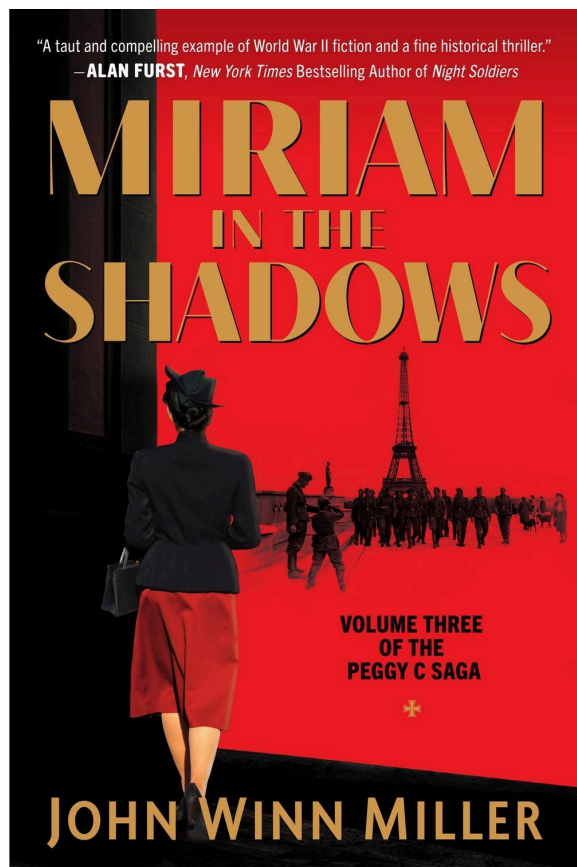


PRAISED BY FOUR NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING THRILLER WRITERS

Mark Sullivan • Alan Furst • Steve Berry • James Grady



MIRIAM IN THE SHADOWS

VOLUME THREE OF THE PEGGY C SAGA

JOHN WINN MILLER

Spring 1944. The world is holding its breath.

Weeks before D-Day, a Jewish mother who has already survived Nazi torture is sent back behind enemy lines to destroy Hitler's secret rocket works from the inside—while a Naval Intelligence officer named Ian Fleming and MI6's most ruthless spymaster play their own deadly games in London. From Pulitzer Prize finalist and former AP war correspondent John Winn Miller comes a meticulously researched, relentlessly paced espionage thriller where history, heart, and high stakes collide.

"Deeply researched and tautly told, John Miller's Miriam in the Shadows brings conflicted spy Miriam Maduro to life in a thrilling WWII tale of espionage and behind-enemy-lines intrigue in the weeks leading up to D-Day. The characters, the setting, and the story ring with authenticity. Highly recommended."

—Mark Sullivan, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*

"A taut and compelling example of World War II fiction and a fine historical thriller."

ALAN FURST

New York Times bestselling author of *Night Soldiers*

"An entourage of fascinating characters, an engaging premise, all briskly paced, makes for a taut, tight thriller."

STEVE BERRY

#1 New York Times and internationally bestselling author

"John Winn Miller blends historical facts with human fictions for a unique adventure to grab readers' eyes."

JAMES GRADY

New York Times bestselling author of *Six Days of the Condor*

PUBLISHER Bancroft Press**PUBLISHED** August 2026**GENRE** WWII Espionage Thriller**SERIES** The Peggy C Saga, Vol. 3 (stands alone)**HARDCOVER** 978-1-61088-711-3 • \$27.99**EBOOK** 978-1-61088-713-7 • \$7.99**PAGES** 348**AVAILABLE** Wherever books are sold

THE STORY

Spring 1944. The world is holding its breath.

While the Allies prepare to storm the beaches of Normandy, the real threat lies deep inside a Nazi-occupied coal mine in northern France, where the Third Reich is racing to arm V-2 rockets with radioactive warheads. If they succeed, London burns—and D-Day is over before it begins.

Enter **Miriam Maduro**—a 26-year-old Jewish mother from Amsterdam, expelled from medical school when the Nazis invaded, and trained at the British Special Operations Executive’s “gangster school” to be a saboteur and silent killer. Captured and tortured by the Nazis, she escaped—twice—with the help of **Jake Rogers**, the American captain of the tramp steamer *Peggy C* and a man with secrets of his own.

Now the SOE exploits Miriam’s survivor’s guilt and her fierce maternal instinct to coerce her into one final mission: infiltrate the concentration camp and rocket facility disguised as an engineer’s assistant, and destroy it from within.

Meanwhile, Jake is recruited by a Naval Intelligence officer named **Ian Fleming**—only to be betrayed by real-life MI6 spymaster **Claude Dansey**, who uses him as bait to sabotage Miriam’s mission and destroy the hated SOE from the inside. When Miriam discovers that Jake is a prisoner just miles away, she faces an impossible choice: complete her mission and save D-Day, or save the man she loves.

WHY THIS BOOK STANDS OUT

- **Ian Fleming, before James Bond.** In 1944, the future creator of 007 was a Naval Intelligence commander with, as Miller puts it, “connections, charm, and incredible creativity.” Miller drew him straight from the historical record—down to his custom cigarettes banded with three gold rings for a commander’s rank.
- **A heroine unlike any other in the genre.** Miriam is no cardboard superspy. She is a Dutch Jewish mother, a torture survivor, and a trained killer who must decide what she is willing to sacrifice—and whom.
- **The real secret war.** Churchill created the SOE to “set Europe ablaze,” but its fiercest rival sat in London: MI6, whose deputy chief Claude Dansey was called by one colleague “the most evil and the most wicked man I had met in public service.” Operation Crossbow, Hitler’s V-weapons, and Werner Heisenberg’s nuclear research all figure in the plot.
- **Reported, not just imagined.** Miller researches like the Pulitzer-finalist reporter he is—listening to the Imperial War Museum’s recorded interviews with the real people in his books and walking 1940s streets on Google Earth before checking what actually stood there. The novel closes with chapter notes, a “What Happened to Them” epilogue on its real-life figures, and a full bibliography.
- **Built for the screen.** A premium, character-driven wartime story with cinematic action and a ready-made franchise: three volumes, one sweeping saga. Film and TV inquiries are welcome.

“The crazier the escapes are in my books, the more likely they are to be based on a true story.”

—JOHN WINN MILLER

FOR FANS OF ALAN FURST, BEN MACINTYRE, AND KATE QUINN

“A draw for book clubs and those seeking authentic Jewish survivor experiences.” —Midwest Book Review

PRAISE FOR MIRIAM IN THE SHADOWS

FROM THE MASTERS OF THE THRILLER

"Deeply researched and tautly told, John Miller's Miriam in the Shadows brings conflicted spy Miriam Maduro to life in a thrilling WWII tale of espionage and behind-enemy-lines intrigue in the weeks leading up to D-Day. The characters, the setting, and the story ring with authenticity. Highly recommended."

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"An entourage of fascinating characters, an engaging premise, all briskly paced, makes for a taut, tight thriller."

—**Steve Berry**, #1 New York Times and internationally bestselling author

"In the shadows of espionage, John Winn Miller blends historical facts with human fictions for a unique adventure to grab readers' eyes."

—**James Grady**, New York Times bestselling author of *Six Days of the Condor* and *Shadows on Sidewalks*

"In my experience as a historian of special operations and espionage, I have rarely come across a novel that evokes 'true life' like this book. Miriam in the Shadows is impeccably researched, with historical figures accurately portrayed and new characters so well created. This story delivers in spades."

—**James Stejskal**, former Special Forces and CIA officer; historian and author of *No Moon as Witness*

"Historical fiction, in John Winn Miller's hands, becomes the place where fact and feeling shake hands in the dark. Miriam in the Shadows puts a woman whose interior life is as dangerous as the war around her at center stage—a survivor, a weapon, a mother, and a moral being trying to remain one."

—**Terry Shepherd**, bestselling author and host of *In Conversation*

THE CRITICS

"A smart and gripping novel ... a confident, absorbing entry that deepens the emotional and historical stakes of the series. Written with crisp prose and a visceral sense of danger, it rewards readers with a story that respects both its subject matter and its audience. ★★★★★"

—**Manhattan Book Review**, 5 out of 5 stars

"Thoroughly absorbing, realistic, and packed with insights ... Miller marries the draw of action-packed drama with a nonfiction-like attention to detail. Highly recommended for libraries and readers seeking an authentic, gripping WWII story."

—**Midwest Book Review**

"An electrifying World War II spy thriller that is deeply atmospheric, propulsive, and profoundly human ... delivers a gripping and emotionally resonant experience."

—**BestThrillers.com**

"In Miriam in the Shadows, John Winn Miller brilliantly blends history, sabotage, and high stakes. Rooted in meticulous historical research and authentic spycraft, this novel delivers a complex, ticking-clock thriller, prison break, and romance-under-fire that cleverly heightens suspense on every page."

—**J.J. Barnes**, Editor-in-Chief, *The Table Read*, the UK's Arts and Entertainment Magazine of the Year 2025

ON THE AIR

"Miriam in the Shadows is an extraordinary, human historical thriller that takes you places you never get to go. Miriam isn't a cardboard cutout superspy—she's a brilliant, courageous Dutch Jewish agent whose real-life grit, high-stakes danger, and gut-wrenching choices bring history to life. Get this book!"

—James Lott Jr., author, producer, and host of the *Between the Pages* podcast

"A gripping, highly suspenseful World War II thriller that blends espionage, danger, courage, and the human cost of war into an unforgettable story. Rooted in deep historical research, it puts resilient characters in impossible situations where history, heart, and high stakes collide."

—Amy Russell, co-host of *Author Talk*, a top 1% book interview podcast

"Miriam in the Shadows delivers a heart-stopping collision of wartime intrigue, love, and betrayal where the fate of the world hangs in the balance. Fueled by a mother's fierce love and a survivor's desperate need for redemption, this taut, high-stakes thriller forces an unforgettable heroine into an impossible choice."

—Arthur Miller, host of *All Things Must Pass*, the acclaimed historical fiction podcast

"A heart-pounding World War II thriller exploring the true cost of resistance, betrayal, and survival. Delivering high-stakes espionage, rich historical depth, and an unforgettable heroine, Miriam in the Shadows plunges readers deep into the perilous world of deception and sabotage."

—Michelle Bowles, Editor, *What Is That Book About*

THE PEGGY C SAGA

Three standalone novels, one sweeping story of ordinary people forced into extraordinary acts of courage as fascism tightens its grip on Europe.

VOLUME ONE

The Hunt for the Peggy C

Capt. Jake Rogers and his battered American tramp steamer are pulled out of neutrality and into the war—and into a desperate run to carry Jewish refugees, Miriam among them, out of Nazi-occupied Europe.

VOLUME TWO

Rescue Run

Capt. Jake Rogers' Daring Return to Occupied Europe

Rogers goes back into occupied Europe on an even more perilous mission, as convoys, U-boats, intelligence failures, and resistance networks raise the stakes.

VOLUME THREE

Miriam in the Shadows

The spotlight shifts to Miriam, now an SOE saboteur sent into northern France weeks before D-Day. The newest and most acclaimed novel in the series.

Also available: *The Peggy C Saga: The Complete Trilogy, Books 1–3* (ebook boxed set).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JOHN WINN MILLER is an award-winning investigative reporter, foreign correspondent, editor, newspaper publisher, screenwriter, movie producer, and novelist. In 2026 he was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame.

As a foreign correspondent for *The Associated Press*, he covered wars in Beirut, Chad, and Eritrea, traveled with Pope John Paul II, and reported on the hijacking of the *Achille Lauro*, Mafia busts, and terrorist attacks around the Mediterranean. He briefly served as Rome bureau chief of *The Wall Street Journal/Europe*.

At the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, he was part of the reporting team whose series helped trigger sweeping education reform in Kentucky. The series won the Society of Professional Journalists' public service award, top honors from Investigative Reporters and Editors, and the Selden Ring Award, and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. He went on to become executive editor of the *Centre Daily Times* and the *Tallahassee Democrat*, and publisher of *The Olympian* and the *Concord (N.H.) Monitor*. He was elected to the AP board of directors and served as a Pulitzer Prize juror two years running.

He also helped produce four independent feature films, including *Band of Robbers*, written and directed by Adam and Aaron Nee, and *Hitting the Cycle* with Bruce Dern.

A Lexington native, Miller has taught journalism and media literacy at his alma mater, the University of Kentucky, and at Transylvania University. He served six years in the U.S. Army Reserve and holds a second-degree black belt in Shaolin karate. He lives in Lexington with his wife, Margo, a potter and former college English teacher. Their daughter, Allison Miller, is an actress-screenwriter-director who most recently starred in ABC's *A Million Little Things*.



Photo: Bill Roughen

AT A GLANCE

- Pulitzer Prize finalist
- Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame, 2026
- Former AP foreign correspondent in Beirut, Chad, and Eritrea
- Two-time Pulitzer Prize juror; former AP board member
- Executive editor and publisher of four newspapers
- Producer of four independent feature films

"In my experience as a historian of special operations and espionage, I have rarely come across a novel that evokes 'true life' like this book."

—JAMES STEJSKAL, former Special Forces and CIA officer

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Ian Fleming is a major character, years before James Bond. What was the real Fleming doing in 1944, and how much of 007 can we already see in him?
2. Miriam is a Jewish mother, a survivor of Nazi torture, and an SOE saboteur. Who inspired her, and were there real women like her?
3. The villain isn't only the Nazis—it's MI6's Claude Dansey. Why were Britain's secret services at war with each other in the middle of a world war?
4. In the novel, the Germans come close to arming V-2 rockets with radioactive warheads. How close did Hitler's scientists, including Werner Heisenberg, really come?
5. You've said, "The crazier the escapes are in my books, the more likely they are to be based on a true story." Which scene would readers be most surprised to learn actually happened?
6. You listen to Imperial War Museum interviews and walk 1940s streets on Google Earth. Walk us through your research process.
7. Your book is full of real figures like Fleming, Churchill, and SOE chief Colin Gubbins. How did you stay true to what they really did and said?
8. How did covering wars in Beirut, Chad, and Eritrea for the AP shape the way you write about danger, violence, and courage?
9. How did your career as an investigative reporter, editor, and publisher help—or hinder—you as a novelist?
10. This is Volume Three of the Peggy C Saga. How does it connect to the first two books, and can new readers start here?
11. If Miriam in the Shadows became a film or streaming series, who would you cast as Miriam, Jake, and Ian Fleming?
12. What are you working on now?

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Wes Seeley, Senior Publicist, PR by the Book

wes@prbythebook.com • 512-501-4399 x713

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Bruce L. Bortz, Founder & Publisher, Bancroft Press • bruceb@bancroftpress.com • 410.627.0608

Print and digital review copies available. John Winn Miller records remotely and is flexible on timing.

Author website: johnwinnmiller.com