

(Ebook pdf) The Secret Pilgrim (George Smiley Series)

The Secret Pilgrim (George Smiley Series)

Von John le Carré

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Von John le Carré : The Secret Pilgrim (George Smiley Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Secret Pilgrim (George Smiley Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Right People Lost The Cold War, The Wrong People Won ItVon Loren D. MorrisonNed, the narrator, is nearing retirement from the British Intelligence, or "The Circus" as it is known. The book opens on the occasion of the traditional informal dinner that celebrates the end of the training of a new class of spies-to-be who will be among the

first to operate in the post Cold War environment. Ned, who has been in charge of their training, has invited his already retired mentor, George Smiley, to speak at the get-together. To Ned's surprise, Smiley has accepted. All this is in the way of setting the scene for the series of reminiscences that make up the meat of *THE SECRET PILGRIM*. Smiley, who has attained the status of a legend in the service, keeps the students entranced for hours and his comments trigger a life time of memories in Ned, who has been one of the Circus' key players in a forty year career that covered most of the Cold War years. One of Ned's earliest experiences, in the final phase of his training, was when an older hand kept him from making a career ending faux pas. He misread a situation and believed that a member of a visiting Royal's retinue was an intended assassin. Ned, who was anxious to show off his new found skills was about to jump the "assassin" but was prevented from doing so by the more experienced agent. This was a learning experience that he never forgot. As the evening progresses we share more of Ned's memories with him. One is when a murder is made to look like a suicide, and false evidence is left that was meant to discredit Ned. At another time, almost every group of spies that he is "running" are betrayed, and a number of innocent people are thought to be the betrayers. The source of the betrayals remains a mystery until one of the top men in the Circus is found to be the traitor. We go through many other life threatening, and occasionally humorous, escapades with him. As is frequently the case in Le Carre's novels, the deskbound, high level, decision makers run the gamut, from the rare competent and dedicated individuals, to the more common politically motivated self enhancers who build their own careers with no thought to the jeopardy in which they are putting their field agents. The evening ends, and we accompany Ned as he passes the final days before his retirement. With three days left to go, he is given one last assignment. He is charged with convincing a rather unpleasant multi-millionaire to stop providing armaments to various participants in conflicts throughout the world. These armaments are sold through an interlocking chain of corporations which he totally controls. Because of the international complexities of these corporate structures, the armament sales are technically legal. Unhappily for Ned his efforts are rebuffed. It is at this point that he remembers Smiley's old aphorism about the right people losing the Cold War but the wrong people winning it. If you've never read Le Carre, this book should whet your appetite to go back in time and read his "Smiley" books. If you have read other of his books, I can't think of a better way to wrap them up.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Smiley's final appearance

Von Alfred J. Kwak This wonderful book marks the end of George Smiley as a book character. John Le Carre (JLC) uses him cleverly as a prop to allow another lifelong spy called Ned to muse about his own lengthy spying career. Sarratt or the Nursery, where Service recruits are trained, is where GS has been invited to speak to the latest crop of graduates about e.g. being a spy, how it affects one's personality and how the collapse of the Wall may change their ancient profession. Ned's 13 case studies pass by chronologically, always preceded by a wise thought or stirring viewpoint by George Smiley made during his final appearance and public performance. The cases are exceptionally well written with JLC reaffirming his width of knowledge and depth of reading and psychological insight, and powers of empathy. Each lovely description is a gem, but two cases are especially searing, the Hansen case situated during the Vietnam War and the dramatic exposure of cipher clerk Cyril. This grand book's brief final chapter contains the seeds of what has inspired John Le Carre since. It also deals with Ned's final days in the Service when he is asked to put pressure on an arms dealer to stop dealing with shady clients in the Balkan, notably Serbia, and Central Africa. Prophetic in spy novel published in 1990, because the Balkans exploded in 1991 and Rwanda and Congo some years later. This book is elegantly composed, beautifully written, full of atmosphere and perfect characterizations, and stunning dialogues, interrogations and tradecraft. Great send off. Stunningly good read.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. First John Le Carre book - would read more

Von Customer The book was amazing! I went through it very quickly, as it has a very good flow. I had already seen lots of movie/TV adaptations of his books, so I decided to go with this one, as it hasn't been adapted yet. The various stories inside follow an agent of the British Secret Service throughout his career. However, far from purely a spy novel, the book is a lot more emotional and humanizing, so it should not be restricted to only fans of the genre. I would say it was a great way to start reading works from this author, as I never felt at a loss - meaning no previous knowledge of plot points is necessary despite the references here and there (although it does give away certain plot points of other books).

Kurzbeschreibung The last of John Le Carré's espionage novels to feature his most enduring and well-loved character, George Smiley, and a gripping feat of narrative brilliance, *The Secret Pilgrim* is published in Penguin Modern Classics with an afterword by the author. The Cold War is over and Ned has been demoted to the training academy. He asks his old mentor, George Smiley, to address his passing-out class. There are no laundered reminiscences; Smiley speaks the truth - perhaps the last the students will ever hear. As they listen, Ned recalls his own painful triumphs and inglorious failures, in a career that took him from the Western Isles of Scotland to Hamburg and from Israel to Cambodia. He asks himself: Did it do any good? What did it do to me? And what will happen to us now? In this final Smiley novel, the great spy gives his own humane and unexpected answers. 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 50 years he has lived by his pen. He divides his time between London and Cornwall. If you enjoyed *The Secret Pilgrim*, you might like le Carr's *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold*, also available in Penguin Modern Classics. 'Consummate and enthralling' *Observer* 'Pressestimmen' 'Le Carre writing at his exceptional best' *Mail on Sunday* 'John le Carre has created a fictive world which he has made almost as familiar as that of Dickens ... in terms of scope, skill and ideas, it is streets ahead of most contemporary fiction' *Daily Telegraph* 'This consummate and enthralling mosaic is also Smiley's *nunc dimittis*' *Observer* 'Pressestimmen' 'This consummate and enthralling mosaic is also Smiley's *nunc dimittis*' -- *Observer* 'Le Carre writing at his exceptional best' -- *Mail on Sunday*