

The Ares Virus by A P Bateman

5 stars

You think it's all over – but it isn't!

This is the first in the Rob Stone series and I shall be reading the others very soon.....

Don't you just hate those thrillers where with one bound the hero is free? If you do then you will love this story. A P Bateman is a master of his art and his stories are, without exception, superbly well crafted and very believable. The plot grabs the reader by the throat and doesn't let go although there is sufficient change of pace to allow the occasional gasp of breath.

Isobel Bartlett works for a research facility which has developed the Ares virus – a super virus which could quickly decimate the world. However, there are those who seek to make billions out of its illegal use by holding the US government to ransom after plans to steal both the virus and the antidote, which was developed in parallel.

The suspicious death of the lead scientist, for whom Isobel works, and other spoiler occurrences, leads Isobel to steal half of the recipes and so the chase starts. Unbeknown to her, Rob Stone has been personally charged by the US President to investigate certain illegal activities. It transpires his interest in the individual hunting down Isobel is very personal. Will Rob reach her first or will the killer complete his contract?

There are plots within plots in this thriller which bodes well for subsequent books in the series (I already have The Island on my kindle and will be buying The Town next). The characters are very real and human and their actions remain consistent throughout the novel. Don't relax towards the denouement though as there are several false endings and quite a few surprises along the way.

First class.

mr zorg

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.