A Dying Breed
A debut novel in the vein of Greene and le Carré, A Dying Breed is a brilliant and gripping story of the politics of news reporting, intrigue and blood set between the dark halls of Whitehall, the shadowy corridors of the BBC and the perilous streets of Kabul, in the shadowy le Carré-esque world of foreign correspondents reporting from war zones around the world. Carver, an old BBC hack, is warned off a story when a bomb goes off, killing a local official in Kabul, but his instincts tell him something isn’t quite right, and he won’t give up until he finds the truth. A junior producer sent out from London to control him is kidnapped, and as the story unravels it looks like there’s collusion between the local consul, Whitehall and someone in the BBC to ensure the real story never sees the light of day.

**Book Information**

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**Customer Reviews**

I agree with the almost universal praise this book has received. I thought it was very good indeed â€“ well written, extremely well informed and very gripping. The book is set in London and Aghanistan and involves an old-school BBC reporter (the dying breed of the title) who has discovered a story which The Authorities don’t want brought to light. Put that crudely, it sounds very hackneyed, but it is so well done that it felt very fresh and I became completely involved. The shady dealings and the journalist’s attempts to expose them were very plausible and extremely well portrayed so they made a gripping story, but where this book really shines is in the characters and setting. Peter Hanington paints very convincing portraits of a variety of characters from his central protagonist, the
world-weary, drink-addled but dogged reporter William Carver to an Afghan drug- and warlord. Even his most minor characters convince, and he creates a story in which believable people do believable things—a something of a rarity in spy fiction. He also creates a wonderfully convincing backdrop of both journalism and of Afghanistan. These are both areas which Peter Hanington knows intimately, and it shows. I found the settings completely convincing, and a very involving part of the book. There are a couple of minor false steps like the quite lengthy and rather irrelevant details of the personal life of an editor, or the mercenary who informs Carver that this is his last job and talks of the peaceful life he has planned—well, you just know what’s going to happen when someone says that, don’t you? Nonetheless, I thought this was a great read; it’s intelligent, gripping and very well done and I can recommend it warmly.

A compelling read.

Over the past months I’ve discovered some excellent storytellers but HANINGTON had me so totally absorbed I was genuinely sad to finish the book. I really hope he has more great books to come.

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