

From **YVES BONAVERO**,
the critically acclaimed author of
Something in the Sea (Bloomsbury)
comes 'a riveting historical thriller'

THE NUREMBERG ENIGMA

Published on 10 November 2016, paperback original, £11.99

- to mark the Anniversary of the opening of the Nuremberg Trials on 20 November 1945,
- and the 70th Anniversary of the Nuremberg Executions this autumn

Praise for Yves Bonavero and his first novel, *Something in The Sea* (Bloomsbury)

'a chilling psychological thriller by a debut writer of whom we will certainly hear more' *The Daily Mail*

'I was gripped and enthralled' **William Boyd**

'an astounding tale...an astonishing and gripping story' *The Guardian*

'A brilliantly creepy and worryingly enthralling debut' *Daily Mirror*

'Something of an ancient mariner saga...curiously hypnotic' *Literary Review*

'Creepy, chilling and claustrophobic... will keep you mesmerised' *Time Out*

In **The Nuremberg Enigma**, Yves Bonavero tests and subverts our view of history; then, with a deft weaving of fact and fiction, he guides us towards an explosive denouement in this riveting, historical thriller.

The novel's hero, Peter Birkett, is based on Michael Howard (right), a real-life T Force Intelligence Officer. Michael, now 90, had a life-long ambition to see T Force given its proper place in history. Over a ten-year period, Yves worked with him to uncover his memories and records, and pay tribute to him in what Michael himself describes as 'a riveting historical thriller.'

Yves Bonavero explains further why he wrote this, his second novel:

'I wrote **The Nuremberg Enigma** as an alternative form of 'alternative history'. What if, out of all the facts historians have painstakingly established over the years, a couple had been different – but only marginally so? Would these mini-tweaks be capable of producing world-changing consequences, or is history pre-determined? I wanted the structure of the story to be radically different from other alternative history novels which I admire such as *The Portage to San Cristobal of A.H.* by George Steiner, *Fatherland* by Robert Harris or *The Man in the High Castle* by Philip K. Dick. I also wanted to explore the Nuremberg trials, the thought processes of the judges and the ethical dilemmas facing well-intentioned individuals. Which, out of the cold-war realpolitik and nascent dream of international justice, would win the day?' The novel reflects both his love of historical research, and the work he has done to support human rights for over half a century: founding in 1990, with his wife, the AB Charitable Trust which



has since made £15 million in grants, mainly to charities working with prisoners, refugees and asylum-seekers; helping to establish the Amnesty Human Rights Centre in 2001; and endowing the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at Oxford University, which starts work in October: 'My hope is that it will help resist the erosion of human rights worldwide.'

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Berlin, April 1945. The Führer is missing and the hunt is on - could Hitler be alive?

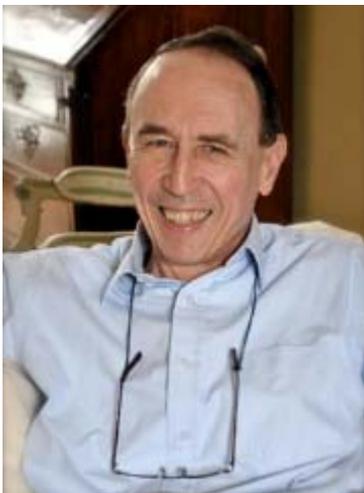
The Reich is imploding. Soon, an International Military Tribunal will convene in Nuremberg to pass judgement on the Nazi elite. It is beset by divisions between the victorious Allies. A rampant Göring is running rings around the prosecution. Anyway, what could this trial possibly mean without Hitler in the dock?

Against the backdrop of a convulsed Europe, Peter Birkett – the youngest captain in the British Army assigned to the mysterious and all-powerful T Force – and Captain Elizaveta Terisova – Stalin's favourite Komsomol maiden – are confronted with the horror of war, the moral and physical dangers of occupation and the peculiar plight of women in combat zones. Smart, resourceful and ruthless, both are deeply conflicted, struggling with their own demons, and baffled by the realpolitik masquerading as international law. Which of their moral principles, if any, can they afford to uphold? What will become of nineteen-year-old Susette, Peter Birkett's German girlfriend?

In a world of spies and doppelgängers, where identifiers such as dental records and fingerprints only add to the confusion, Captain Peter Birkett is having to make life-and-death decisions which not only challenge his moral certainties, but may change the course of history...

Michael Howard and T Force – The fictional character of Peter Birkett was inspired by the extraordinary true story of Michael Howard, who in 1946, aged 19, was sent into the British zone of occupied Germany as part of Target ('T') Force, the special army unit set up to locate and remove to the UK German industrial and intellectual capacity. He was soon appointed Intelligence Officer of the unit covering the ruins of the Ruhr, work that brought him into direct conflict both with resentful ex-Nazis and with the Russians - erstwhile allies, now Cold War rivals - who made regular incursions into the British zone in search of the spoils of war. Meanwhile, he fell in love for the first time, with Margret, the daughter of the German doctor in whose house he was billeted. Michael Howard, now 90, lives in Sevenoaks.

The Nuremberg Enigma will appeal to fans of psychological thrillers, anyone with an interest in World War Two and the Volga Germans, lovers of history and those interested in international law and human rights.



Yves Bonavero was born and educated in Paris. He is a French anglophile, a French novelist who prefers to write in English. As one of Europe's most successful serial entrepreneurs, he chooses to pursue business interests in the UK, and divides his time between homes in London, the Cotswolds and the South of France. He worked in the City of London for fourteen years, rising to the top of a major financial conglomerate, the Man Group, in his early thirties, before founding, at the age of thirty-seven, Bonaparte Films, which gave Daniel Craig his first major role in *The Trench*.

In 1990 he founded, with his wife, the *A B Charitable Trust*, which aims to defend and promote human dignity and rights, especially with unpopular causes. The Trust has recently endowed the *Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at Oxford University*, which starts work in October 2016, to foster links between research and practice in the field of human rights. The inaugural director is Justice Kate O'Regan, who in 1994 was appointed by Nelson Mandela to the Constitutional Court

of South Africa, and this joint initiative between the Faculty of Law and the College is led by Mansfield's Principal, Baroness Helena Kennedy QC. In 1996, with his elder son, he enrolled at Oxford University, and for three years he not only ran half a dozen businesses but was also a full-time mature student in Philosophy and German, gaining a First.

His latest venture is a legal business, *Woodsford Litigation Funding Ltd*, which provides access to justice for those who otherwise can't afford it.

The Nuremberg Enigma is his second novel and follows the huge critical success of his first, *Something in the Sea*, a psychological thriller in a nautical setting published by Bloomsbury, which established him as a writer. He is represented by Charlie Viney at The Viney Agency.

Further Praise for Yves Bonavero and his first novel, *Something in The Sea* (Bloomsbury)

'The plot is tight and exciting, and the writing has great authority... I was so gripped by the story that there was no way I was going to stop.....the framing device of the story is absolutely wonderful... simultaneously original and traditional... I enjoyed reading it enormously.' **Sara Maitland**

'It kept me turning the pages...terrific...I like the premise too... the device of the story within a story is very effective....I enjoyed it a lot.' **Patrick Neate**

'A damn good read' **Oxford Times**

'grips the reader's attention...difficult to put down... the ending is as surprising as it is shocking.'
Yorkshire Gazette & Herald

The Nuremberg Enigma is published on 10 November 2016, as a trade paperback original, price £11.99, by Lark & Frogmouth Books

To reserve a review copy, talk to Yves Bonavero and Michael Howard, or for details of the Oxford book launch at Harris Manchester College, please contact Lisa Shakespeare at Midas Public Relations lisa.shakespeare@midaspr.co.uk / 020 7263 7220

Additional information

- **“Operation Hochzeit” (Operation Marriage), a documentary featuring Michael Howard** (from 17 mins 50 secs onwards) was shown on German WDR-television, on Saturday, August 13 at 4pm: <http://www1.wdr.de/fernsehen/doku-am-freitag/sendungen/operation-hochzeit-100.html>
- **Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at Oxford University** – Announcement from University of Oxford, dated 24 February 2016 <http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2016-02-24-new-bonavero-institute-human-rights-oxford-university-open-later-year>

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