



The Targeter: My Life in the CIA, on the Hunt for the Godfather of ISIS

By Nada Bakos

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How a young woman from Montana joined the CIA, working her way up the ranks to the frontlines of the war on Islamic extremists.

In 1999, 30-year-old Nada Bakos moved from her lifelong home in Montana to Washington, DC, to join the CIA. Quickly realizing her affinity for intelligence work, Nada was determined to rise through the ranks of the agency first as an analyst and then as a Targeting Officer, eventually finding herself on the frontline of America's War against Islamic extremists. In this role, Nada was charged with finding the godfather of ISIS and mastermind of al Qaida in Iraq: Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

In a tight, tension-packed narrative that takes the reader from Langley deep into Iraq, Bakos reveals the inner workings of the Agency and the largely hidden world of intelligence gathering post 9/11. Entrenched in the predominantly male world of the CIA, Bakos belonged to a small yet dedicated sisterhood leading U.S. Special Operations Forces to the doorstep of one of the world's most wanted terrorists.

Filled with on-the-ground insights and poignant personal anecdotes, *The Targeter* shows us the great personal sacrifice that comes with intelligence work. This is Nada's story, but it is also an intimate chronicle of how a group of determined, ambitious men and women worked tirelessly in the heart of the CIA to ensure our nation's safety at home and abroad.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A revealing and utterly engrossing account of the campaign to stop the terrorist mastermind behind the rise of ISIS. Former intelligence officer Nada Bakos takes the reader deep inside the CIA's secret war in Iraq with a fast-paced narrative that is at turns thrilling, funny, maddening and remarkably candid."

Joby Warrick, author of *Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize

About the Author

Nada Bakos is a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) analyst on the team charged with analyzing the relationship between Iraq, al Qaida, and 9/11, and was the Chief Targeting officer following Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Bakos was featured in the Emmy award winning HBO documentary, *Manhunt*, and has appeared as a guest commentator on *Frontline* PBS, CNN, ABC, MSNBC, FOX, NBC and as a resource for journalists at the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post* and other major international and national media outlets. After 20 years in the intelligence field and corporate world, Ms. Bakos is currently focused on national security issues and regional stability around the world.

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