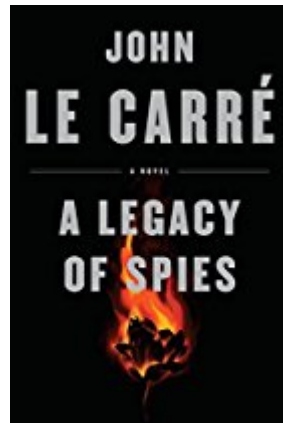


Read A Legacy of Spies: A Novel By John le Carré



The undisputed master returns with a riveting new book—his first Smiley novel in more than twenty-five years. Peter Guillam, staunch colleague and disciple of George Smiley of the British Secret Service, otherwise known as the Circus, is living out his old age on the family farmstead on the south coast of Brittany when a letter from his old Service summons him to London. The reason? His Cold War past has come back to claim him. Intelligence operations that were once the toast of secret London, and involved such characters as Alec Leamas, Jim Prideaux, George Smiley and Peter Guillam himself, are to be scrutinized by a generation with no memory of the Cold War and no patience with its justifications. Interweaving past with present so that each may tell its own intense story, John le Carré has spun a single plot as ingenious and thrilling as the two predecessors on which it looks back: *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. In a story resonating with tension, humor and moral ambivalence, le Carré and his narrator Peter Guillam present the reader with a legacy of unforgettable characters old and new.

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Amazon.com Review An Amazon Best Book of September 2017: John Le Carré, who you may know from the classic George Smiley spy novels, has returned after 25 years to bring us *The Legacy of Spies*, an interweaving of past and present storylines that allows new readers a way into these (I'm going to say it... perfect) thrillers and will have longtime fans swooning. I have loved the Smiley series since I first read book one, so I was more than apprehensive when I heard Le Carré was reigniting the storyline with 'Legacy' after so many years (needlessly as it turns out). Peter Guillam, Smiley's most prized assistant, returns with both grace and vengeance as he evaluates life and the lies he has created to survive. Readers don't need to have read the past titles to understand or enjoy 'Legacy', but I guarantee you will want to go back and start at the beginning as soon as you turn that final page. --Penny Mann Review "[Le Carré's] novels are so brilliant because they're emotionally

and psychologically absolutely true, but of course they're novels."—New York Times Book Review "[Le Carré] can convey a character in a sentence, land an emotional insight in [a] phrase & demolish an ideology in a paragraph." —Publishers Weekly (starred) "Le Carré is such a gifted storyteller that he interlaces the cards in his deck so they fit not simply with this book, but with the earlier ones as well."—The Atlantic "We wish for more complexity and logic in our politics, so we look to make political art that is logical and complex: a genre defined by John le Carré."—New Republic "Any reader who knows le Carré's earlier work, and quite a few who don't, will assume that any attempt to second-guess the mandarins of the Service will backfire. The miracle is that the author can revisit his best-known story and discover layer upon layer of fresh deception beneath it." —Kirkus Praise for John le Carré "One of our great writers of moral ambiguity, a tireless explorer of that darkly contradictory no-man's land." —Los Angeles Times "No other writer has charted—pitilessly for politicians but thrillingly for readers—the public and secret histories of his times." —The Guardian (UK) "I would suggest immortality for John le Carré, who I believe one of the most intelligent and entertaining writers working today." —Alan Cheuse, Chicago Tribune "The constant flow of emotion lifts le Carré not only above all modern suspense novelists, but above most novelists now practicing." —Financial Times "A writer of towering gifts." —The Independent (UK) About the Author John le Carré was born in 1931 and attended the universities of Bern and Oxford. He taught at Eton and served briefly in British intelligence during the Cold War. For the last fifty years he has lived by his pen. He divides his time between London and Cornwall.

Customer Reviews Most helpful customer reviews 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Litigated back to the Cold War - 4+ By Blue in Washington Peter Guillam is a retired British spy (protoge of George Smiley) who is called back to London to answer accusations about a botched operation that took place 30 years before. He endures an investigation by snarky Secret Service lawyers which gradually exposes multiple layers of linked espionage against the East Germans in the days before the building of the Berlin Wall. Guillam's possible culpability in what amounts to a kind of rolling human tragedy comes into focus before the story makes a judgement on his role. Eventually, the reader is provided with a conclusion/resolution, which suggests that the man's future will most likely not see further scrutiny. "A Legacy..." is a return to Le Carre's classic Cold War landscape and portrays with skill the cynicism of security services and their government masters. Contemporary writers (Mick Herron comes to mind) are no less cold-eyed about the business of spying and the apparati behind it than Le Carre, which suggests that things haven't changed much in the years since the end of the first Cold War. Le Carre always writes with intelligence and humanity and this latest novel is a fine read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A trip down memory lane By Paul C. Benoit I'm a long time George Smiley fan and thus of his creator ... John LeCarre. I was so excited to hear of this new book, I ordered it and read it over three evenings masterful as usual... just awesome to "hear" about my old acquaintances....the Circus crew. A simply great read. I did think that Lacon was from the Foreign office and not the Treasury ... but a nit. I think I'll read the whole Smiley series again....and watch Sir Alec Guinness again in Tinker, Tailor and Smiley's people. Thank you thank you thank you to John LeCarre for making my Summer reading so wonderful. For LeCarre and especially Smiley and Guillam fans this book is a MUST read!!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. And the ambiance and the bad old times of the cold - not so cold ... By Jacyr Pasternak George Smilei still lives (this is a spoiler). And the ambiance and the bad old times of the cold - not so cold - war, with those turncoats and brutal commies is today like an historical novel. But John Le Carre is always the master: it's a good book, better than Le Carre incursions in Big Pharma in Africa. See all 106 customer reviews...

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