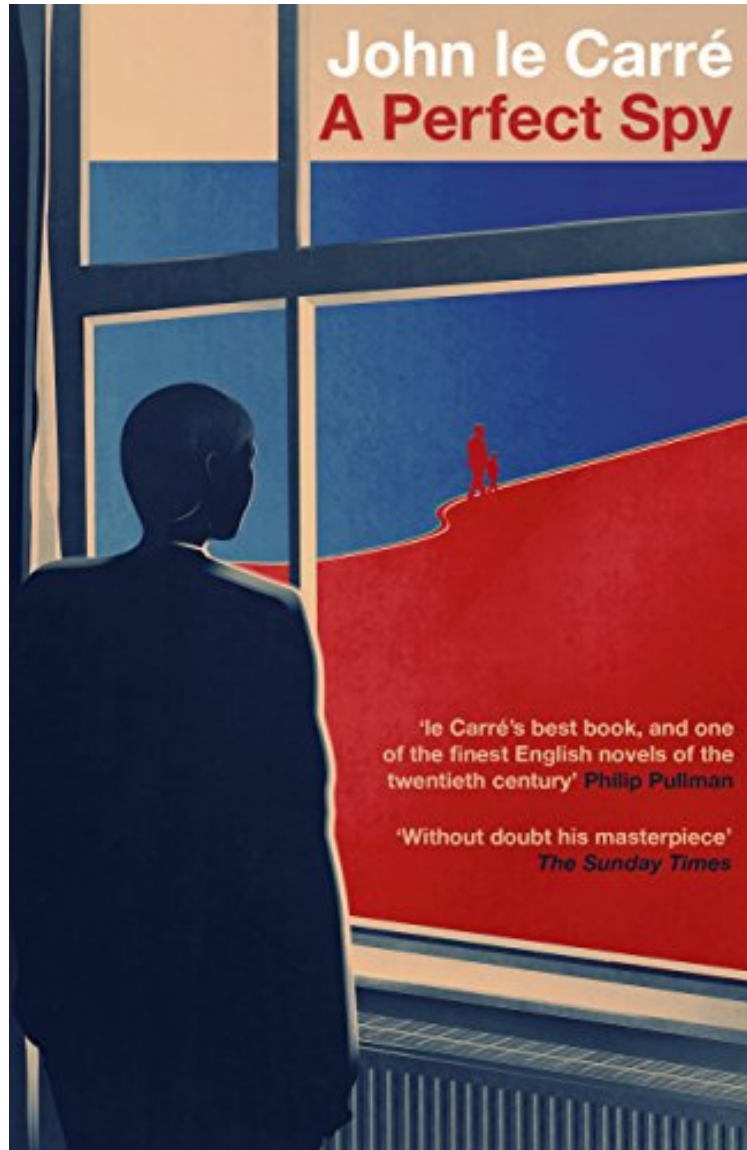


[Download] A Perfect Spy (English Edition)

A Perfect Spy (English Edition)

Von John le Carré

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Von John le Carré : A Perfect Spy (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Perfect Spy (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Booooring!Von Arno SchferI really believe this was THE most boring book I have ever had the persistence to wade through, and I have little doubt it is the most suspense-less spy novel ever written. It is a horrible, horrible waste of time, IMHO.The book has no real story line to speak of, its plot can be summed up as: a British/Czech double agent

goes into hiding after the death of his father, his British bosses feverishly searching for him, and in the end he is cornered and shoots himself. In the meantime, we read page after page after page about the agent's childhood, his con man father, his more or less wasted attempts at education, his love affairs, and his youth friendship with a German in Bern, who he betrays, and who later uses his guilt to recruit him as a double agent for the Czech intelligence service. Not only that, we even read about the childhood of the father, and all of his life's story. An item that at first glance seems to be playing an important role in the story is a metal filing cabinet that the father keeps lugging around for no apparent reason, containing evidence of his crimes. It is ominously mentioned every few pages, and people seem to be going to great lengths to get to it, but in the end, nothing comes off it. Ah well...The writing style is confusing, to put it mildly. Le Carré switches between cases, places and times, with no discernible boundaries. "Linguistic artistry" is what they call it - must be modern art then. You would probably have to read it multiple times to get through this mess, but there is really no point, the book is so tedious you just don't feel any need to understand the fine points. I am truly utterly mystified what people see in this book. It supposedly was a #1 NY Times bestseller, there are glowing reviews right here at - hmm. "Epic in scope and length" - that I can attest to, it is epic all right. "Masterful" - that is highly debatable. Well, I guess it must be me then, I probably just don't get it. Just be warned: this is NOT a thriller, not by any stretch, and in the broadest and most benevolent sense. There is just no suspense. But if you are looking for an epic, and have read the Encyclopedia Britannica already, then this book may be for you. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Perfect Spy - John Le Carré als Businessman Von NN "The best English novel since the war", nannte Philip Roth dieses Buch - wollen wir hoffen, er irrte. So ein Satz sagt mehr über den Sprecher als das Besprochene. Le Carré's Buch ist in Wahrheit nur Mittelmaß, ganz unabhängig von individuellen Vorlieben. Denn was leistet es, muss man sich fragen, zumindest wenn es um mehr als um Unterhaltung geht? Im Grunde genommen versucht er sich an einem großen Entwicklungsroman, der die Geschichte eines Doppelagenten psychologisch durchleuchten soll. Das gelingt auch im ganz konkreten Fall des Magnus Pym, scheitert aber trotzdem im höheren Sinne eben an der Außergewöhnlichkeit der individuellen Biografie Pym's, dessen prägender Vater ein Con man (ein Hochstapler) ist, und der schon deswegen nicht in einem typischen, verallgemeinerungsfähigen Ambiente aufwächst. Eine generelle Psycho-Analyse des Typus "Spion" ist damit von vornherein unmöglich gemacht, stattdessen wird ein massenliteraturtypischer Sensationalismus bedient. Das Schielen auf den Bestsellererfolg lässt sich im Übrigen auch stilistisch nachweisen, insbesondere die oft flachen, aber schnellen Dialoge scheinen aus dem Sprachvorrat der kommerziellen Literatur zu stammen, aufgepeppt durch Fachvokabular, Slang und Idiosynkrasien; das ständige Saufen, die Bersexualisierung etc. tun ein Übriges. Zieht man dann noch die unnötige Länge in Betracht, die zahlreichen ausufernden Beschreibungen, die oft nichts zum Handlungsgefüge beisteuern und zu aufgesetzt ernsthafte Literatur sein wollen, dann kann das objektive Urteil nur zurückhaltend ausfallen. Manches spricht allerdings auch für diesen Roman: Da sind in erster Linie die interessanten Einblicke in die Psyche des praktizierenden Agenten. Großartig wird die ständig wachsende und endlich zu großer Komplexität des Längenspins des deutlich gemacht, die letztlich zur Angreifbarkeit, sprich Doppelagententätigkeit führen muss, selbst wenn es keine ideologischen oder finanziellen Gründe geben mag - hier vor allem ist Le Carré meisterhaft, da plaudert er glaubhaft aus dem Nähkästchen, dort merkt man ihm die eigene Geheimdienstertätigkeit an. Und nicht unterschlagen werden sollen die wirklich gelungenen Szenen, die es auch gibt, bei denen einem das Herz stehen zu bleiben droht. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not quite perfection but so close to it... Von Ein Kunde For those who still wonder about Le Carré's past and secret life, "A Perfect Spy" unveils lots of small mysteries. But besides the fact this book tells us a lot about the author's childhood, it remains a fascinating trip in the depths of the diplomatic society, the beautiful people, misery in the darkest places of England and dozens of small unreachable worlds. Once again but better than ever Le Carré takes you to a mystery tour that change your looking at your own world. Pym becomes your closest friend, his wife the one you'd like to tell everything, the other characters become your foes... This time you learn everything, bit by bit, but you still remain helpless, you can't do anything but keeping going deeper and deeper through the complexity of one's life and feelings. Turning the last page is like being knocked out, but guess what? You want more of it! Satisfaction guaranteed...

Kurzbeschreibung Le Carré's most autobiographical novel is also widely held to be his masterpiece, and the finest spy novel of the twentieth-century. 'Le Carré's best book, and one of the finest English novels of the twentieth century' Philip Pullman 'Without doubt his masterpiece.' The Sunday Times 'A perfect work of fiction' The Sunday Times 'One of the enduring peaks of imaginative literature in our time' Los Angeles Times Magnus Pym, ranking diplomat, has vanished, believed defected. The chase is on: for a missing husband, a devoted father, and a secret agent. Pym's life, it is revealed, is entirely made up of secrets. Dominated by a father who is also a confidence trickster on an epic scale, Pym has from the age of seventeen been controlled by two mentors. It is these men, racing each other, who are orchestrating the search to find the perfect spy. Described by the author as his most autobiographical work, John Le Carré's eleventh novel masterfully blends wit, compassion and unflagging tension with the poignant story of an estranged father and son. 'The best spy novel of all time' Publishers Weekly 'The best English novel since the war'

Philip Roth
From Publishers Weekly
Le Carre's new novel overshadows *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold* and his other bestsellers. The author's intense feelings, linguistic artistry and stinging wit draw the reader into the story of Magnus Pym, traitor. Epic in scope and length, the narrative moves backward and forward in time, recording crises-ridden events from the viewpoints of numerous characters. Primarily, the revelations are in an epistle Pym addresses to his young son Tom. The writer is holed-up in a remote country cottage where he tries to explain his crimes to the boy before pursuers find him. For years a trusted agent in British Intelligence, Pym has been giving England's and America's vital secrets to a contact in Czechoslovakia. Now Jack Brotherhood, the spy's mentor in the honorable organization, sadly agrees with colleagues that Pym is guilty. The proof is his disappearance, coincidental with data gushing from CIA computers and sent by U.S. agents to their opposite numbers in London. Determined to minimize the damage of Pym's treachery and create a coverup if possible, Brotherhood takes charge of a team searching for the betrayer. As the lives of everyone involved in this netherworld of espionage become tragically immediate to the reader, Le Carre again masterfully chronicles the dangerous game-playing world of international espionage. 350,000 first printing; BOMC main selection. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal
Le Carre's latest commences with the sudden disappearance from his posting and family in Vienna of elegant British master-spy Magnus Pym. The narrative immediately splits and alternates: one voice, dubious, insistent, tells of the diligent and urgent race among ex-agent wife Mary, co-worker Jack Brotherhood, and ubiquitous Czech agent "Sergeant Pavel" to find the possible defector; the other voice (Pym's own), ruminative, wry, relates the colorful history and amoral motivations behind the successful spy. By the time the two voices converge in the present, the comprehensive character Pym as seen by others and by himself stands alone, ready to carry out his decision. Not a spy novel in the usual sense, then, but a skillfully manipulated, complex, and probingly written study spiced with lively anecdotes. To be savored. BOMC main selection. Rex E. Klett, Anson Cty. Lib., Wadesboro
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