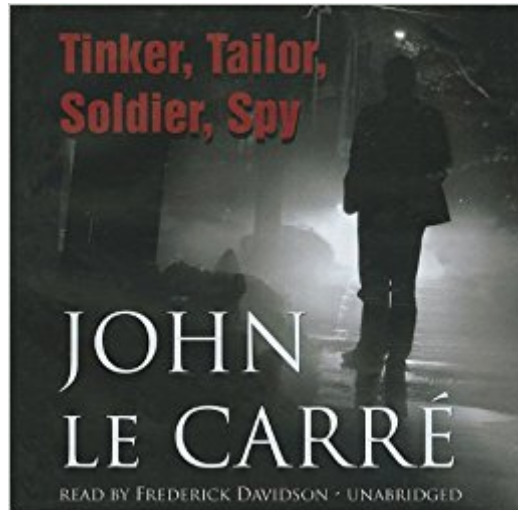




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# Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy



## Synopsis

Smiley and his people are facing a remarkable challenge: a mole - a soviet double agent - who has burrowed his way in and up to the highest level of British Intelligence. His treachery has already blown some of their vital operations and their best networks. The mole is one of their own kind. But which one? "His people are full-bodied, believable individuals, the minor characters as vivid as the main cast ...a stunning story' The Wall Street Journal --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'One of the world's most iconic spy thrillers has stood the test of time. Carre's classic is well worth a second read for the grim nostalgic glamour of the 1970s Col War battles.' ,i>The Australian Women's Weekly A great thriller, the best le Carr has written Spectator John le Carr is the great master of the spy story ... the constant flow of emotion lifts him above most novelists now practising Financial Times A stunning story Wall Street Journal --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

John Le Carre's internationally famous hero, British Secret Service Agent George Smiley, has a world-class problem. He has discovered a mole--a Soviet double agent who has managed to burrow his way up to the highest level of British Intelligence. Under the direction of Karla, Smiley's equivelent in the Soviet Union, the agent has already blown some of the most vital secret operations

and most productive networks. Now-how can Smiley use a lifetime's worth of espionage skills to ferret out a spy who possesses them as well? "A stunning story of espionage."--The Wall Street Journal. "Le Carre is simply the world's greatest fictional spymaster."--Newsweek --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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, paranoid, 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 CarrÃ©. An intriguing ride through the twists and turns of the Great Game.

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