



The Last Spymaster

Gayle Lynds

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As chief of the CIA's elite Clandestine Services, Jay Tice was a legend throughout the world of international intelligence. But secretly he was also a traitor, selling information that would compromise the security of the United States for decades to come. Since his treachery was exposed, Tice has been kept under strict surveillance in a maximum security prison. Then one morning, his cell is discovered empty. Tice has vanished--without tripping an alarm or leaving any trace of his passing.

Elaine Cunningham is a hunter, a CIA operative who specializes in finding people who don't want to be found. Young, gifted, and a maverick, she is assigned to track Tice--until she discovers there is far more at stake than an old spy's last run for freedom.

Lurking in the shadows are other hidden players with their own lethal agendas...and from Geneva to Washington, Berlin to New York City, a deadly conspiracy is coalescing. With only a few hours to go and the future of millions in the balance, Cunningham must uncover the truth behind the legend of *THE LAST SPYMASTER*

The Last Spymaster Details

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Author : Gayle Lynds

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From Reader Review The Last Spymaster for online ebook

Mike Maurer says

I am always seeking a good yarn about spies and the roles they play in the world. This book sounded interesting, as it is about a hunter of those who don't want to be found. Such as former or current spies.

The trade craft part of the book is pretty good. A lot of the plot is similar to many other books, about who do you trust and why. Is the traitor spy a better person than the DCI or DDO? The major plot points and twists were predictable. The minor plot points, subtle in their release and one not until the last couple of pages could have made the whole book even better if explored further. It is the uncomfortable situations those in the spy business find themselves and the crappy decisions they have to make that I like. As long as the story stayed away from technology, it felt solid.

I wanted more of the chase, more about how the hunter really does her job. But as soon as she gets into a groove, the whole book shifts to her figuring out who is loyal and being hunted herself. In this regard, the back of the book is misleading. Watching Elaine do her work would have been enthralling (kind of like Victor in Tom Wood's books).

Note, the book was published in 2006, a year before the iPhone was launched. The technology talked about and supposedly used would be advanced even today. Or not even exist. In such things, I get hyper sensitive. The portions of the book where technology magic was used to advanced the plot felt like 1970's James Bond (fun movies with great stunts not cemented in reality). A lot of use of GPS in phones, but how do the characters use the tracking information to find their prey? Or ability to access a recording from many miles away without the use of a cell system?

In the end, I thought there was more potential. This is a stand alone book, for which I applaud the author. Too many authors build 10 book deep series instead of developing something new. The trade craft felt right, but got bogged down (for me) with sci-fi kind of technology that detracted from how the spies operate in the world.

Tracy says

I'm pretty sure that a lot of people died in this book without the word "kill" being used. I've never seen so many euphemisms for murder: scrubbed, terminated, wiped...

A spy convicted of treason breaks out of prison and begins to pull the threads of a terrorist plot together (and then pull them apart). Gayle Lynds writes for the Robert Ludlum franchise. This one isn't as good as those, but it's a decent escapist read with enough twists and turns to keep you intrigued.

Jeff Zimmer says

This was fun. It wasn't what I was expecting and I think that's what I liked best. It moved along nicely and didn't get too involved in some sort of love story or anything like that. And, when the author started talking about all the cool spy stuff, it didn't seem like it turned into a "see how much I know" like other authors tend to do. It flowed and I would say it's worth the time.

SP says

If I could I would give this book 3 1/2 stars. I enjoyed the story but one thing that bugged me was the Cold War style 1980s language. It just got a little old.

Alan Routhieaux says

My first Gayle Lynds book and it definitely won't be my last. A really gripping tale with characters that really jump off of the page. The plot grabbed from very early on and never let go.

Marwen Monta says

More like 3.5, but sure...

Jeanette "Astute Crabbist" says

I started listening to this talking book on a day when I had a blinding headache and thus could not read anything in print (or do anything else, for that matter). I listened to almost half of the book on that day, but it took me considerably longer to get through the rest of it. Not too bad as suspenseful spy stories go. Sort of Ludlumesque, but not as tightly nor intricately plotted as his stuff.

I found it quite confusing trying to figure out each character's back story and how they fit into the present plot, and in the end, there was still one detail that didn't make sense to me. (I can't say what it is because it would be a major spoiler.)

Anyway, a decent story that held my interest. Never underestimate the power of a red Jaguar and a couple of Vicodin! :D ;)

Jennifer says

Awesome! Page turner!![return][return]This spy mystery twisted & turned the whole book through. Leaving just enough clues to start to put things together, so that I knew the bad guy before he was revealed. (always a satisfying bonus.)[return][return]Even though there was tons of constant action through the whole book, it was thankfully light on any gruesome details. [return][return]Also, the gut wrenching plot was very topical for today's world. Concerning terrorists arranging a huge high-tech weapons purchase so they can take their terror to the next level. Hopefully fiction is larger than truth for these topics! Neat gadgets and weapons are mentioned here and there, making the gadget geek in me drool at the thought of such cool toys.[return][return]The heroine was a strong character, brainy, and fearless. The hero/anti-hero was a shifting picture, making you constantly analyze his actions & take his pep talks with a grain of salt.[return][return]The bad guy personalities are all over the map. Egos, Arrogance, Relentless. All kinds.

Great diversity.[return][return]The different interactions between countries & cultures are also given some time here and there. This book also has some storyline from the coldwar, as well as the current struggles with the middle east, so very interesting topics are discussed.[return][return]The entire plot was wrapped up very nicely. With no sense of lingering, or where did this turn come from? A page turner to the end.[return][return]Sooooo Good!!

Erth says

now i am hooked. This was such a great, easy and creative book. i was hooked after the first page.

The characters were easy to fall in love with and follow, along with the story. the author made the mental visions so easy and vivid of the surroundings and the characters actions felt so real.

i would highly recommend this author and this book.

Larry Lange says

This is the second of her books I have read and enjoyed it. I intend on continuing to read her books.

Manugw says

A LONG UNSUBSTANTIAL FICTION RIDE

Lured by many five star reviews, yet, I could not find what I was looking for, I expected a fiction book peering on the insides and deep secrets of the Spy agencies (like the CIA, the KGB and the Mossad) and the extremely awful feelings, spies experience facing hostile environments.

Instead I found a gripping romantic story with the typical invincible hero and heroine having hidden aces up their sleeves to use every time they confront the cardboard thugs that were chasing them throughout all the chapters and that exceed them in power and number,..that is fiction indeed..

The story also exhibits superficial background research in terms of the spy games countries play and a never ending overwhelming finale

Luis Gonzalez says

Found Gayle Lynds while watching the Jeopardy tv show. What a great find. I really enjoyed reading this book. It has spies, treachery, action, surprises and love. What's not to like. I'll be reading more of her books.

Mark Coates says

Great page turner and a realistic ending. Lots of intrigue and deception which should be a staple of every spy novel.

Andrea says

I don't usually read spy-drama or spy-suspense so I'm not an expert about what makes this genre "good." As someone who isn't "up" on spy lingo, it took me a little while to figure out some of the references - janitor, whipper, scrup, etc. However, once I got some of the terms down, the plot of the book was easier to follow.

In brief, the book follows several different characters until all of the stories merge together at the end and all secrets are revealed. As a CIA spy book it involves a cold war under-cover operative imprisoned as a traitor who escapes from prison, the "hunter" sent by the CIA to find him, his former lover/triple agent to the CIA, East Germany and West Germany, and all the terrorist bad guys working to make illegal arms deals. Oh...and of course there are multiple traitors in the mix.

In general I find that it's hard to do this sort of character and plot flip-flopping well without losing the thread of the story or going overboard with too much. But then again, this is a spy book and isn't it supposed to be all twists and turns and secrets?

I think I could like this genre but am not sure that I'll follow up with a same read by this author.

Rhonda says

Very interesting account of some inner workings of the CIA. I did wonder how close to actual procedures it was since that organization is very secretive. Toward the end, it got very confusing (at the port and on the ship)I found the epilogue to be a bit fairy tale-ish.
