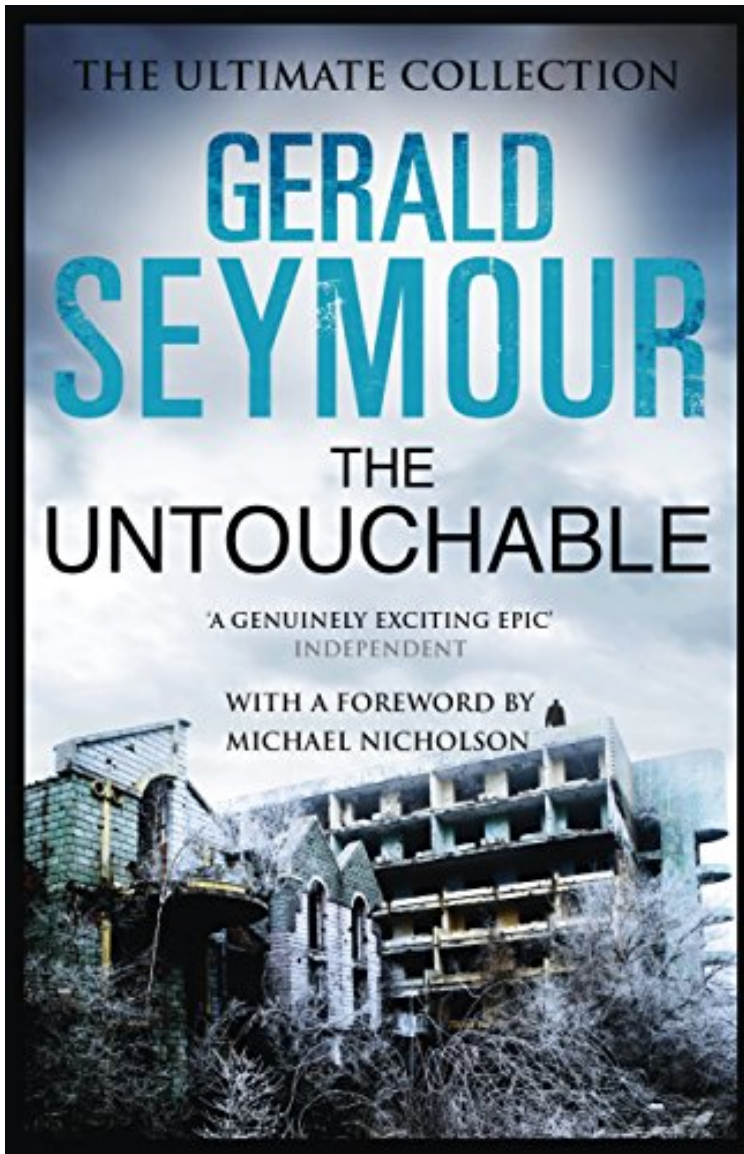


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The Untouchable (English Edition)



Par Gerald Seymour
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Description : Description du produitAlbert William Packer is the supreme baron of London crime. To those around him, on whatever side of the law, he is The Untouchable.Bored with his success at home, Packer sets out to expand his empire abroad. His core business is heroin, bought from the Turks in North Londons Green Lanes. Where better to cut out the middleman than at the historic smuggling crossroads of Europe, the Balkans? When Packer leaves for Sarajevo, Joey Cann of Customs and Excise is tasked to bring back the evidence that will nail him. In London it would have been no contest for Packer. But here on the war-torn, dismal streets of Sarajevo, he is far from home and from what he knows. Here, who will be The Untouchable? Who will walk away?

Prsentation de l'diteurAlbert Packer is the supreme baron of London crime, ruling his domain with a ruthless

fist and thinking of himself as the Untouchable. As yet another criminal case against him collapses, Packer turns his attention to expanding his heroin empire abroad, deciding to travel to Sarajevo himself in order to cut out the middle man. But the Customs Excise unit tasked with taking him down are determined not to give up. Packer may be king on his home turf, but on the war-torn streets of a city where justice is enforced by gangster warlords, he might just make a mistake. And Joey Cann, obsessed with bringing Packer to justice, will be there when he does.

Gerald Seymour has never compromised in his avowed aim of writing richly created, ambitious and innovative thrillers that always challenge the reader's expectations. Travelling to the hot spots that are so vividly rendered in his books gives him the backgrounds he excels in, and his use of locales (such as the Balkans in this novel, *The Untouchable*) remains non-pareil. Here, Seymour again demonstrates his grasp of cutting-edge issues: the grim effects the drug culture is having on the world, and locating the book in Sarajevo allows Seymour to tackle the issue of the West's involvement in foreign zones of conflict when the wars finish and they fade from our memory. The eponymous "untouchable" is Albert William Packer, known to all as Mister. A career criminal, he dispenses rough justice on his manor without mercy, punishing any opposition terminally. When a Customs and Excise case against him is torpedoed, Packer decides to expand. Buying heroin from the Turks in London's Green Lanes no longer satisfies him, so he decides to travel to Sarajevo where he plans to negotiate safe transit through the black market crossroads that is the former Yugoslavia. But he has a nemesis: Home Office Archivist Joey Cann determines to bring Packer down and follows him and his thugs to Sarajevo. Cann initially appears to be a loser, but the inevitable confrontation between the two men in the lethal surroundings of Sarajevo changes both their lives forever. Joey Cann is a protagonist more in the *Le Carré* mould than Seymour's customary professional men of action, and his inexorable stripping away of Packer's sinister layers is expertly done. As always with Seymour (in such books as *Holding the Zero* and *A Line in the Sand*), the dividing line between good and evil is never clear and the moral ambiguities here are quite as satisfying as the utterly involving narrative.

--Barry Forshaw From AudioFile

The ruthlessly evil title character is "Mister," the crime kingpin of London, who has expanded his drug-smuggling empire to postwar Sarajevo. He's followed there by British customs officials zealously eager to entrap and convict him, among them the youngish and mistake-prone hero of this suspenseful novel, Joey Cann. Were it not overlong, this audiobook would merit high marks because of the impressive professionalism of Steven Crossley, who, in frequent scene changes, captures characters perfectly and consistently, flawlessly pronounces Bosnian words, matches pace to mood and plot, and portrays with a chilling intensity the fear of all who interact with Mister, even his closest colleagues. A rich reward lies in store for listeners who stay the course. T.H. AudioFile 2003, Portland, Maine-- Copyright AudioFile, Portland, Maine