



A Spy For All Seasons: My Life in the CIA

Duane R. Clarridge , Digby Diehl

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In a memoir as gripping as his action-packed career, the flamboyant "King of the CIA Cowboys"--former CIA Deputy Director Duane R. "Dewey" Clarridge--lays bare the fascinating particulars of the covert operations he planned and carried out around the world during his long career. 16 pp. of photos. 320 pp.

A Spy For All Seasons: My Life in the CIA Details

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From Reader Review A Spy For All Seasons: My Life in the CIA for online ebook

Kathleen says

Stopped reading at about 50% the way through. Eventually just too detailed.

Joe Wisniewski says

I thought that this was a good read, told from the view of a station chief who had to roll up his sleeves and make things work; caught between the bureaucracy of DC and the realities in the field.

Joelle says

interesting perspective on iran-contra

Victoria Hess says

If I were more of a history buff, I would surely have given this book an extra star. The first half of the book dealt a lot with tradecraft and the CIA and how things operated. The author was based overseas, and we got to see how he recruited assets and did his job in that setting. The second half of the book dealt largely with the setup and scandal of the Iran Contra affair. I'm afraid I feel that far less interesting because it was really just a history lesson. The writing overall is reasonably good. As I would expect from such a careerman. I just wanted more action less history.

Michael says

So far, so good. Clarridge can be a bit self-promoting in the way he tells stories and conveys his role in them. Nonetheless, it's an interesting look at the spy craft of the Cold War.

Jon Holdaway says

My take away -- Duane Clarridge has a huge ego. CIA has been viewed for years as a clannish, Ivy-league organization that, by the 1980's and '90's turned into a WASP-ish echo chamber. Clarridge's book basically confirms that view.

Contrast Clarridge with the description of Gust Avrokotos in Charlie Wilson's War. Clarridge comes off as a snooty desk jockey next to the working-man Avrokotos who actually defeated the Soviets.

Charles Kerns says

Read of world machinations from the inside, vetted of course, from a self-apologist who never apologises, and often gloats.

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Bethany says

A Spy for All Seasons is a fascinating memoir. Clarridge has a life that reads like, well, a spy novel. It is intense and full of action. The reviews on the back of the book are from a former head of MI6 and Oliver North. He was a major player in the Iran-Contra scandal, and dealt extensively with counterterrorist forces back when they really were counterterrorist forces. One of the better "I used to be a spy" books.

Zebardast Zebardast says

He is the highest ranking American spy directly and personally involved in espionage, war, counterterrorism, and intrigue to make public his life. Dashing and flamboyant, with mettle akin to the granite for which his home state of New Hampshire is known, Duane "Dewey" Clarridge became a master spy right out of a Tom Clancy novel. In a spy for All Seasons, we follow Dewey Clarridge on his trajectory through the CIA. His no-holds-barred style carried him to Nepal, India, Turkey, Italy, Nicaragua, Panama, Iraq, and beyond, in situations both terrifying and exhilarating. With legendary candor, Dewey describes the role he played in the international espionage scene: his days as Dax P. LeBaron, when he pressed Saddam Hussein to turn over a terrorist; the inner workings of the CIA; the creation of his brainchild, the CIA's Counter-Terrorist Center; his admiration for William Casey and his contempt for William Webster; and his alleged involvement in the Iran-contra affair, for which he was indicted and then pardoned. Along the way he developed a talent for recruiting foreign agents and smiled in the face of his enemies.

Miss M says

This is a difficult book to assess. Leaving aside the author's controversial involvement in Iran-Contra (if you can) and flights of egomania (which may not be totally overblown: he was a one-star equivalent at 42), I still think it's a fascinating insight into Agency operations and a worthwhile read. Also interesting to note his prediction, back in 1996, of the military establishment's interest in subsuming as many Intelligence functions as possible...
