



# Agent Storm: My Life Inside al Qaeda and the CIA

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## Agent Storm: My Life Inside al Qaeda and the CIA Morten Storm

Morten Storm was an unlikely Jihadi. A six-foot-one red-haired Dane, Storm spent his teens in and out of trouble. A book about the Prophet Mohammed prompted his conversion to Islam, and Storm sought purpose in a community of believers. He attended a militant madrasah in Yemen, named his son Osama, and became close friends with Anwar al-Awlaki, the American-born terrorist cleric. But after a decade of Jihadi life, he not only repudiated extremism but, in a quest for atonement, became a double agent for the CIA and British and Danish intelligence.

Agent Storm takes readers inside the jihadist world like never before, showing the daily life of zealous men set on mass murder, from dodging drones with al-Qaeda leaders in the Arabian desert to training in extremist gyms in Britain and performing supply drops in Kenya. The book also provides a tantalizing look at his dangerous life undercover, as Storm traveled the world for missions targeting its most dangerous terrorists, and into the world's most powerful spy agencies: their tradecraft, rivalries, and late-night carousing, as well as their ruthless use of a beautiful blonde in an ambitious honey trap. Agent Storm is a captivating, utterly unique, real-life espionage tale.

## Agent Storm: My Life Inside al Qaeda and the CIA Details

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## From Reader Review Agent Storm: My Life Inside al Qaeda and the CIA for online ebook

### Uwe Hook says

When traditional military tactics don't work and we need protection, we call in the ruthless (I.e. CIA and it's foreign equivalents.) We look the other way and deny our hands are dirty and proclaim our horror at what they do, but we enjoy the benefits. Such is this account of a ruthless, self-absorbed sociopath who ultimately found a way to channel his personal character flaws to do good in the world instead of evil. The CIA and foreign equivalents he worked with are basically cut out of the same piece of cloth. In the covert spy world you aren't rewarded with retirement benefits and lifetime protection like you are if you join the classic government system. He definitely chose the hardest road in life. Unfortunately the book won't reach best seller status. There are way too many characters and it is absolutely impossible to keep them straight or rank their importance to the story. I think the authors were so concerned about credibility that it gets bogged down in names, dates and facts and reads more like Wikipedia than it does a well-written biography with straight roads to the most important points. So this book is more for someone doing research or someone who works in intelligence.

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### Mikey B. says

This is a mesmerizing journey taken by this Danish man. One always thinks of Denmark as a highly civilized country – pleasant and safe – a wonderful place to grow up in. So this book blows some of those stereotypes to smithereens.

Anyway here is the short version. Morten had an unruly childhood with an abusive stepfather – he became involved in gangs, drugs... Disputes were settled by fists and brawls inside and outside pubs. In his early twenties Morten discovered Islam. It gave his life structure and what he thought was a moral base. Friendships became based on the knowledge and discussion of the tenets of Islam. To study further he went to Yemen – not quite realizing that he was on a pathway to embracing a version of Islam that was intolerant and had a straight-jacket view of the world. Those who disagreed with this outlook would be considered deadly enemies who could be justifiably killed. He became a member of Al Qaeda.

Morten married within this cult and had two children. He was traveling extensively in Europe and Yemen so he never had much to do with their upbringing.

Eventually Morten started to realize how intolerant he was becoming. Being with people in both England and Denmark who were suppose to be his mortal enemies, but who otherwise behaved in a normal manner, made him aware of the moral quandary of his religious position. He had also been approached by undercover agents in both England and Denmark. They knew what he was up to. So he came around to becoming a double agent for Denmark (PET), England (MI5, MI6) and the U.S. (CIA). Morten was a guy that could not stand still.

Page 125 (my book) Morten speaking to his mother

*“Mum, you can't tell anybody this. And you're the only person in the world who knows. I'm not a Muslim any more and I've started to work for Danish intelligence.”*

*There was silence for a few moments.*

*“There’s never a dull moment with you,” she finally replied.*

We get a chilling portrait of his volatile life and those he met. There is the Yemeni-American Anwar al Awlaki killed by drones in 2011. I think one of the most bizarre is the Croatian woman, Irena Horak, who became Awlaki’s third wife – and then became a widow in Yemen surrounded by the Al Qaeda clan. We witness the wheeling’s and dealings of Morten with all the spy agencies – who listened and took copious notes of the vast Al Qaeda network – but then kept persuading Morten to go on ever dangerous missions to Yemen and Kenya.

This is a non-stop read, and frightening. There are so many layers of Jihadi’s that when one branch is eliminated, others take-over. Awlaki’s you-tube lectures are still out there and are an inspiration for new recruits. The bomb-maker Ibrahim al-Asiri is training others. The list goes on.

As a warning to Donald Trump’s position on making guns more available and marketable this was in a footnote on page 392.

*The American al-Qaeda propagandist Adam Gadahn says that “America is absolutely awash with easily obtainable firearms.” Anyone can “go down to a gun show at the local convention center and come away with a fully automatic assault rifle without a background check and most likely without having to show an identification card”. He concludes: “So what are you waiting for?”*

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## **Mal Warwick says**

Forget James Bond. Six-foot-one, 250 pounds, with flaming red hair, Morten Storm is the real deal. This guy really did infiltrate al-Qaeda and operate at the highest levels of the network for many years. And, apparently, he’s still alive (somewhere) to tell the tale.

If Agent Storm were a novel, you wouldn’t believe a word of it. It’s not. The co-authors wrote the book based on weeks of interviews and months of documentary research to confirm what they learned. In an author’s note that prefaces the text, they write that “What makes Morten Storm’s story unique is the extraordinary amount of audiovisual evidence and electronic communications he collected during his time as a spy, which both corroborate his story and enrich his account.”

Much later, in Storm’s acknowledgment at the conclusion of the book, we learn that co-author Paul Cruickshank, a British journalist, “is now CNN’s terrorism analyst and the editor of a recent five-volume collection of scholarship on al-Qaeda.” Like Cruickshank, co-author Tim Lister had “reported on al-Qaeda terrorism and international security for many years.” And the book includes snapshots of much of the documentation that Storm so carefully collected over the years, which help to confirm the context surrounding the clandestine recordings of his conversations with his Western handlers.

So much for any doubts about the credibility of this astonishing tale.

Written as a first-person account, Agent Storm relates the experiences over a decade of a young Danish man who describes himself as, early in life, a “biker, boozier, and boxer.” Raised in a violent, alcohol-fueled home and a veteran of criminal gangs in adolescence, Morten Storm turned to Islam at the age of twenty-one and made his way with the fierce and sudden conviction of a convert into radical jihadist circles. Gradually drifting into the heart of al-Qaeda in Yemen in the late 1990s, Storm was seen as a valuable asset by the terrorist network and eventually given an audience with Anwar al-Awlaki. Awlaki was the radical American Muslim cleric who rose to head what became the most powerful arm of al-Qaeda following the death of Osama bin Laden many years later; he was widely considered to be the successor to Ayman al-Zawahari, the man who took over following bin Laden’s death. Eventually, Storm became a close and trusted aide to Awlaki. The cleric even entrusted him with the job of recruiting his third wife, a blonde Westerner, as well as funneling money and supplies to him and his followers (as directed by Western intelligence agencies). Awlaki, you may recall, was the first American to be targeted and killed by a US drone strike — and the authors make a very good case for demonstrating that Morten Storm provided the crucial link that led to the cleric’s assassination.

This account of Storm’s evolving beliefs over the years, and his 180-degree turn into becoming a spy for Danish intelligence, MI5 and MI6, and the CIA, is an intensely suspenseful tale that stacks up to any novel of espionage as a cliffhanger. It is also a carefully measured condemnation of Danish intelligence and the CIA, and to a lesser extent of the twin British agencies — measured, because Storm is critical of no one more than himself. The details about distrust and conflict among the various agencies are worth the price of the book in their own right. (Hint: they thought little was wrong with undermining one another’s operations — and these were all allies.)

If you’re looking for insight into the minds and mores of radical Islamists and a true account of how Western powers practice the craft of intelligence, Agent Storm is an eye-opening introduction.

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### **William James says**

Truly a real life spy thriller, Agent Storm should be compulsory reading for would-be jihadists and their detractors in Western intelligence and beyond alike. As the insurgency of Islamic fundamentalism takes hold in northern Iraq, Nigeria and on and on, Morten Storm's gripping memoir cautions against complacency that the West can crush its enemy without understanding it better. He's also a walking advertisement for the dangers of leaving disaffected young men on the dustheap without education, opportunities or supportive families. This white, red-headed Dane became so committed to jihad he managed to fool senior members of Al-Qaeda and Al-Shabaab for a decade that he was with them when he was working for PET, MI5/6 and the CIA. Western intelligence comes off as bruised as many of the fundamentalists (and was the CIA complicit in the radicalisation of Al-Awlaki by targeting him - an American citizen and academic - after 9/11?) though as Brits we can take some comfort that unlike the drinks, drugs and whore-motivated PET and the trigger-happy CIA, our security services are more incompetent than corrupt. This book is not to be missed.

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### **Scott says**

A fascinating book. Morten Storm grew up a troubled youth in Denmark, drinking, fighting, and raising hell until he one day randomly picked up a book about the prophet Muhammad in the local library. The book transformed his life and he pledged his devotion to the Islamic faith.

As time went by he became radicalized, believing in the jihadist cause. He came into contact with many

other jihadis throughout Scandinavia and Britain, and while living in Britain was encouraged by a cleric to study Islam in a remote part of Yemen. Storm agreed and while there he became even further radicalized, becoming an acquaintance of many important fanatics, including the American-born top terrorist Anwar al-Awlaqi. As a large European with flaming red hair, Storm made for quite a curiosity in the Middle Eastern radical circles

After a few years Storm began to question and then ultimately renounced his faith. He began to believe that global terrorism must be stopped, so he reached out to the Danish intelligence agency (PET) and offered to become an undercover informant. Soon he was also recruited by the British intelligence and the American CIA. The book details his covert and very dangerous operations within the heart of Islamic fanaticism. Of particular note is the tense chase for his friend Awlaqi, based on the intel provided by Storm.

The extremist views taken by the Islamic 'true believers' are unbelievably chilling. The wholesale slaughter of innocent Western civilians is absolutely justified in their minds.

This book provides an excellent inside look at some of the main players and territories in the Islamic global jihadi movement, as well as the Danish, British, and American intelligence agencies who are sworn to stopping them.

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## **Kitty Red-Eye says**

First, let's just establish that I've got to take the author on his word: There is no way I can check his story. I find no real reason to doubt the story, though, except it being pretty unique, but its (relative) uniqueness doesn't make it less probable, imo. So ok, let's say that this is all true, or close enough (not gonna go into a discussion on what "truth" is and what details might be changed/lied about and and and).

So, my belief that his story holds water being stated, I have to say that this story is quite exciting, and quite crazy. There's stuff to be learned here (different islamist networks and how they're interconnected; a few details about secret communication etc; the mentality of those utter losers the 'mujaheddin of the West'), maybe nothing you can't learn more detailed elsewhere, but the authenticity of a personal story is hard to beat. It's fascinating in some ways, disgusting in others, scary in yet others and even rather ridiculous. To me, the part with "the closing of the mind" is most interesting, the psychological part, if you will. Why do people want to go and blow themselves and a bunch of others up, in the name of --- you know; Islam. Or was it the Übermensch, in brown or in red version. The thousand-year Reich of paradise in this world and/or the next. Same shit. I'm quite convinced it's the same kind of people it all appeals to. Why, I'm not so sure of. Excitement, drama, purpose, perhaps. Belonging. Strict rules you can adhere to and then you're "saved", one way or the other. I don't know. I just don't think it's oh so very complicated. This book does not change my view in that sense. Fighting it, however, is more complicated. It doesn't quite sound as if our societies' reactions are adequate, though. Somehow, I think that's more scary.

It is, however, a good read. I think it will appeal to both thrill-seeking readers and to readers more interested in the topics as they are; radicalization, the war on terror, all those related subjects. Thumbs up.

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## **Bruce says**

If only there were more agents like him I would feel confident about the war on terror. Alas I fear he is one of but a few or maybe the only one. The first third of the book explaining his conversion to Islam was slow but it picked up considerably when he got to the Middle East. Interesting to see the relationship among competing security services.

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### **Allen Stebbins says**

To counter the obvious concerns about the credibility of this tale the authors provide a large amount of supporting evidence. The fact that it is true makes it a pretty incredible story, real double agent, 007 stuff. It gives a good idea of how disaffected folks can lose themselves in a mass movement, in this case radical (reactionary really) Islam. The book provides good insights to the jihadist movement and the divisions within Islam itself. As current events in the Middle East today show all too well the hatred for Moslems of differing beliefs can be as great as towards westerners. The motivation to attack Europeans and Americans is displayed in what to any American should be a frightening fashion. Well written, fast paced, and at times downright scary this is a really interesting read.

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### **Filosofia Stine Nordskov Hansen says**

If this book is just 50% true it is extremely thought-provoking.

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### **Atar says**

Fascinating story of a young Danish man who went from smuggling items, to being in a biker gang, to becoming a Muslim and then radicalizing. For years in service of jihad until realizing he no longer held those same beliefs. Instead turning to the Danish security service PET as well as MI5, MI6 & the CIA. During which his exploits lead these intelligence services to many major terrorist players. Then thinking those same services weren't playing fair he went public. It is an all around great story, all of which is true. A great read, a page turner, one of those books you don't want to put down.

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### **Ahmad Qassab Bashi says**

a Very bad book full of lies and imaginations. the writer himself is a sick psychopath. I talked with him on Twitter and he is very disrespectful. after reading some of the BS he wrote it is clear for me that he is stupid and I don't want to waste my time of reading his imaginations. well, I don't know what is true and what are the writer imaginations and lies. From the way he described himself he seems lost guy with many mental issues. He converted to Islam as he said and I'm not so sure about that then after 2 weeks he is in Yemen to study Islam just like that!! I'm not going to spoil the book for the ones who want to read it but don't waste your time and money on it.

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### **Ryan says**

Amazing to see someone turn from their deepest held beliefs, confront the darkest parts of their faith and try to make amends. I can't imagine the mental toll it took on him, trying to keep his home life, religion and undercover work separate.

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## Steve says

James Bond is still alive and well and living as Morten Storm in an undisclosed location in the United Kingdom. Or is he? After reading this spy novel come-to-life, I'm not so sure.

Morten, known to radical Islamists in Europe and Yemen as Murad, in this tell-all biography takes us behind-the-scenes to look at life from inside the world of al Qaeda. In this 343-page journal, Morten and his co-authors Paul Cruickshank and Tim Lister, take us on a roller coaster ride through the dark side of terrorism.

Morten-Cruickshank and Lister left nothing out of this operator's manual for spies. The authors include photographs of some of the intelligence community's most-wanted terrorists. Here you'll find a list of not only the main characters, (the "dramatis personae") in Morten's story but also several pages of lists of militants and Islamists, both dead and alive. Even more revealing, we're given a list of Morten's Danish, English and American intelligence handlers, (first names only for obvious reasons), the "good guys" in this cloak-and-dagger tale. Adding an element of strong authenticity are the last eight pages dedicated to showing the reader all the e-mails and other documents, the "spy stuff" and the paper trail that reportedly corroborates Storm's life as a double agent.

There are several plot twists within these pages I had a hard time understanding. How does a young man, born in Denmark, evolve from being a member of a Danish biker gang to becoming a Muslim and then a radical jihadist, hell-bent on slaughtering infidels everywhere? Later, how does that same friend of Osama bin Laden's apparent successor, Anwar al-Awlaki, suddenly renounce not only Islamic terrorism, but become a jihadist hunter? How does Morten, while performing undercover missions for the CIA blow through \$250,000 and not return one penny when one caper goes bad? Why would American and European spy agencies work with someone who has a cocaine habit? Was there really a CIA plot to get Morten near al-Awlaki's successor, Nasir al-Wuhayshi, so the spy agency's own mole would be eliminated in a drone strike? There are a lot of unanswered questions here.

Whether any of this James Bond wannabe's story was entirely made up or not, I'll let you be the judge. Or, we could all wait for the movie. Storm's life is reportedly going to be brought to the big screen by Paul Greengrass, director of the Bourne Identity spy-trilogy.

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## Joe Mochan says

starts out a little unbelievable but the wealth of research behind it to historical events and figures is fascinating and in the end is a believable tale of deception and betrayal. You're left feeling sympathetic to him and in a way grateful for the sacrifices he has made to stop these truly dangerous people.

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## Michael Flanagan says

Agent Storm on the surface is a fascinating look into the world of radical Islam and how it operates. This is told through the eyes of Morten Storm, who's story takes us through his journey from a troubled Danish youth to that of a radical Islamic and then to that of a double agent.

As many other reviewers have pointed out this book requires you to place your trust in the author. There is no way to verify his story and association with various intelligence organisations. A quick Google search does nothing to clarify the matter.

Be it fiction or fact this book does highlight how certain Islamic groups target disfranchised youth with the view of radicalising them. It also went a long way in giving me a better understanding of the different views of Islam and the issues this causes.

In the end I found this book a fascinating read that has left me with a thirst to find more out about the Islamic faith. I have put aside the question of validity and marked this book according to the high level of engagement I received from it.

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