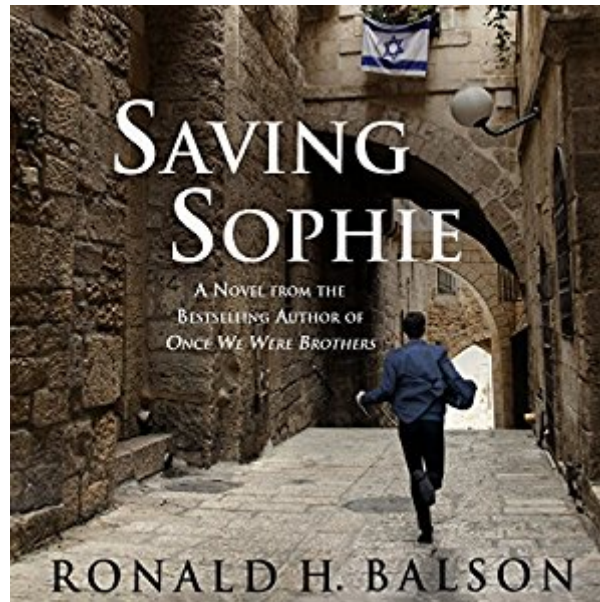




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# Saving Sophie: A Novel



## Synopsis

From Ronald H. Balson, author of *Once We Were Brothers*, *Saving Sophie* is the powerful story of the lengths a father will go through to protect his daughter and an action-packed thriller that will take you on an unforgettable journey of murder and deception, testing the bonds of family and love. Jack Sommers was just an ordinary accountant from Chicago - that is until his wife passed away, his young daughter was kidnapped, and he became the main suspect in an \$88 million embezzlement case. Now Jack is on the run, hoping to avoid the feds long enough to rescue his daughter, Sophie, from her maternal grandfather, a suspected terrorist in Palestine. With the help of investigative team Liam and Catherine, and a new CIA operative, a secret mission is launched not only to rescue Sophie but also to thwart a major terrorist attack in Hebron. But will being caught in the crossfires of the Palestine-Israeli conflict keep their team from accomplishing the task at hand, or can they overcome the odds and save countless lives, including their own?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

.I loved *Once We Were Brothers* and did not think the author could top his first novel but he has with *Saving Sophie*. This is a fast paced book that has you jumping from Chicago to Hawaii and spending most of the novel in the middle east. The first book centered on good versus evil and this one takes evil a big step forward. I have a question? Why are there only 8 reviews prior to mine when the internet is filled with them? As you know Sophie is six year old child who loses her mother to an insidious disease that kills her quickly. Her father is grief stricken and Sophie and he are

bonded by their love. The grandparents who live in Hebron which is a hotbed for terrorists kidnap the child and try and brain wash her into believing her parents did not love her. Jack, the tormented dad steals millions of dollars in his effort to pay off the evil grandfather and get his child back. You think Nazis are evil? You have not met the grandfather and his cronies. They take it even farther if possible. This book is less sentimental than the debut novel and keeps you riveted to the novel. Being a cynical New Yorker I thought nothing could shock me but the ending of this book blew my socks off! there are Russian baddies, American bad guys, and the worst-the mad tyrannical doctor who has hatched a plot to rid the Arab world of Jews with germ warfare but he takes it a step further than you thought possible. Liam and Catharine are back from the first book but you don't see too much of Catharine in this novel. There is a fast talking too brave for her own good spy who has her own agenda. NO spoilers. She spends a good part of the book with the Liam in the middle east to try and foil a plot to kill off thousands of Israelis but also to supposedly save Sophie. She is a loving little girl who adored her parents and is clinging to the hope that her daddy will come and get her while the psychotic terrorist grandfather keeps drumming into her mind that her father does not want her anymore. there was one bugaboo and that was all the history the author wrote into the book. As a Jew I was glad I now have a better knowledge of the birth of Israel and all that has happened since WWI-but-I think he could have cut the lesson short a tad. Once I made it through the novel took off like a rocket with more twists and turns than a roller coaster. there are evil Russians and Americans. Saving Sophie had me riveted right to the shocker of an ending. I love this author and was relieved he will have a third book coming out next year. I have to give Saving Sophie two big thumbs up. Warning: there is more violence here than in his previous tome. This is not for the faint hearted. Sit back....make some popcorn....and enjoy.

The multi-layered, engrossing plot unfolds slowly rendering small but crucial tidbits of information: stolen money, a death in the family, a kidnapping, a terror plot, a murder. The details come together as an in a puzzle, pieces falling into place one by one. As the story aligns, the plot turns from a mystery into a fast-paced thriller. Catherine Lockhart and Liam Taggart, attorney and investigator from Balson's novel, "Once We Were Brothers", return to investigate both the missing money and the missing persons. As Jack Sommers copes with the loss of his wife, he struggles to retake his daughter from kidnappers, his own in-laws, and becomes involved in an embezzlement scheme. Kayla Cummings, a spy operative intent on catching a particularly evil and determined group of men, works together with Taggart and Sommers to foil the terror plot and snatch the perpetrators. The novel advances quickly with relatively short

chapters narrated by the different characters and moves from Chicago, to Hawaii, Israel and Hebron. The novel, infused with history of Israel, beginning with Abraham, and the history of the Israeli-Arab conflict, succeeds to avoid typical character stereotypes. However, both romantic relationships in the novel become somewhat melodramatic.

I read *Once We Were Brothers*, also by Ronald Balson. I could not put it down and thoroughly enjoyed the story. *Saving Sophie* was good, but not as enjoyable as his first book. There were so many different characters introduced in a short span. With the different cultures also mixed into the storyline, I often had trouble following what was happening and where. All that being said, I felt *Saving Sophie* was a worthwhile read because of the storyline revolving around the Middle Eastern nations and interesting history relayed in the book.

*Saving Sophie* was an easy read and I enjoyed revisiting the characters Liam and Katherine but it did not have the effect that *Once We Were Brothers* had on me. I absolutely loved that book and I think I was expecting but more like hoping this novel would be on the same level. It was enjoyable to read but didn't have the same effect on me as his other book.

This book has it all! The characters came to life during the story making it believable! Cat and Liam's love continues on and a man and his daughter are reunited at last. A story of jihadist terrorism is real and terrifying. A beautiful spy Kayla determined to save the lives of innocent people at all costs as she revenges the death of her husband and sister. You must read this book!!

The "bones" of the story were ok, but the dialogue was ridiculously childish and simplistic, many plot points weren't realistic, and the book had several grammatical mistakes. Where were the editors/proofreaders?!

Well crafted story which held my attention 'til the end. The espionage elements were edifying and proved to be a window to think and see more about how governments work together to "get the bad guys". Many suspenseful parts I wasn't able to anticipate the outcomes for. Appreciated the commitment of the family members' and friends commitments to helping and supporting one another, and how love really does prevail! Dr. Robin Bentel, Marin County, Ca.

Thanks for the the research and the humanity of your characters. Love will conquer evil. Wish I

could believe that future generations could solve this hated thing. Unfortunately, it seems man is destined to carry the evil gene; history repeating itself.

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