

5.0 out of 5 stars Awesome Book with an Intriguing Protagonist

By [Kieran Hairon](#) July 17, 2015

[Format: Kindle Edition](#)[Verified Purchase](#)

"The Turkish Connection" is a story which spans decades, from 1951 to 1972. The bulk of the story takes place around various parts of Istanbul and Turkey. The book is part of a series (the Birth of an Assassin series) by author Rik Stone, and tells the story of Mehmet. He is already becoming somewhat knowledgeable in the ways of a criminal lifestyle from the time that he is very young. In fact, he is only eight years of age when he begins stealing. His drunken father is no longer in his life, nor is his mother.

Things begin to change for Mehmet when he learns that his father's death is more of a mystery than he ever knew. While his father was not the most respectable man in the world, Mehmet soon finds himself on a journey to learn more about the circumstances of the man's death. At the same time, he begins transforming into something much darker than a thief. The name of the series should make it quite clear what type of man Mehmet becomes by the end of the tale. Yet he never ceases to be sympathetic, always drawing the readers along with him as he falls further and further into a world of criminal activity.

It can be difficult to ensure that readers feel a deep level of pathos for characters whose morals are sometimes questionable. One of the best examples of such a feat would be the character of Dexter Morgan from the acclaimed series of novels by author Jeff Lindsay. But you can add Rik Stone to that list, because he has performed a very similar feat with the character of Mehmet. Readers will feel sorry for him due to the darkness of the life he has lived since he was a child, but they will also root for him as he matures and seeks justice for a crime against his family. This is an enthralling tale, and despite its page count of nearly 300 pages, you will be rushing through with excitement to see how it ends.

5.0 out of 5 stars You'll be screaming "no" while reading

By [Kristen](#) on July 17, 2015

[Format: Kindle Edition](#)[Verified Purchase](#)

I enjoy books that bring a land of wonder and mystery to me, as I am find myself stuck in a land of drama more often than I would like to admit. The Turkish Collection did a stupendous job of doing so, as I have never faced any of the problems that Mehmet faced in this story. I was so drawn in to this story and so just- amazed- that I feel that I needed to leave a five star review! I was going through and reading other people's reviews just to see what they thought of the book and I was unaware that this book was a part of a series. I guess that's a good thing, because if I had started a book right in the middle of a series and know nothing about what was going on, I wouldn't have continued reading the book. I did not face that problem with this remarkable journey.

5.0 out of 5 stars Great action, awesome ending!

By [lilly belle](#) on July 16, 2015

[Format: Kindle Edition](#)[Verified Purchase](#)

This book is full of action and retribution. It starts out with a tale of an unfortunate death, which leaves a child orphaned. The rest of the book is dedicated to the story of that child's life. He is first taken and forced to work as a child thief, and is then rescued, due to sheer accident, by a friend of his father. The duo get to the bottom of what really happened to his dad, and he learns a new trade, albeit an illegal one. He even gets the chance to right a wrong that has been done to him and his family. The action and despair at the beginning of this book was so powerful and thankfully the middle and end of the book are filled with other emotions. I would recommend reading this book if you like stories where the bad guys lose or enjoy justice being handed out.

5.0 out of 5 stars I would clap for this book, if I could

By [Alizabeth](#) on July 16, 2015

[Format: Kindle Edition](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

The Turkish Connection is yet another book I couldn't put down- it seems I've hit a streak of spectacular books recently. The main character Mehmet is a character that I thought was completely captivating- while other people may have a crush on Edward from Twilight, I have a crush on Mehmet from this book. He totally rocks! He has such strength throughout his troublesome story and I found that to be quiet inspiring. I found strength in this story and I hope others will too, if they decide to read this inspirational book.

5.0 out of 5 stars Amazing thriller by Rik Stone

By [Christie Davison](#) on July 16, 2015

[Format: Kindle Edition](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

I love a book that can take you within its pages and entrap you in drama. The Turkish Connection by Rik Stone does just that.

In the beginning, you meet Mehmet in 1951 Istanbul. Things are not good for Mehmet; his father is an abusive, womanizing drunk. This story then takes you to how Mehmet grows into a man and the things that he has to endure and concur and just unfathomable. As Mehmet continues to grow into the person he wants to be, he must concur the things that brought him to this place to start with.

The character development in this book is amazing. You seem to be able to feel every emotion that the characters have in this book. That is pure talent by the author.

This is actually the second book in the series by the author; the first book was A Birth of an Assassin. After reading this book, I felt compelled to read that story as well. I must say that as Mr. Stone gets further into the stories in the series, they just seem to get better and better.

If you love thrillers, then this book is for you.

5.0 out of 5 stars What an epic Story! Draws you in and grips you!

By [J. Armstrong](#) on July 16, 2015

[Format: Kindle Edition](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

This novel is a fantastic read! The writing, plot, characters are all simply amazing! The story keeps you gripped right from the first few pages, the characters are all well fleshed out and described you could imagine them standing right next to you. I could not put this book down even though I dreaded to turn that page knowing each one brought me closer to the end! I truly enjoyed this story and am looking forward to reading the other books by this author.

Mehmet has a rough start in life, but what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger, right? Well in this book that sentiment is embraced by all characters, it's a gritty world, dog eat dog fighting for survival every day. With Yuri, Mehmet finds a little reprieve and almost something akin to an apprenticeship. And so we follow him along, through the good times and the bad, and watch as he evolves his thinking, his morals and his will to survive.

5.0 out of 5 stars Fantastic Plot!

By [Renee Spicuzza](#) on July 15, 2015

[Format: Kindle Edition](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

Rik Stone's, "The Turkish Connection: A Birth of an Assassin Novel" had me drawn in immediately. When I read, I love to learn about the back story of a character who seems to be unfairly flawed and Stone's novel is devoted to an entire buildup of who Mehmet is and who he will become, whether due to his own actions and choices or by the decisions of others. When the novel transitions towards

Mehmet's adult life, his back story has already been established, so the actions he takes when trying to find out why he grew up demonstrate the past that he was raised in. I can sympathize and understand where he is coming from, all the while looking forward to him trying to get revenge for the suffering he endured as a child. I truly enjoyed the development of Mehmet's life during the 1950s and it is so very different from the life I live, so I would highly recommend taking the time to read this novel, as it has a fantastic plot.

5.0 out of 5 stars `Mistakes, mistakes, mistakes! One after another.' Turks and Russians

By [Grady Harp](#)[HALL OF FAMETOP 100 REVIEWER](#)[VINE VOICE](#) on July 15, 2015

Format: [Kindle Edition](#)[Verified Purchase](#)

British author Rik Stone has always loved to read, especially fiction, even while working in the shipyards, the merchant navy and the quarries in South East England. After gaining this amount of life experience he turned to his education, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Computing Technology. Now, retired from all of that background, he has realized his dream of being a writer. His first book was BIRTH OF AN ASSASIN and partly due to the public success of that novel as well as his drive to explore the topic further he has created a series - and that is where we arrive with THE TURKISH CONNECTION.

Rik opens his novel with a telling Prologue, a chance to bring the reader into the current story with some back-story set in Istanbul 1951 and in addition to setting a psychological mood with the action, he also introduces those of us who have yet to read his first book to his fluid writing style, a technique of creating atmosphere of place: `Levent Pasha gazed mournfully over the Golden Horn, a natural waterway off the Bosphorus Strait. Time had moved on but nothing could ease the pain of losing Emel. On the opposite bank, minarets surrounded the Suleymaniye Mosque and a blue haze shrouded the domes and towers in mystique. The mainstream carried ferryboats and light freighters between Asia and Europe, cries wailed out tunefully as the muezzin called the faithful to prayer, boats blew klaxons or horns and bells rang out along jetties. A myriad of activity, but neither the mayhem nor the exotic vistas made an impression on him. His wife was dead. In his heart, Levent believed Emel had died because he'd taken contaminated water from the fountain instead of the standpipe, only a few steps beyond. Images of the funeral flashed through his mind: bearers lifting Emel from her coffin, lowering her shrouded body into the sandy, sterile ground. His breath caught and he dropped his head, sobbing. When Emel died, Levent became lost in despair, but then Beyrek Ozel told him something and an idea centring on Beyrek's apartment in the Sultanahmet Quarter grew into a plan. If the idea was successful, Levent could leave Istanbul and start a new life with his eight-year-old son, Mehmet, look after him the way he always should have.'

Rik then brings our main character Mehmet into focus with Chapter 1: `Mehmet was tall for an eight-year-old, slender with sinewy muscles too near to the bone. His father always said he looked like he needed a good meal in him, but would rather go out drinking than provide one. And it wasn't just drinking; during the many arguments he'd heard between him and his mother, it seemed he couldn't keep his hands off other women. In fact, before his mother had died, his father had almost been a stranger to him. Mehmet had thick, black hair, small, pretty features and the nearest he got to having any kind of camaraderie with his father was when he was jibed about looking like a girl. But his mother hadn't liked that and came back saying that Mehmet had inherited those looks from him - how he missed his mother.'

And Rik provides a terse synopsis of the plot: Mehmet battles for daily survival in the murky Istanbul of 1951 while being forced to learn the craft of theft and violence alongside the other street children. Come evening he curls up under a stinking jetty in a waterway off the Bosphorus Strait. Desperation fills him as he yearns to break free from the life inflicted on him by his drunken, womanizing father, little knowing that his rotting body lies at the bottom of those same waters.

Adulthood comes before Mehmet finds out that it wasn't fate that had taken control when he was a boy, but a very real nemesis. But is it too late? Can he yet turn things around and get his life back?' And so we jump in time to Istanbul and Icmeler, Turkey of 1972 and the slow maturation into an assassin develops amidst terrifying situations, romance, danger, torture and struggle.

This is an intense novel, very strongly written, one that entertains the concept of a continuing series very well indeed. And Rik Stone has found his dream. Grady Harp, July 15