

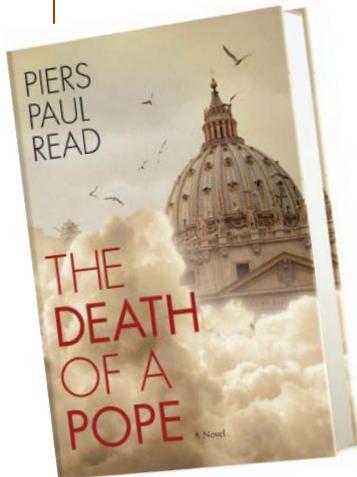


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“Piers Paul Read has managed to combine sheer storytelling power with great learning and insight about the inner workings of the Church to fashion an entertainment of the highest order. If John le Carré took on Vatican politics, his book of suspense might aspire to be much like this one.”

— Ron Hansen, Author of *Mariette In Ecstasy*
and *The Assassination of Jesse James*
by the Coward Robert Ford

The name Piers Paul Read rings a familiar bell. For many of us, that name brings back his haunting international bestseller of 35 years ago, *ALIVE: The Story of the Andes Survivors*, an account of the aftermath of a headline-making plane crash involving the Uruguayan rugby team, which was later made into a film entitled, “Alive.”

And now, 21 books — and numerous literary prizes — later, acclaimed author Read is headed back to the bestseller lists with his latest novel, *The Death of a Pope* (Ignatius Press, May, 2009).

In *The Death of a Pope*, we meet Juan Uriarte, a handsome and outspoken Spanish ex-priest, who seems to be the model of nonviolence and compassion for the poor and downtrodden. So why is he on trial, accused of terrorist activities? His worldwide Catholic charitable outreach program is suspected of being a front for radicals. The trial is covered by Kate Ramsay, a young British reporter, who sets out to uncover the truth about Uriarte and his work. She travels with him to Africa to see his work firsthand but soon finds herself attracted to him.

Meanwhile an international conspiracy is growing, one that reaches into the Vatican itself. When the death of Pope John Paul II brings about the conclave that will elect Joseph Ratzinger as Pope Benedict XVI, a terrorist plot involving blackmail, subterfuge and mass murder begins to fall into place...a plot that could spell disaster for the Catholic Church and the world.

Piers Paul Read’s powerful tale combines vivid characters, high drama, love, betrayal, faith and redemption in a story of intrigue, church espionage and an attempt to destroy the longest continuous government in the world — the Papacy. *The Death of a Pope* races toward an unexpected and unforgettable conclusion, leaving us anxiously awaiting whatever this fine writer will offer us next.

About the Author: Piers Paul Read is a best-selling novelist, writer and playwright with numerous popular books including *Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors*, which has sold more than five million copies worldwide, as well as *Ablaze: The Story of Chernobyl*, *Alec Guinness: The Authorised Biography*, *The Templars*, *On the Third Day*, *A Patriot in Berlin* and *Alice in Exile*. Read is a Fellow and Member of the Council of the Royal Society of Literature, and a member of the Council of the Society of Authors. He has also written a number of television plays, and several of his novels have been filmed for cinema and television. He lives in London.

THE DEATH OF A POPE **A NOVEL**

Piers Paul Read
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