

Spy Master - Mystery Guild Omnibus: Call for the Dead, A Murder of Quality, The Spy Who Came in from the Cold

John le Carré, P.D. James (Foreword)

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CALL FOR THE DEAD. A MURDER OF QUALITY. THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD.
MYSTERY GUILD LOST CLASSICS OMNIBUS.

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Author : John le Carré , P.D. James (Foreword)

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From Reader Review Spy Master - Mystery Guild Omnibus: Call for the Dead, A Murder of Quality, The Spy Who Came in from the Cold for online ebook

Christy P says

Very interesting spy novels. I love the small references between the stories to each other, makes the world feel complete and more real. Le Carre is a fantastic author. Read these slowly to get the full depth.

Jonathan Jesse says

I've read most of the George Smiley books 10+ years ago and enjoyed them. When the movie Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy came out I added it to my wish list and several other books and received this great book for my birthday.

I don't think I've ever read the 1st books (Call for the Dead and A Murder of Quality) but loved them. The Spy Who Came In From the Cold is fascinating as well.

In each of these books I didn't figure out the twist before, something that usually happens in a mystery type of book. I also really enjoyed the introduction to each book the author provided and learned some new things about le Carre.

Anyways a great introduction set to le Carre and recommend this to everyone

Dwight Quarles Jr says

The start of the Smiley series! The first two in the series take more of a detective framework while the third one (Spy who came in from the cold) is considered the greatest spy novel of all time. Le Carre creates a fantastic world that continues in the honourable school boy, the looking glass war, Tinker Tailor Solider Spy, and Russia house. Really recommended for all spy novel enthusiasts. Fair warning: Le Carre created more realistic spy stories that are not focused on car chases or anything close to James Bond stories.

Nigel Pinkus says

There's a bit of Smiley in all of us. Intriguing, absorbing and amusing tales told by the great John le Carre. Pin-holing le Carre's first few efforts were difficult, don't you think? It was a bit like so many other writers that you couldn't necessarily pin-hole le Carre into one genre. "Call from the Dead", for example, was like an Agatha Christie who-dunnit, except it was espionage. Of course his Smiley books were espionage, but this one also had a confidence trickster feel about it ~ much like some of Len Deighton books, but it wasn't really. Such was the difficulty you would find when pin-holing the great writing of Le Carre.

In this splendid effort, this reader enjoyed how le Carre used Mundt, not as a main character, but as a

character simply lurking in the background. (Of course, Mundt was the villian found in his great spy novel, 'The Spy Who Came in From the Cold'). Without giving the story too much away, the reader will find out that Fennan, who Smiley routinely interviewed the day before turns up dead. As you would expect from a George Smiley thriller, there were many twists and turns and all wouldn't be revealed until the very end. So be a good reader, and don't flick to the end to find out what happens. It will unwind very quickly anyway, particularly because it's only about 100 pages (at least in my version).

In this readers' own copy 'The Spy Who Came in From the Cold' would easily get five stars by itself, but with "A Small Town in Germany" along side it, the rating, unfortunately must come down a bit. This old version (published way back in 1983) also has "The Looking Glass War" in it too which makes up a pretty good collection of stories to read.

It would be ideal for that slow office day, a rainy afternoon or for those insomniacs who need to do something to fill in some of their time. So sit back, relax and let le Carre carry you away!

A splendid effort! Easily gets four stars for this collection! Easily!

Tara says

I really enjoyed these novels. It took a little while to get into the first one but once I started, I didn't want to put them down. "The Spy" is definitely the best one though. I really enjoyed it!!

Noah Soudrette says

So far I've read the first novel in this collection, *Call for the Dead*. It was a well crafted mystery with some espionage trappings and a fascinating main character. Unfortunately I never felt compelled enough to read the other two.

Brett says

Included in this volume are Le Carre's first three novels: *A Call for the Dead*, *A Murder of Quality*, and the *Spy Who Came in from the Cold*. It was my first time reading Le Carre, and this trio of books from the 1960s is a good place to start.

Le Carre is, of course, widely thought of as one of the great Cold War spy-craft writers. George Smiley, who is introduced in these three books, can be mentioned with other famous literary espionage/spy figures like James Bond, Jack Ryan, etc. Smiley though is much less cinematic than these other types. Le Carre writes in a much more grounded style, making the fiction feel more realistic and less like escapist fantasy. There are few large-scale action set pieces, and more bureaucratic maneuvering; fewer explosions and more slow-burning, whispered conversations.

There is a general consensus (which I agree with) that the first two books are sort-of "warm up" novels. Le Carre is getting is footing as a writer and just starting to build a world. As other reviewers note, though Smiley is the protagonist of both books, they feel more like mystery novels than world-spanning

international spy fiction. Smiley encounters a "case" and by the book's end, has solved it. They are entertaining and satisfying books, but would scarcely be remembered if it weren't for the rest of Le Carre's work.

The third book in the volume, *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold* is considered something of a classic of the genre, and deservedly so. Smiley and other characters from the earlier books are peripheral characters in this one, but it is still one connected world. It is an engrossing read that had me guessing about agents, double-agents, moles, and motives from start to finish. Written in an understated style, but with some lovely literary flourishes throughout. A great, thinking-person's spy thriller.

Andrea says

so far...so good...book 1 of 3 was fun

Chad says

An excellent collection of Cold War era spy novels by a man who understands the genre.

Mike Harmon says

Great reading - I enjoyed these spy novels. *Spy who came in from the cold* would make a great movie; it had me flip flopping on what was really going on the entire time. Sadly, I've finished and all I have left on this business trip are books by Hayek and Buchanan...leaving the spy world behind for the great thrills of economic thought?

Ed Evans says

I probably the last person my age to read the third novel in this omnibus, *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold*. Wow, what an amazing story. His first two novels, also in this volume, are certainly entertaining but not predictive of the genius which would be on display in the third. Absolutely compels me to read his further works

Rahool Gadkari says

I haven't read many Le Carre books, but was led to believe that this one was a spy masterpiece. I'm not sure if it was the heightened expectations or some other reason, but this book certainly did not pass muster in my opinion. The story is not complex enough for a so called spy masterpiece and as a result I was left quite disappointed. All Ludlum books I've read have been way better than this.

