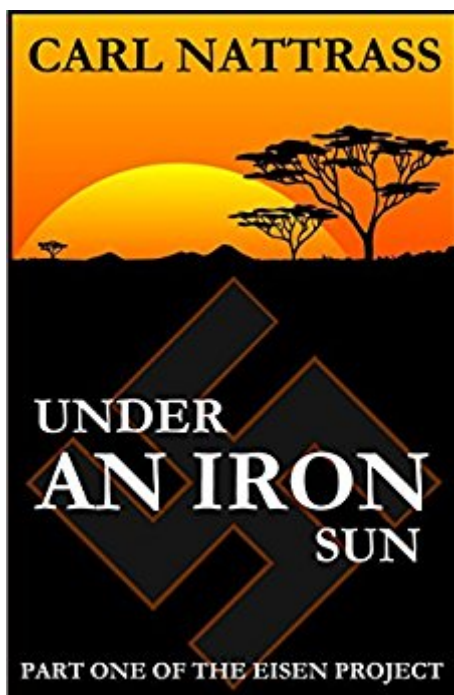


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# Under An Iron Sun



## Synopsis

“A well thought out plot lends for a thrilling adventure” • “Against the faded shade of pre-war Tunisia, an office worker finds his life irreversibly changed when a package arrives on his desk from one of his co-workers. That package, a detailed espionage report, will ultimately transport Leon into another world, where gentlemanly spying has long been forgotten. Caught between the local police, British, French and German authorities, he is accused of spying and must go on the run in an attempt to clear his name. Leon is surprised to find that this new life, which he is so unaccustomed to, comes quite effortlessly to him, and he soon finds himself running a deal with a British undercover network in order to clear his name.” “A gripping adventure which demonstrates the frailties, humanity, and potential in all of us.” “PRAISE FOR UNDER AN IRON SUN” “It seems as though we may have a new variation on the James Bond/Jason Bourne prototype, but Leon Afflelou Baker is a bit more complicated - and that makes for terrific reading” • “Your book is excellent” • “A well thought out plot lends for a thrilling adventure that compliment strong characterization and a well-designed backdrop” • “A lot of elements combine to make this one fine, taut thriller” • Goodreads reviewer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A lot of elements combine to make this one fine, taut thriller. A distinct sense of place for one. Pre World War 2 Tunisia is dry, dusty, hot; one lives under ceiling fans and retreats to outdoor cafes in the shade to survive the midday heat. The region is also fraught with mounting political tensions among distrustful neighboring governments. Which takes us to a sense of history. The writer definitely did his homework in bringing the late 1930s in the preamble and ramp up to war to life. If you can imagine being accused of being a spy in this era, and being hunted by French, German, and British intelligence, the sheer terror of being caught and tortured using water-boarding methods, of escaping and doing everything to avoid recapture with that many forces on your tail. A fan of historical fiction, of travel lit, and of thrillers, *Under an Iron Sun* really lit up the board for me, satisfying all three thirsts. It put me in the mind of one of my favorite films, *Casablanca*, with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, set in the same period and involving a lot of the same elements. What's more, I could really identify with the hero, an ordinary guy thrown into extraordinary circumstances, with little or no chance of making it out alive.

British author Carl Nattrass was born in Hexham, Northumberland and now lives in neighboring County Durham, two of the most picturesque sites in the UK!, where he is reading for his PhD at Durham University. Nattrass works in the computing arena but he at present considers himself a part-time author with a specific love for descriptive writing. *UNDER AN IRON SUN* is his debut and is the first book in a series he calls *THE EISEN PROJECT*. When an author can capture the reader's attention on page one the way Nattrass does then it is assured the novel will be finished in record time - pausing only for the brisk writing style that is as atmospheric as the characters and the location he places on his stage. Example from page one (Police Headquarters, Bizerte, Tunisia, Monday August 10th 1936) `The blow landed on the side of his head with such force that Afflelou felt himself falling. Then there was nothing. Suddenly he was conscious of cold water filling his nose and mouth; he was drowning. He kicked and writhed, but his hands were bound. He tried to sit up, his back was resting on a solid surface and he managed to raise his head. All around him was darkness. His breathing came in rasps, and water still entered his nostrils, but he was no longer drowning; air was coming to his lungs. He could see a faint light ahead, in fact, in all directions. Then the light was moving and he thought that he was falling. Like an explosion, the light suddenly appeared, permeating his eyes from every angle. He collapsed back down, breathing harshly. He

could see a faint light ahead, in fact, in all directions. Then the light was moving and he thought that he was falling. Like an explosion, the light suddenly appeared, permeating his eyes from every angle. He collapsed back down, breathing harshly.'Such a fine introduction to our lead character Leon Afflelou - accused of spying and facing what seems as though it may be his end. But Natrass then backtracks 5 days and the events leading up to this terrifying situation gradually build. As the author summarizes the plot, 'the book is based in 1930's Tunisia amidst the pre-war tensions of Europe. As France maintains its dominance over Western North Africa, Leon Afflelou enjoys, to some, an enviable life. Leon finds himself recruited by the British SOE and once again is cast into the thick of it as he battles once again with Vendome, only this time it is in Europe. But all is about to change forever. 12 hours later, he is on the run from the police, brutally chased, accused of spying and carrying a death sentence on his head. This book takes Leon, and the reader, on a fast-paced, weaving chase in which he must stay ahead of local and French police, as well as German and British intelligence. During an era of national distrust, global posturing, and improvised spying, Leon Afflelou must untangle the web to clear his name.'One of the hallmarks of a substantial writer is the ability to work historical facts into a fictional book and make the two of them marry as an epic. This Natrass does fluently and the result is an espionage thriller that pleads for the next installment to be released. It seems as though we may have a new variation on the James Bond/Jason Bourne prototype, but Leon Afflelou is a bit more complicated - and that makes for terrific reading. Grady Harp, September 14

Leon Afflelou is portrayed as what might be seen as an "average working man", unaware of political climate that eventually led to World War II. In the first chapter, he is arrested and questioned as a spy, and his response is dismay and confusion. His lack of understanding of the grilling he receives adds to his confusion, and a healthy fear of the French authorities. After the first chapter, which was solid action, the story slowed to a pace I feared might be less gripping. However, I soon realized that the more relaxed pace was a development of several characters who might or might not play a role in a possible betrayal of the pragmatic Afflelou. The character, who seems mild mannered, is hurled into a maelstrom of intrigue. Imagine the horror of being under scrutiny of scary individuals that you cannot identify, and whose motives are completely unknown. Afflelou, although seemingly apolitical, and even amoral (his income partially is derived from the smuggling and selling of drugs with his girlfriend's brother) becomes more and more resourceful. He seems to acquire courage and physical attributes he did not initially have. He manages finally to locate an employee that may have had something to do with a mysterious

envelope that contained information coveted by the German and the British forces. His inner hero comes to light when he is persuaded to penetrate a key Italian and German site where a hidden facility is constructed to offload Axis supplies. By the last third of the book, it is difficult to stop reading. If this is Carl Nattrass' first book, he will no doubt become a name to remember when looking for good suspense. This is part I of *The Eisen Project*, which is mentioned several times in this book, but is not exposed just yet. Guess we'll have to get the next installment!

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