

The Overseer by Jonathan Rabb.  
Halban Publishers Ltd 2007.

The Overseer starts slowly but it builds up to the most exciting finish and stakes Jonathan Rabb's claim to be recognised as a thriller writer of merit and promise.

The story focuses on the attempts of a shadowy group in the United States to overturn American society basing their plans on a 16<sup>th</sup> century document written by a monk called Eisenreich for Pope Clement VII. The document, which may be found at the end of the story, sets out a chilling programme of destabilisation and fragmentation leading to absolute power.

Ranged against this cabal are a young professor, Xander Jaspers and his partner, a semi-retired government assassin called Sarah Trent. If the temptation now arises to assume 'formulaic thriller' it should be abandoned, for neither the story nor its protagonists are predictable, and the energy and pace of the writing carries the reader effortlessly along.

This is classed as Rabb's 'debut' thriller and one must hope that it is but the first of many to come.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh