

The Book of Q by Jonathan Rabb. Halban Publishers Ltd 2007.

This is the second of Jonathan Rabb's novels to be published by Peter Halban and *The Overseer* was such a brilliant thriller that it set a very high bar indeed for the book that followed it. In my opinion the *Book of Q* confirms Jonathan Rabb as one of the most intelligent, creative and dynamic thriller writers around.

The *Book of Q* is a multi-national novel, taking in among others monastic Greece, the war-riven Balkans, and the gorgeous environs of the Vatican. Rabb creates characters of satisfying complexity and then sets them into situations the resolution of which is far from certain.

As I read this book I couldn't help thinking of that other Vatican conspiracy blockbuster, the *Da Vinci Code*, the success of which still amazes me.

The *Book of Q* compares with *Da Vinci* as a thoroughbred compares with a donkey, and it deserves to have even greater success.

What I admire the most about Jonathan Rabb is not just the intricacy of his plot lines, nor the realism with which he draws his characters, nor the incredible research that he has obviously done, it is the fact that he credits his readers with intelligence and challenges them as well as entertaining them.

I urge any lover of thrillers, and especially any Vatican conspiracy addicts, to read the *Book of Q* and revel in its sheer quality. This is quite simply a super book.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh