

Surveillance by Jonathan Raban
Picador 2006

Jonathan Raban's latest novel is set in Seattle in a post-9/11 America where levels of paranoia are very high. It is an intensely satisfying read that tells the story of Lucy, a journalist living with her young daughter, Alida, who secures the opportunity to interview the renowned author of a best-selling war time memoir, *Augie Vanags*.

As she spends time with him and his wife, Lucy becomes more suspicious about the truth behind his memoir, but has to balance her doubts against the growing relationship between her and Alida and the author and his wife. In the background is Lucy's close friend and confidant, Tad Zachary, and an egregious and upwardly mobile businessman, Charles Lee, who purchases the apartment block in which they live.

This is a novel about suspicion, observation, certainty and doubt, with a terrifying and wholly unexpected conclusion.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh