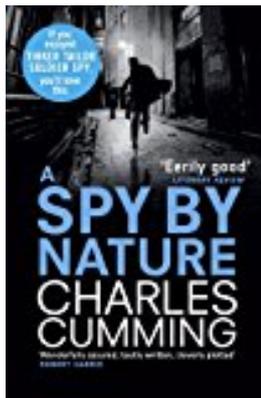


[PDF] Spy By Nature

Charles Cumming - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Spy by Nature
Author: Charles Cumming
Released: 2012-03-01
Language:
Pages: 464
ISBN: 0007416911
ISBN13: 978-0007416912
ASIN: 0007416911

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Starred Review. Loosely based on the author's real-life experience of having been recruited by the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) in 1995, Cumming's supremely intelligent and utterly readable debut will delight fans of such British masters of spy fiction as John le Carré, Robert Ludlum and Len Deighton. Alec Milius, a 24-year-old marketing consultant for a tiny London company that solicits business people in central and eastern Europe to advertise in a dubious publication called *Central European Business Review*, welcomes the chance to join the SIS, which after an exhausting selection process places him as a support agent with a British oil company. Alec initially thrives in his new job, but as he becomes increasingly entangled in his mission, he begins to face unexpected dangers as well as the loss of his identity. Smartly paced and

intricately plotted, Cumming's decidedly unglamorous look at industrial espionage provides plenty of elaborate deceptions, double crosses and other trappings of a first-class spy thriller. *(July)*

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From Industrial espionage is where aging cold warriors go to die and where silly, young twits with illusions of grandeur go to feel like contenders. Alec Milius is one of the twits; when he is turned down for Britain's SIS, he lands with a quasi-rogue offshoot whose mission is to steal secrets from an American oil company. It all seems glamorous enough at first, albeit without any Bondish derring-do, or even much le Carré tradecraft, but gradually the dirt comes to the surface, and young Alec has been reduced to a piece of detritus floating in an ocean of hazardous waste. Cumming, who survived a tour with the SIS in the 1990s, appears to speak with authority, and he certainly amasses a convincing array of details to support his view of industrial espionage as a soul-destroying exercise in postmodern absurdity. Although he never quite succeeds in making his twit-hero altogether sympathetic, he comes remarkably close: poor Alec Milius gets sucker punched just like Alec Leamus in le Carré's *Spy Who Came In from the Cold*, but the more gullible the sucker, the less we feel the punch. Ott, Bill --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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