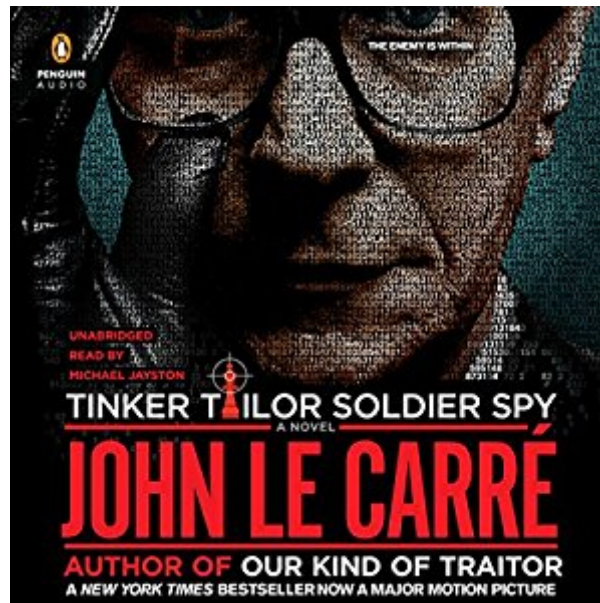


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Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy: A George Smiley Novel



Synopsis

The inspiration for the major motion picture *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, starring Gary Oldman and Colin Firth. The first novel in John le Carré's celebrated Karla trilogy, *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* is a heart-stopping tale of international intrigue. The man he knew as "Control" is dead, and the young Turks who forced him out now run the Circus. But George Smiley isn't quite ready for retirement - especially when a pretty, would-be defector surfaces with a shocking accusation: a Soviet mole has penetrated the highest level of British Intelligence. Relying only on his wits and a small, loyal cadre, Smiley recognizes the hand of Karla - his Moscow Centre nemesis - and sets a trap to catch the traitor. The feature film adaptation of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* is directed by Tomas Alfredson (*Let the Right One In*) and features a cast that includes Gary Oldman as Smiley, Academy Award-winner Colin Firth (*The King's Speech*), and Tom Hardy (*Inception*).

Book Information

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#316 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Military

Customer Reviews

The time is the early 1970's and British intelligence has slowed to a crawl as the realization dawns they have been penetrated at a high level by a Russian spy. All the loyal members have been pushed out and one of those left is the mole. Led by George Smiley the ousted agents combine to ferret out the culprit. England was a grey and grim place back then and this book reflects that. Only le Carre's writing saves this book from a time and place frankly not worth visiting. In later versions of his work the author has written thoughtful forwards reflecting on the ins and outs of that particular book. *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* seems to be the first book that le Carre does not seem faintly

embarrassed by. The reason for that is that he has worked hard through a long career at improving his craft. Books preceding this have not aged well but from this book on I feel he has only gotten better with age until he has reached a point where he is arguably the finest living writer in his genre.

I'm afraid to admit that the movie made the book better. Trying to keep track of the various character's was a little difficult without being able to remember the actors' faces from the movie. (Similarly, I feel Cloud Atlas, which was incredible!, was made better by the movie.) I keep wanting to buy more of the George Smiley novels, but I haven't yet.

Saw the movie before reading the book; as is so often the case, changes in the script and casting decisions detracted from the story. Le Carre's command of the language and the English vernacular is extraordinary. I couldn't put it down, even though I knew how it ended.

Complex story, quick read and hard to put down. Very, very English--almost need to a guide to English terminology, but once you get your mind set for the dialogue, it is fairly easy to follow. Fascinating story about the cold war era, which seems so long ago and forgotten now, but was so an omnipresent during much of my lifetime. Great story, look past any anti-American aspects, and chalk it up to memories of a faded empire and scorn for colonial upstarts.

One of the best spy novels I have ever read. One is left to wonder whether the villainous double agent is based on the real-life scoundrel and traitor, Kim Philby, who spent over twenty years of his life betraying his country to the USSR!

Fantastically well-written presentation of the seedy, paranoic, and unglamorous workings of a secret service. It's not an easy tale to follow but it's a rewarding one. At times cynical and at times laugh-out-loud funny, it's a book of wit and realism and contempt; a condemnation of the way nations conduct their private business.

Thought this was excellent and had everything that I look for in a "thriller." Can't add anything really to the reviews already written but for a tautly woven plot, with wonderful characterization then this book is well worth a read. A gem of a thriller.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book by le Carr  . An intriguing ride through the twists and turns of the

Great Game.

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