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The Secret Pilgrim (George Smiley)



Synopsis

The Berlin Wall is toppled and the Iron Curtain has swept aside. The Secret Pilgrim is Ned, a decent, loyal soldier of the Cold War, who has been in British Intelligence all his adult life. Now, approaching the end of his career, he is forced to revisit his secret years. He illuminates the brave past of George Smiley, his hero and mentor, who gives back to him the dangerous edge of memory that empowers him finally to frame the questions that have haunted him for thirty years --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #10,618,004 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (L) > Le Carre, John #16635 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers #24801 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Espionage

Customer Reviews

Powerful. . . Remarkable. . . A grand summation of all John le Carre's themes. --New York Times

Intriguing. . . Magisterial. . . The many ingredients are skillfully marshaled. Lucidly and elegantly controlled. --New York Times Book Review

Le Carre is writing at the top of his form. --Los Angeles Times

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A brilliant novel which makes the characters come to life with wonderful dialogue and insight into their thoughts and personalities.

Loved the story written by the Master himself.

Vintage John LeCarre',

I like anything by John LeCarre.

Keeps you turning the pages. The story is highly believable. John Le Carre at his best. Will recommend to all my friends.

I have read a lot of John le Carre and this book was a perfect ending to his Smiley series.

Bit of a grab bag of stuff le Carre might have had in his bottom drawer but for all that well up to his usual high standard.

Aging comes with consequences, among them being a reflection on the meaning of our past efforts. As someone who has been on a binge of Le Carre books for several months, this worthy effort peals away the reflections of a Cold War warrior through Smiley's presentation to young men and women in training to ply Smiley's trade in post Cold War circumstances. A series of anecdotes add up to a series of lessons learned, some good and some bad, but all worth learning. Smiley was never caught up in the hubris of others. He had a sense of limitations on the power to make significant change in world affairs, but he also had a sense of necessity for someone to act to oppose the Russian Bear. Perhaps I liked this book because, at age 70, I find myself going through a reflective period, coming to grips with the horizon that seemed so far away in my prime and realizing that the road will actually come to an end.

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