
JOHN MORROW'S PICK OF THE WEEK

Escape to Death by Richard Le Normand

Following on from Richard Le Normand's first novel, "A Killer at Large", we meet up again with Marcel Beaumont and it is now 1947.

Marcel, along with Pete, his best friend, and Gerda, the sister of the German officer who began Marcel's adventure into wartime activities, have been running a very lucrative venture for the British government.

They own a vinery and castle which they use as their base. They run an organisation which helps Germans involved in atrocities occurring at the Jewish prison camps, to escape from trial and execution.

Unbeknownst to the Germans, however, the three friends who smuggle them via a canvas-covered truck across a well mapped out route to freedom, take them on one last escape route. Instead of being assisted to become free citizens in South America, the war-time criminals are taken out to sea, gassed and their gold is deposited into a Swiss bank account.

The operation, called Deserting Rats, began in 1944, but is now winding down due to the scarcity of Germans wishing to escape to new lives in South America.

Marcel is on the last trip for the operation when he is attacked by one German consumed by claustrophobia after being locked in a wine cask in the back of the truck.

After the truck crashes over the side of a cliff, Marcel discovers that one of his charges has escaped, the woman who was nurse to the children engaged in inhuman Nazi experiments.

After destroying the truck, Marcel begins to hunt down the woman, only to be hoodwinked by her. Helga, as she is known, is not the average escapee that they carry and she was actually doing her best for the children in the camps. Marcel's friend Gerda believes her story and Helga joins both Marcel and Gerda on a journey that will change their lives.

Meanwhile unbeknownst to the travelers, Pete and their old friends at the vinery castle have been murdered by Nazis disguised as British seamen.

It is not long before the boss of Operation Deserting Rats arrives to help Marcel, Gerda and Helga hunt down the Nazi killers to take revenge for the death of their friends.

Richard Le Norman is planning a third book in this series and I am looking forward to reading how Marcel's story will pan out. Like his first book, Le Normand has held nothing back and this is an entertaining read.

"The second book in Le Normand's series set around Marcel Beaumont will not disappoint you – this is an entertaining thriller which will quickly enthrall you and keep you guessing"

"A book is a private companion – John Morrow"