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TURKEY SHOOT WINS AWARD FOR “COURAGE IN FICTION”

November 2, 2019 — *Turkey Shoot*, Geoffrey Dutton’s 2018 radical international conspiracy literary thriller, received the 2019 Courage in Fiction award from Independent Publishers of New England (ipne.org) at its 13th annual conference in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

In accepting the certificate, Dutton said, “When I set out to write a novel entirely from the point of view of conspirators in a terrorist plot, I knew it would be a tough sell. Sympathetic treatments of so-called evildoers, especially Islamic ones, are uncommon in this post-9/11 world. Few political thrillers focus on what makes terrorists tick. To fill that void, I invented a diverse group of revolutionaries and let them speak for themselves. I am gratified to have *Turkey Shoot* recognized for its inside-out treatment of terrorism and for its literary merits.” The novel had been shortlisted for a genre fiction award but instead received this special citation.

Just as John Le Carré’s *Absolute Friends* depicts personal bonds between Cold War protagonists from opposite sides of the Iron Curtain, *Turkey Shoot* interrogates the beliefs and aspirations of radical leftists wanting to reinvent the world as it follows their furtive, contentious, and potentially ignominious path. And just as Le Carré unmasks the cupidity of great powers’ machinations, *Turkey Shoot* intimately illustrates how pursuit of empire can spawn the kinds of tragic consequences it dramatizes.

Set in Greece and Turkey in the fall of 2015, *Turkey Shoot* follows the revolutionary path of Mahmoud Al Ramadi, a war-orphaned 23-year-old ex-engineering student from Mosul to Syria to Turkey to Piraeus, Greece. He’s been tapped to take part in a conspiracy to decimate elites at a summit in Turkey, a plot he only learns of when he meets his new comrades. The devout Iraqi embraces the fraught mission as his jihad, but it is not to be. As they squabble about what to do next, winsome Swiss anarchist Katrina steals his heart and injects herself into their midst. She becomes instrumental in fermenting a new operation targeting an autocrat across the Aegean. Pulling this off takes the dark arts of a chemist and a hacker, a live test of a homemade weapon, and avoiding handcuffs, and furtive pursuit of a well-protected target. Mahmoud’s thousand-mile odyssey tests his metal, his wits, and his beliefs. All that he experiences edits his articles of faith, and just might edit some of yours.

A former academic widely recognized for innovations in digital mapping, Geoffrey Dutton repaired to industry as a developer, analyst, consultant, and a technical communicator telling computer users what they should and shouldn't do. Find many of his more than 400 articles, essays, short stories, and memoirs at CounterPunch, Medium, Progressive Pilgrim Review, Sisyphus, and the Perfidy Press blog. His high-tech roots show in his short story *Petit Mal*, narrated by a grumpy malware-infested PC published in Atthis Arts' anthology *As Told by Things*. (*Turkey Shoot* also involves digital malfeasance.) Geoff lives in the Boston burbs with his endearing and enduring spouse, their generally awesome daughter, and two overfed and under-exercised pussycats. He enjoys cooking for his family, especially with wild mushrooms that he carts home from tramps in the woods. All are quite well, thank you.

Learn more about *Turkey Shoot* at <https://perfidy.press/>. Find it at [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and [independent booksellers](#) nationwide.

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