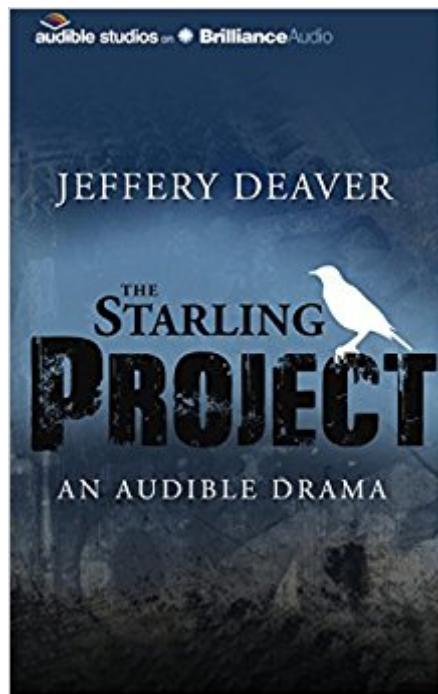


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The Starling Project



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Jeffery Deaver will make your ears tingle and your pulse race in this Audible Studios original full-cast audiodrama starring Alfred Molina. An aborted raid targeting a major arms dealer. A hostage standoff at a bank that may not be what it seems. A plot to spring a former African dictator from prison. What is the threat that connects them all? And just who is the mysterious mastermind, The Starling? From Mexico to Washington—•from London to Marseille to Prague—•war crimes investigator Harold Middleton and his team of Volunteers risk their lives to follow the trail of clues. But how can they stop The Starling—•when he always seems one step ahead? With more than 80 speaking roles and state-of-the-art sound and music design, The Starling Project is an immersive listening experience written by a master of the thriller.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A former journalist, folksinger and attorney, Jeffery Deaver has appeared on bestseller lists around the world. His books are sold in 150 countries and translated into 25 languages.

I did the audiobook version which isn't just a narrated audiobook, but more like radio theater with lots of actors, sound effects, etc. It was a pretty good, but you have to suspend reality sometimes as the actors seems to know more than they should about a given situation and resolve it with information not known to the reader/listener. Still, it was quite enjoyable.

Novel way to experience a book!

"The Starling Project" may very well be one of the best audio dramas I have EVER heard. William Dufris and the AudioComics team have done a bang-up job elevating what could have been a predictable Deaver story (yes, his more recent books have been more than a little formulaic of late) into something that kept me riveted. Standouts for me were Aaron Abano and David Curtis as Mustafa and Carter (their interplay was great, especially at the 'restaurant' where Carter is expecting to sample real French food), the actress who portrayed the Australian in the opening scene (the accent was SPOT ON), Francois (is that RC Bray?) and the rather ruthless team of Lathrop and DeSilvio. ALSO: LISTEN TO THIS WITH YOUR HEADPHONES ON!!!!!!!!!!!! I don't know what microphone they used but HOLY COW, it took the production to a whole new level. I can't explain it here, just TRUST ME. Don't listen to this in the car, don't listen to this through your speakers, LISTEN WITH YOUR HEADPHONES. I really hope Audible will do more of these kinds of productions, and use the AudioComics team as their production company. I can't rave about this one enough. Oh, and Audible? AudioComics does adaptations of graphic novels. I've got a list of graphic novels that would make crackerjack audio dramas for your company...it's about a mile long...

This is an outstanding audio drama production of the very highest quality. Audible should be applauded for supporting the project and I hope to see many more like it. Until now, the very best in audio drama production has come from BBC Radio, which has developed its astonishing abilities over decades. A close second to the BBC is Big Finish Productions, also of the U.K. Well now, the production house behind The Starling Project has joined them as equals. The sound design, the recording, editing, and above all the main character actors, are all gold standard. I had some problems with the so-called British accent of one character because it was so clearly a put on accent of dubious accomplishment. But listen out for a most delightfully over the top performance by an actor playing a forensic accountant. It really was a bravura performance of scenery chewing and he stole the focus from every scene he was in. I was not too happy with Jeffery Deaver's script. For my taste there was too much plot development happening off stage that I as a listener did not have privy to. The Harry Middleton protagonist was just a little too prescient, too astute, in figuring things out as the plot rolled along. It was most evident during the first half of the production when there were closely packed cliff-hanger developments followed immediately by a music-bridge scene

change. What appeared to be an impossible situation before the scene change, a situation that could only end badly for our heroes, would always be immediately resolved in the first line of the new scene. Harry Middleton would turn out to have been two steps ahead of the bad guys and what was certain disaster for the good guys would always turn out to be a wonderful victory. That's fine if you give the listener enough information that they can have a fair chance of seeing what is happening, but quite disingenuous when things just get pulled out of a hat. Those are problems with the writing that likely wouldn't bother anyone else, but they bothered me. Now, back to my overall assessment. Do not hesitate to buy this. The production and the acting are terrific, of the very highest quality. And again, I want to thank Audible for taking on the project. Audiobooks are wonderful, but well produced audio dramas are a whole new dimension in imagination.

I'm from the UK where radio drama is as ubiquitous now as it was in the golden days of radio in the US so it is a real treat to see Audible adopting this approach to audiobooks; dramatising the novel with a full cast. If any of you have had the pleasure to listen to the BBC's 1970s production of *The Lord of the Rings*, for example, you'll know that it is so much better than the recent film trilogy. The pictures are way better. But back to *The Starling Project*. What a great adaptation and dramatisation this is. Fast-paced, exciting, lots of great character actors, great voices, some totally authentic accents showing that Audible and AudioComics, the producer, must have really flung the net wide to pull in actors from all over. Made a long car journey just disappear. Totally worth the purchase price, Audible member or not.

The Starling Project is more an radio play, or rather audio play, than an audiobook. Using a host of actors, special effects and music, this is no mere read book. In this thriller, mild mannered professor and the leader brilliant leader of the "Volunteers," Harry Middleton tries to uncover the secret of "*The Starling Project*." The story opens with a raid on international arms dealer's house to retrieve some hard drives. The Volunteers get the drives, but lose one of their members in the process. As the story unfolds, nothing is quite what it seems. Harry's intelligence-driven approach is challenged by the act-first tactics of his newest recruit, DC police detective Kyle Nelson. We are taken through a roller coaster series of twists and turns before Deaver wraps up the story and deposits us at the end, waiting for the next installment. By taking a radio play approach to this audiobook, the story is elevated and also brought to life in ways that an audiobook alone is unable. *The Starling Project* takes you for a thrill ride, and it is short enough to binge-listen in one session, or spread out over only a few.

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