



The Scorpion Signal

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Quiller is older now, embittered, cynical and running on empty. A sorely needed vacation is rudely interrupted with an urgent mission to Moscow.

A reliable British agent, Schrenk, an old partner of Quiller's, has been captured by the Russians and subjected to torture in Lubyanka Prison. Schrenk has managed to escape, but he has disappeared and has made no contact with control in London. Quiller is told to find him.

THE SCORPION SIGNAL is a stark and believable spy novel, largely set behind the Iron Curtain.

The Scorpion Signal Details

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Author : Adam Hall

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From Reader Review The Scorpion Signal for online ebook

Chris says

this is dedicated to me so ought to like it. i like all adam hall (aka elleston trevor) spy novels because his creation Q is a realistic spy. dan craig should play him except he's doing some other espion. actually, tango briefing is the best so i ought to be praising that.

Larry Loftis says

Another excellent book from Elleston Trevor (aka, Adam Hall). Like most of his books, it's fast paced and a fast read. Great cliffhangers, per his style, with short, pithy prose. If you're a Cold War fan, you'll love his descriptions of Quiller's mental games with the KGB. His time as a prisoner in the Lubyanka reminded me of poor Winston in Orwell's 1984. Except that Quiller always wins, of course. :)

stormhawk says

There are few locations in Cold War Espionage fact and fiction that hold the power, mystery, and fear-invocation that Moscow does. Even deeper than Moscow itself, is Lubyanka, the cold, faceless place of detention and interrogation, just across the way from the best known department store in the then Soviet Union, the juxtaposition some sort of commentary on the Russian Character ...

A British agent escapes from Lubyanka, and then is abducted from a hospital where he is convalescing. The immeasurable damage he can do to established intelligence networks needs to be contained ...

Like most Quiller novels, this is a tense nailbiter, with the resolution left to the last, critically timed second.

Larry says

Quiller is a field executive for the British hush hush spy agency known as the Bureau; i. e., a ferret. As Quiller says, "The ferret in the field obeys orders and goes down the hole and comes up again, if he's lucky, leaving behind him those unnameable things in the dark that he had to deal with (165)." What he's dealing with this time is ugly: a snatched agent who has knowledge of the Bureau's most valuable and longest running operation within the Soviet Union. It is Quiller's job to find and retrieve, or permanently silent, the agent, who was retrieved and lost again. The entire operation takes place in Moscow, which functionally is a red zone for Quiller from the moment he enters it. Despite the presence of support, Quiller is very much a lone operator. His skills are put to incredible (but believable tests). There are several sequences with cars, and one in an underground garage, that are hair-raising. The 9th of 19 Quiller books is top notch all the way.

Note: Based on this book and at least one other, I would judge that the most dangerous place to be as an enemy is in a moving car with Quiller. The most frustrating place is an interrogation session as the interrogater.

Anna says

Another excellent Quiller. A bit of a let down at the end as most of the best bits had already happened, but those earlier parts were humdingers.

cool breeze says

Quiller in Moscow trying to extract a fellow agent who was captured by the KGB, tortured in Lubyanka, escaped to West Germany and was then snatched again. Adam Hall is back in top form after a mild lapse in the previous novel. A good, credible story line and good plot twists.

I think this novel marks the first use of a named contemporaneous public figure (Leonid Brezhnev) in the Quiller series. There will be more.
