

The Spy With No Name



Synopsis

For fans of John le Carré and Robert Ludlum, *The Spy with No Name* is the unbelievable true story of Erwin van Haarlem, a Cold War secret agent whose stolen identity broke the heart of an innocent woman - who thought she'd found her long-lost son. In 1977, Johanna van Haarlem, 52, finally tracked down the son she had abandoned as a baby, during the Second World War. She was delighted that he had grown into a charming Dutch waiter in London. But Erwin van Haarlem was actually a dangerous Communist spy who had stolen her son's identity to uncover British and American military secrets. In this true-life spy thriller, award-winning journalist Jeff Maysh tracks down the former spy in Prague, who tells his remarkable story. Maysh skillfully reconstructs one of the most unusual cases in espionage history, as Erwin van Haarlem maintains his top secret mission for 11 years...while pretending to be a stranger's son. Enter a world of betrayal, secret codes, invisible ink, and mysterious radio messages, where nobody is beyond suspicion. Jeff Maysh investigates unusual true crimes and urban legends. His deeply immersive stories have appeared in publications including *The Atlantic*, *Playboy*, and *Smithsonian*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have long been a fan of espionage books and movies. In this book we have a real life espionage story. Descriptions of the many techniques align well with the fictional books. This gives credit to both the real and fictional. This story is concise and short. The main character Erwin Van Haarlem is reasonably well developed. The mother Johanna does play a significant role as well. Most of the

other characters are not as thoroughly explained. Given that this is a historical description, it would have been much more difficult to get accurate information about these other characters. The many sources that are itemized gives stronger evidence to the accuracy of the story. However, I very much enjoyed this short story. I recommend this book especially to fans of espionage.

I found the story of Erwin van Haarlem's life as a spy to be quite interesting and informative. It's not every day you get to read about the life of a spy from recent history in this detail. This is a quick and entertaining read.

Shows a mother's need to make sure her child is OK and how the world of espionage can twist a person's reality. Great book for spy fans.

Almost like a real book. Le Carre for the mentally challenged. Any other book you pick is better. Honestly uninteresting.

The book held my interest, but was a bit simplistic. I suppose some detail was omitted in the interest of brevity.

The book is short and an easy read. It gives very interesting insights into the mind of a spy and the world as it existed during the cold war.

Pretty good read !!!

Good

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