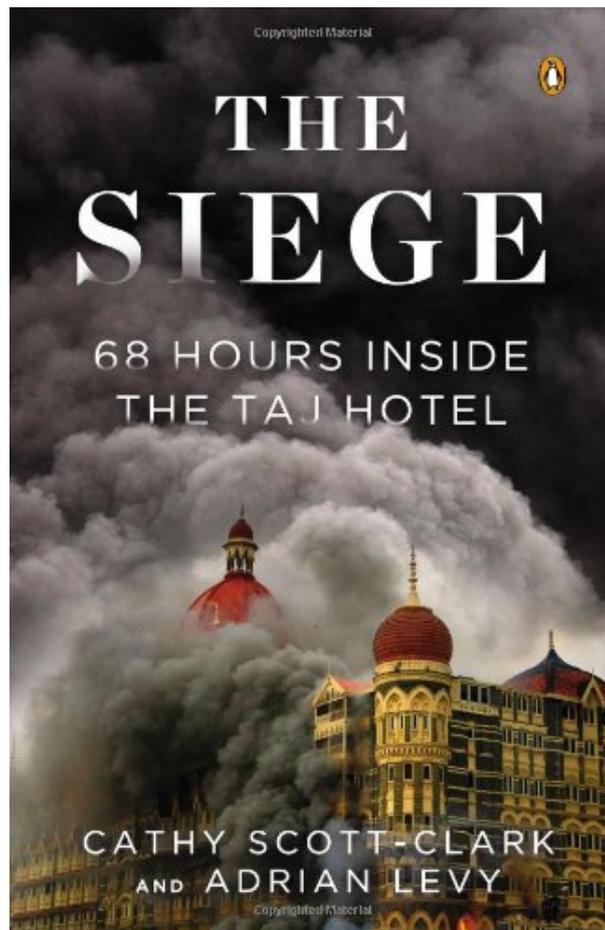
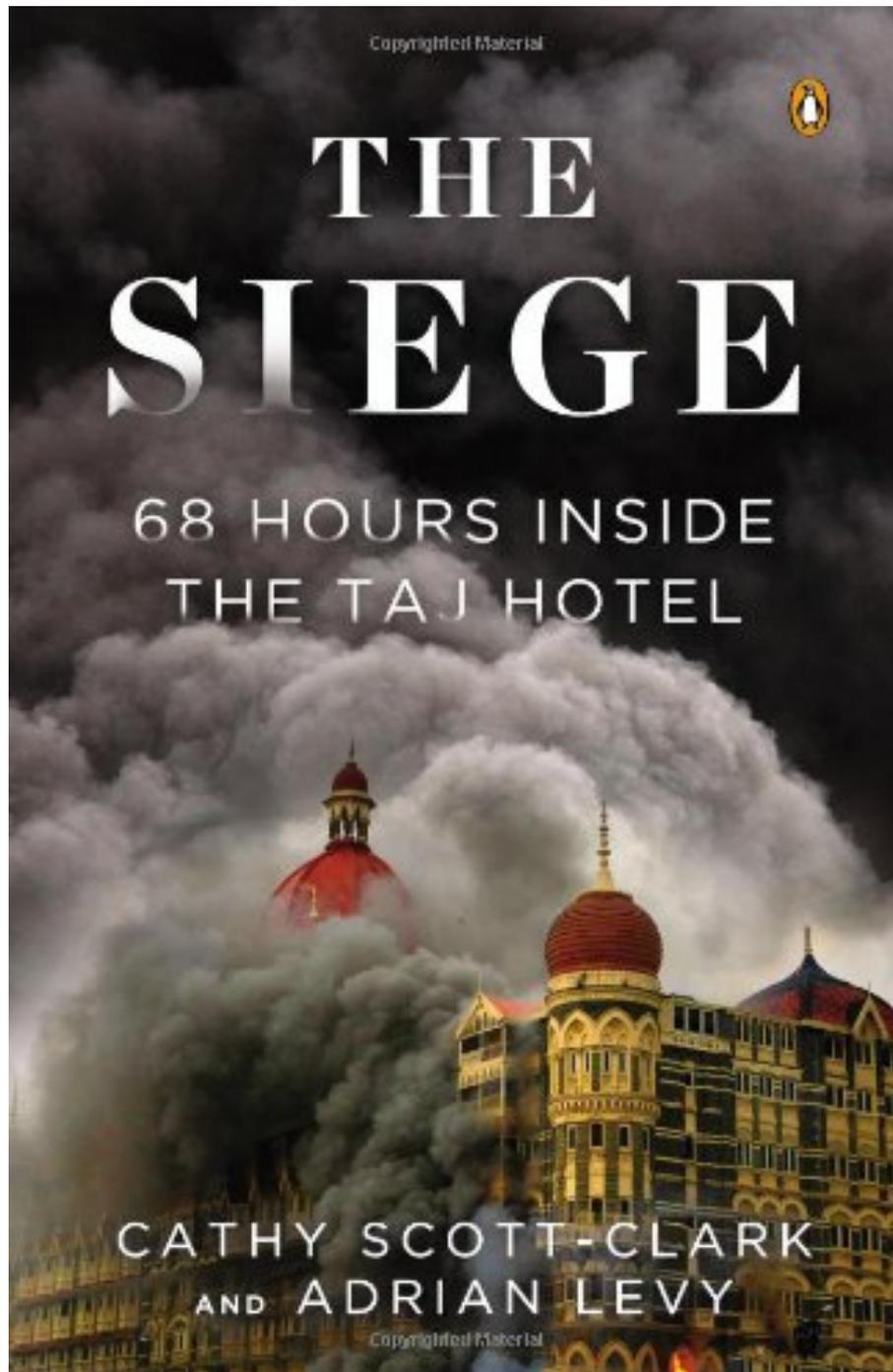


**THE SIEGE: 68 HOURS INSIDE THE TAJ
HOTEL BY CATHY SCOTT-CLARK, ADRIAN
LEVY**



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Winner of the CWA Nonfiction Dagger Award, the definitive account of the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai

Mumbai, 2008. On the night of November 26, Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorists attacked targets throughout the city, including the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, one of the world's most exclusive luxury hotels. For sixty-eight hours, hundreds were held hostage as shots rang out and an enormous fire raged. When the smoke cleared, thirty-one people were dead and many more had been injured. Only the courageous actions of staff and guests—including Mallika Jagad, Bob Nichols, and Taj general manager Binny Kang—prevented a much higher death toll.

With a deep understanding of the region and its politics and a narrative flair reminiscent of *Midnight in Peking*, journalists Cathy Scott-Clark and Adrian Levy vividly unfold the tragic events in a real-life thriller filled with suspense, tragedy, history, and heroism.

- Sales Rank: #878289 in Books
- Published on: 2013-10-29
- Released on: 2013-10-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 1.31" w x 6.31" l, 1.29 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 352 pages

Features

- terrorist
- kill

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About the Author

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Most helpful customer reviews

17 of 19 people found the following review helpful.

Gripping narrative, meticulously researched

By Scott Whitmore

Meticulously researched by authors Cathy Scott-Clark and Adrian Levy, *The Siege: 68 Hours Inside The Taj Hotel* is a riveting account of the Nov. 26, 2008, terrorist attack on Mumbai, India, by ten young Pakistani men affiliated with the group Lashkar-e-Toiba.

The staff of the Taj Hotel — men and women who were chefs, waiters, restaurant managers and security personnel — performed countless acts of heroism during the siege and many sacrificed themselves so that others could escape. Although ill-prepared materially for the attack — some patrolmen were armed with pre-World War II bolt-action rifles, others only with bamboo canes — many of the Mumbai police displayed exceptional valor and commitment while attempting to stop men armed with assault rifles, grenades and plastic explosives.

The narrative is gripping, filled with tension and stories of heroism and heartbreak. In turns the reader will experience dread, triumph, tragedy and simmering frustration at the inadequate response by city, state and national authorities. Mumbai was not prepared for the violence these ten men visited upon it, which is all the more staggering given its proximity to Pakistan and prior record of terrorist bombing activity.

I give full credit to the authors, as they tell a highly complex story — interweaving the personal stories of a dozen or more people swept up in the attack — in a natural, eminently readable style. I’ve seen this book favorably compared to Mark Bowden’s *Black Hawk Down* — an assessment I wholeheartedly agree in.

Veteran investigative reporters well versed in the region, Scott-Clark and Levy provide insight into the motivations of the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the different paths the ten men took to get to the point where they were stepping off a boat on the shores of India, bent on killing and sowing terror. Without relying on a linear timeline, the narrative shifts seamlessly between various eyewitnesses and participants, with some events told from multiple perspectives.

Although the attack against Mumbai involved more targets than the Taj Hotel, as the title suggests the luxury hotel is the prime focus of this book. The events at the Trident-Oberoi Hotel, train station and Chabad House are referred to, but not examined in detail. The narrower focus doesn’t make this book any less critical to understanding what happened; future readers should just be aware it is not all-encompassing.

I highly recommend it.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Fascinating chronicle of the making of a terrorist

By Dusty L. Humes

As a psychologist, I found myself fascinated by the degree to which the leaders of Lashkar (the Islamic terrorist group which planned and executed the attack on Mumbai) employed traditional techniques of cult induction to recruit the boys (because that was what they were) who would "sacrifice" their lives for the Cause. They chose poor and "semi-orphaned" young men and "made them feel like Special Forces," who were then told to say goodbye to their families so they could become family members of Laskar. They are brainwashed by watching films of other "martyrs" and told to rename themselves. The leaders (who, by the way, would NOT be sacrificing their own lives in the attack) used all the familiar techniques of brainwashing: take a vulnerable person who is lacking in a stable & secure identity, "love bomb" them by telling them how special they are, separate them from their familiar environment, then exhaust them with physical and psychological stress so they become even more malleable, and finally give them a new warrior identity.

I also found the role of David Headley (the Pakistani-American who did the onsite strategizing in Mumbai) both interesting and disturbing. His was a nearly perfect portrayal of a charming psychopath who plays all sides, and truly has no conscience or even real political agenda: he's in it for the thrill and the power. I love the fact that he gives himself the following email: "impervious2pain@yahoo.com." How much more grandiose could one get?

So, the first half of the narrative was the more engrossing part from my perspective. The chronicle of the attack was overly detailed and the number of personal stories, overwhelming. Perhaps if I had better special abilities, I could have tracked the parallel chronologies, but I ended up feeling as lost as some of the victims were when the buildings were filled with smoke: pretty disoriented. Had that been clearer, I would have given the book 5 stars. Yet its description of the path from disenchanted youth to homicidal terrorist is well worth reading as we all grapple with the question of how someone could participate in such a heinous attack on civilians.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

One of the best books of 2013, 2012 2011.....

By Boils

The book is a thrill to read and it is quite insightful regarding all the characters involved: good and bad. It should win some sort of award Pulitzer for the great research the authors have done. Every one is human but there is evil out there and we forget it at our own peril. This book makes that perfectly clear.

Why after a good review in the NY Times I'm the only reviewer ...only god knows. Pathetic cause the book is beyond good...and if you read my other reviews you will see I am not an easy guy.

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This book *The Siege: 68 Hours Inside The Taj Hotel By Cathy Scott-clark, Adrian Levy* is anticipated to be one of the most effective seller publication that will make you feel completely satisfied to buy and also read it for completed. As recognized can common, every book will have specific points that will make an individual interested so much. Also it comes from the author, type, content, as well as the author. Nevertheless, many people additionally take the book *The Siege: 68 Hours Inside The Taj Hotel By Cathy Scott-clark, Adrian Levy* based upon the style as well as title that make them astonished in. and also here, this *The Siege: 68 Hours Inside The Taj Hotel By Cathy Scott-clark, Adrian Levy* is very suggested for you because it has appealing title and theme to check out.