is set in modern-day Russia and the inclusion of real-life characters, such as Putin, adds to the intrigue. There is some great inter-play between characters & lots of background information which helps to bring them to life but, I think, sometimes 'less is more' and some of it could be left to the reader's imagination. The recipes at the end of each chapter left me a little confused but, perhaps, this was meant to add authenticity. That said, this is **a really good story with a great plot and you definitely want to find out what happens.** Some of the individual characterisations were so good that I found myself commenting out loud. **I look forward to the next instalment.**

