

Book Review: Fortunate Son

By Andrew Bridgeman

Every now and then I come across a book that *has not* been on any best seller list, but most definitely should have been. Because it's better (in my opinion) than many of the books on those lists.

"Fortunate Son" is Andrew Bridgeman's debut novel, and it's one of those books. And I'm sure it would have made multiple best seller lists if his last name was Grisham or Patterson.

The story opens on the precipice of a plan aimed at changing the course of history in the U.S. Then, with the background established, the narrative shifts to present day, twenty years later, and the wheels are in motion.

Ben Danvers is in his mid-twenties. He lives in a small apartment in Boston with his girlfriend, Kate, a first-grade teacher, and occupies the bottom rung at a local investment firm. He's quiet. Shy. And his world is completely shattered when rookie Special Agent Emma Noble informs him that not only is he *not* the son of a quiet Vermont couple, but his mother just shot and killed his stepfather, then turned the gun on herself.

Can things get worse? Sure can.

Twenty years ago, a famous kidnapping took place. Identical twin 5-year-old boys were taken from their home while their parents were out for the evening. The case was never solved – until today. Ben is one of those boys. And his birth mother is a wealthy politician who, in five days, will be sworn in as the U.S. vice president.

Try wrapping your head around that.

Ben can't. So he runs, searching for answers to the life he thought was his, and the woman who raised him. And as he runs, he discovers a cult planning to fulfill a prophecy decades in the making. He also becomes a wanted man on multiple fronts. Assassins want to kill

him, and Agent Noble is trying to rescue him. But Ben is coming to realize he may not be able to trust anyone.

As the conspiracy grows, so does the tension and drama. The narrative reads like an action movie, seldom loosening its grip, and encompassing numerous plot twists that will leave you guessing until the end.

The book is fiction. But it offers a chilling narrative of what *could* happen if forces aimed at bringing down this country infiltrated the government's infrastructure at some of the highest levels of authority.

Scary stuff – because it *could* happen.

I thoroughly enjoyed “Fortunate Son.” Happy to give it 4.5 stars, and equally enthusiastic to check out Emma Noble #2, “A Noble Sin.” If it’s anything like “Fortunate Son”, it will be another thrilling ride.