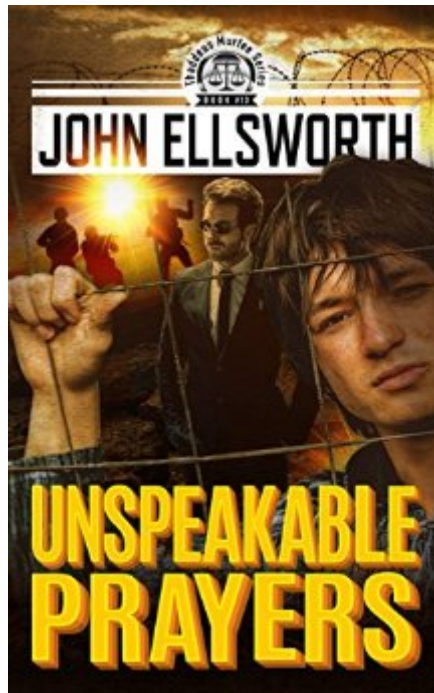


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Unspeakable Prayers, Treblinka To Chicago (Thaddeus Murfee Legal Thriller Series Book 8)



Synopsis

From Kindle All-Star John Ellsworth, author of #1 bestseller in historical thrillers From the highly acclaimed attorney-turned-writer comes a historical thriller about a kidnapped Jewish boy and a Nazi army officer. Their paths collide in World War II and crimes follow crimes. Seventy years later their case goes to trial in a legal drama set in Chicago. For the defense is Thaddeus Murfee, a Chicago attorney who refuses to lose cases, even where there's a smoking gun. Courtroom drama takes over the final third of the book as Thaddeus puts on the stand the Nazi's grandson, a Catholic priest, to help with the defense. A startling ending has readers everywhere discussing this timely thriller. Note: This novel, like World War II, contains Nazi concentration camp scenes and portrays that brutality. If that isn't your cuppa, you may want to try a different Thaddeus Murfee adventure. Legal thrillers, Jewish fiction, Jewish historical fiction, holocaust fiction, crime thrillers, legal suspense, lawyer mysteries, mystery series, organized crime, courtroom thrillers and courtroom drama.

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Customer Reviews

Unspeakable Prayers is the seventh book in the Thaddeus Murfee series by this author. I have read

and reported on all the previous books. This book, whether as a standalone, or as continuing in the series warrants a five star rating. *Unspeakable Prayers* is a serious study, in my view, of the interaction between two men, one a Jew, the other an SS Officer in Hitler's Third Reich. The backdrop of their interaction is the Holocaust, specifically the Treblinka extermination camp. Lodzi Ashstein, a Polish Jew, was sentenced to Treblinka in 1942. He was 19. While there he encountered Janich Heiss, a member of Hitler's elite SS, a commandant level officer, authorized by dint of his grade to kill Jews at will. Again, Treblinka, not to be confused, for example with Auschwitz, was an extermination camp which was the reason why Jews were sent there. Auschwitz was a concentration camp peopled by Jews used to labor in the service of the Reich during WWII. As a side note, Tuesday, January 27, 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by the Russians. I don't re-tell story lines in my reviews. Suffice it to say, this book is not an apologetic for what occurred at Treblinka. It is, both a serious study of Hitler's intention to carry out the ultimate solution and, in part, a serious study of the horrors, at times grisly, while never gratuitous, of the treatment that those sent there from among the overall 6 million Jews exterminated during WWII suffered and died at the hands of the German High Command. While dark, the book is truly a masterful accounting and thought provoking study of how these two individuals behaved in the manner in which they found themselves, either to survive, or eradicate.

For those who are followers of the Thaddeus Murphy series, *Unspeakable Prayers* is somewhat of a departure from the sometimes frustrating and life changing, sometimes funny, but always interesting life of Thad, Katy, and their daughters. I am always impressed with the effort John applies to building characters, so that the reader finds them not only interesting but an emotional connection. Ellsworth makes me care what happens to a character and draws me to know the outcome. The portion of the book devoted to making you care about Lodzi and his plight in the Nazi extermination camp of 1942, was at times dark and difficult, with the descriptions of the horrors there. This portion is later understood as necessary to make the reader feel the passion of his feelings for his captor and his unrelenting search to destroy him. Once again a chance meeting with Thad and his eventual need to help this man through the events of his past, weaves an interesting court drama which keeps you pulling for justice and right to win. At the same time the drama of Thad's family and their growing pains with a teenage daughter, provides a delightful side story of love of mankind and shows that putting charity before self, can sometimes heal personal weaknesses by replacing them with altruistic activity. *Unspeakable Prayers*, is deeply thought provoking, with Lodzi, whether or not God exists and has abandoned him, and if so why he cannot keep from praying in times of stress.

Does he have the right to take his captors life or should he depend on the justice system. Katy uses her compassion for those less fortunate to refocus her daughter Turquoise' young mind to doing good and right and away from peer pressure and trouble.

I'm a newcomer to the Thaddeus Murfee series having just discovered and read books 1 & 2 a couple of weeks ago. I enjoy legal thrillers and detective stories when they're well written, believable, and have engaging characters. The books that I've read in the series definitely satisfy on those counts. I had no idea what to expect of *Unspeakable Prayers* (having not seen the subtitle before being graciously given a pre-release copy by the author) so I was initially taken aback by the subject matter. As another reviewer said, the part of the book describing Lodzi's existence in Treblinka is dark and disturbing. I should say I am not one who would gravitate to a fictional Holocaust depiction. I'd probably go out of my way to avoid it. But I did read this one. And wow. True to form, Mr. Ellsworth creates characters that I can't ignore and can't abandon. Lodzi is complex and his actions at points are frightful but it becomes entirely believable that a normal person pushed into an abnormal shape by other-worldly, unfathomable events would take those actions. He vacillates between revenge and moving on as I imagine a real person would do as he struggles to maintain hard-won equanimity. The dark part of the book certainly shows the unfathomable events that bent him. It depresses me to no end that real events of the time (and more recent times too) have been shown to be every bit as horrific as the fictional ones in this book. I still have no affinity for fictional descriptions of the Holocaust and I'm a bit uncomfortable with the concept. But in this case I have to say it made a helluva book that imparts some measure of understanding of the sheer magnitude of the horror the victims endured. It's a wonder our world survived at all.

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