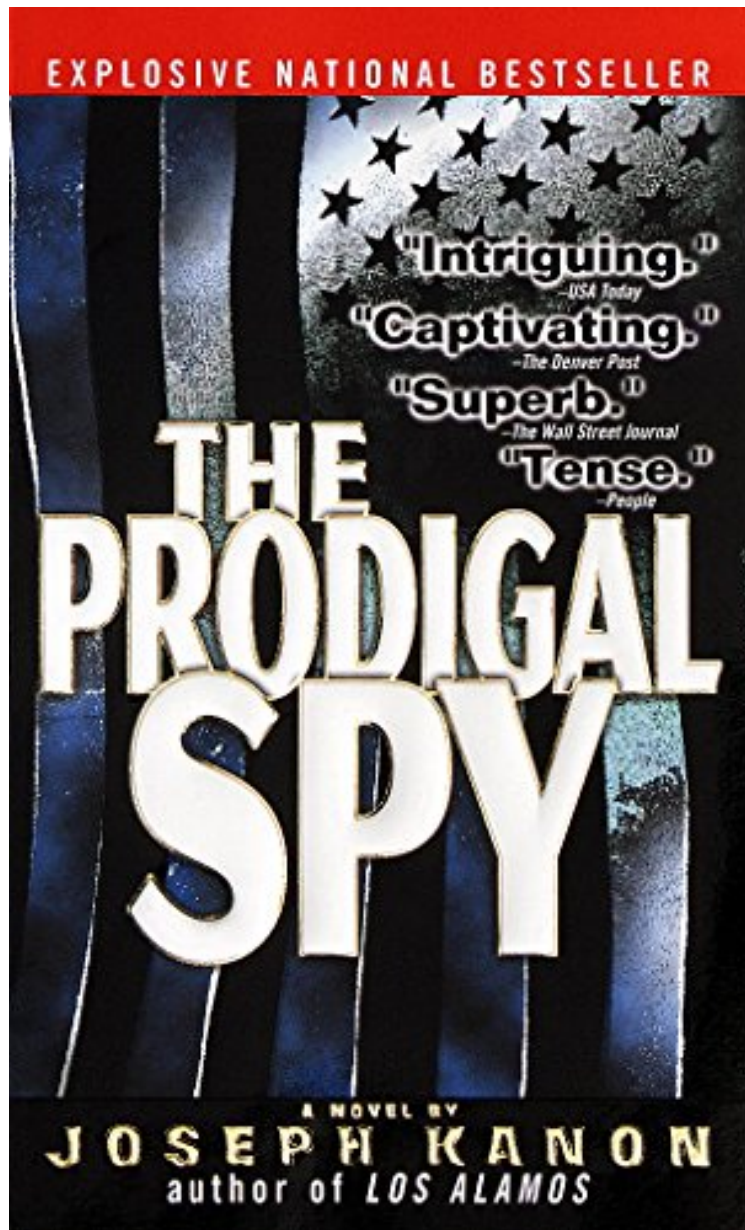


[Read download] The Prodigal Spy

The Prodigal Spy

Von Joseph Kanon

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #380843 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2010-09-29Erscheinungsdatum: 2010-09-29File Name: B0043M4ZDY | File size: 63.Mb

Von Joseph Kanon : The Prodigal Spy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Prodigal Spy:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A quick, intelligent, above-average espionage read.Von JennyThe pace of this book was strong and swift. I was engrossed from

the first pages, interested in the characters and the story, which was unexpected-especially the start from a child's viewpoint (it's nice to read when a child is written both smart and believable) and that the focal characters (son, father, mother) have dimension. I thought it was above average because the people were as interesting as the unfolding of the plot which, though somewhat predictable ultimately (but c'mon, that's why whodunit readers read 'em: so we feel smart that we pretty much knew who the who was), had some neat pivots along the way. The best part about it? The snappy dialogue and the constantly racing, analyzing mind of the protagonist. That, woven with its backdrop (drawn clearly, without any of that maudlin overdescription), make it worth a read. Made me want to read other stuff Kanon has written.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Intriguing Look at the Abuses of Power
Von Donald Mitchell
If you are like me, you thought you knew what you thought about the Red hunts in Washington in the early 1950s and about Soviet spying activities since then. Joseph Kanon changed my perspective completely by focusing on Nick Kotlar, the son of a man accused of being a Soviet agent by the House Un-American Activities Committee. As the book begins, Nick is ten and his house is surrounded by reporters every morning before his father heads to the Capitol to testify. As the story continues, Nick plays a determined hand in trying to understand what was going on . . . and what it all meant. The book becomes an amazing story of finding oneself by sifting through the ruined lives of the older generation. The book is in three sections (in Washington D.C. in 1950, in Europe 18 years later, and back in the United States shortly thereafter). The first two are riveting and tremendously rewarding. The final section is far too predictable to work well. I recommend that you read the book, nevertheless. You can actually skip the final section if you want. I think I would have liked the book better if I had. I listened to this book rather than read it. The version I listened to was the unabridged one by Books on Tape. Michael Kramer does an impressive job with the different characters by altering his voice more than I thought possible. Some of the voices he does for the people in Czechoslovakia are brilliant! Try to listen to this version if you can. After you finish reading or listening to the book, think about where today power is being used to create harm and deny freedom of choice. Where is it being done by totalitarian regimes . . . and where by democratic ones? What are the differences? How can such abuses of power be eliminated?

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Match for "Los Alamos"
Von M KIRK-DUGGANI
I like to play Tai Pei for relaxation. One of the beauties of the game is that one can see a necessary piece, but one cannot remove it until other pieces, which partially cover it, are removed. This book, like its predecessor, shows its evil persona from the start, but uses many twists and turns before the dramatis persona is fully exposed to the other characters. I found it most interesting that Sen. McCarthy and Roy Cohn were not portrayed, but a nice portrait of J. Edgar Hoover was crucial to the denouement. Degrading Cardinal Spellman to a mere Monsignor was also a nice touch. The lead Congressman seems based on Parnell Thomas, of HUAC fame. There was an American diplomat who defected to the Czech Republic; and the declassification of the Verona cables makes it clear that there were GRU/NKVD couriers during the immediate post WWII era. This book raises an interesting "What If?" Alger Hiss had fled when Whittaker Chambers pulled the microfilm out of the pumpkin? Again if one likes Columbo and Tai Pei, this book will delight. On the other hand, if one likes the complete surprise of Murder She Wrote, or Sherlock Holmes, then this is not for you. Definitely a must for Fu Manchu, Diagnosis Murder, but Clarence Darrow was a shirt-tail relative!]

Kurzbeschreibung
In a time of accusations, treachery and lies, some secrets were heartbreaking... Others were deadly. Once, Nick Kotlar tried to save his father. From the angry questions. From the accusations. From a piece of evidence that only Nick knew about and that he destroyed for his father. But in the Red Scare of 1950 Walter Kotlar could not be saved. Branded a spy, he fled the country, leaving behind a wife, a young son and a key witness lying dead below her D.C. hotel room. Now, twenty years later, Nick will get a second chance. Because a beautiful journalist has brought a message from his long-lost father, and Nick will follow her into Soviet-occupied Prague for a painful reunion. Confronting a father he barely remembers and a secret that could change everything, Nick knows he must return to the place where it all began: to unravel a lie, to penetrate a deadly conspiracy, and to expose the one person who knew the truth and watched a family be destroyed.

From the Paperback edition.
de Joseph Kanon's debut thriller, *Los Alamos*, captivated readers and critics alike and was awarded the 1998 Edgar Award for Best First Novel. The *Prodigal Spy*, set in the aftermath of the Manhattan Project, offers a glimpse at cold war espionage and a very personal story about the effects of McCarthyism and the paranoia that it spawned. Once again, Kanon effortlessly weaves together history and fiction in prose that is thick with period details. The real achievement of the book, though, is the author's strong sense of his narrative center, Nick Kotlar. The novel begins in 1950 in the Kotlar home in Washington, D.C., as young Nick tries to make sense of the masses of reporters who have gathered outside his house. Though his parents struggle to shield him from the truth, he inadvertently sees a newsreel that reveals his father's predicament: State Department undersecretary Walter Kotlar is under the intense scrutiny of Congressman Kenneth Welles of the House Un-American Activities Committee. Kanon perfectly captures the sensibilities of a child with a parent in peril; disbelieving Nick becomes a fledgling spy, trying to erase any clues in his home that might support Welles and his

committee. But one night, after an explosive conversation with Nick's mother, his father disappears. That same night, the woman who had accused Walter Kotlar of spying commits suicide--or was she murdered? In 1953, Mr. Kotlar gives a press conference from Moscow announcing his defection. The book then moves to London in 1969, where Nick meets a young woman who tells him that not only is his father still alive but he has been keeping tabs on his son for the 19 years since he fled to the Soviet Union. This revelation draws Nick into a meeting with the seriously ill elder Kotlar and propels Nick into some intelligence gathering of his own--to uncover the man who caused Walter Kotlar's defection and who killed his father's accuser. With *The Prodigal Spy*, Kannon has once again breathed new life into spy fiction. --Patrick O'Kelley.co.uk

Joseph Kanon's debut thriller, *Los Alamos*, captivated readers and critics alike and was awarded the 1998 Edgar Award for Best First Novel. *The Prodigal Spy*, set in the aftermath of the Manhattan Project, offers a glimpse at cold war espionage and a very personal story about the effects of McCarthyism and the paranoia that it spawned. Once again, Kanon effortlessly weaves together history and fiction in prose that is thick with period details. The real achievement of the book, though, is the author's strong sense of his narrative center, Nick Kotlar. The novel begins in 1950 in the Kotlar home in Washington, D.C., as young Nick tries to make sense of the masses of reporters who have gathered outside his house. Though his parents struggle to shield him from the truth, he inadvertently sees a newsreel that reveals his father's predicament: State Department Undersecretary, Walter Kotlar, is under the intense scrutiny of Congressman Kenneth Welles of the House Un-American Activities Committee. Kanon perfectly captures the sensibilities of a child with a parent in peril; disbelieving Nick becomes a fledgling spy, trying to erase any clues in his home that might support Welles and his committee. But one night, after an explosive conversation with Nick's mother, his father disappears. That same night, the woman who had accused Walter Kotlar of spying commits suicide--or was she murdered? In 1953, Mr. Kotlar gives a press conference from Moscow announcing his defection. The book then moves to London in 1969, where Nick meets a young woman who tells him that not only is his father still alive but he has been keeping tabs on his son for the 19 years since he fled to the Soviet Union. This revelation draws Nick into a meeting with the seriously ill elder Kotlar and propels Nick into some intelligence gathering of his own--to uncover the man who caused Walter Kotlar's defection and who killed his father's accuser. With *The Prodigal Spy*, Kannon has once again breathed new life into spy fiction. --Patrick O'Kelley, .com