




## One Man's Flag

*David Downing*

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**One Man's Flag** David Downing

**Spring 1915: World War One rages across Europe, and the British Empire is assailed on all fronts—domestic and abroad. Amidst this bloodbath of nations, where one man's flag is another man's shroud, a British spy is asked to do the impossible: seduce and betray the woman he loves, again. Only this time betrayal is a two-way street.**

Jack McColl, a spy for His Majesty's Secret Service, is stationed in India, charged with defending the Empire against Bengali terrorists and their German allies. Belgium, he finds, is not the only country seeking to expel an invader.

In England, meanwhile, suffragette journalist Caitlin Hanley begins the business of rebuilding her life after the execution of her brother—an IRA sympathizer whose terrorist plot was foiled by Caitlin's own ex-lover, the very same Jack McColl. The war is changing everything and giving fresh impulse to those causes—feminism, socialism and Irish independence—which she as a journalist has long supported.

The threat of a Rising in Dublin alarms McColl's bosses as much as it dazzles Caitlin. If another Irish plot brings them back together, will it be as enemies or lovers?

## One Man's Flag Details

Date : Published November 3rd 2015 by Soho Crime

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Author : David Downing

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Spy Thriller, Espionage, Mystery, Thriller

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# From Reader Review One Man's Flag for online ebook

## Ben Cassidy says

**Great read!**

Highly recommend this excellent book which tells two tales — the independence of Ireland and the Great War! Get it now!

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## David Halewood says

Not bad probably 3.7. Interesting about Ireland in WW1

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## Susan says

Latest in Downing's WWI historical spy series...lots of sculduggery going on...a fun read!

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## Bernie says

The second Jack McColl novel' by David Downing, which continues his spying, adventures this time inside enemy lines on the continent. Europe engulfed in the war to end all wars. There is continuation from the first novel, Jack of Spies, but enough to read this on its own. Since the first yarn, McColl has now become a spy being formally part of the fledgling British secret service. Previously he may more accurately described as an amateur spy. He has and troubled relationship with Caitlin a journalist from the US who is sympathetic to the Irish republican cause. She comes from a strong Irish-American family.

The story explores the war on the western front as well as issues on the home front in the United Kingdom. This becomes entwined with the 1915 uprising in Dublin where there was an attempt to overthrow the British. The plot moves between the Irish uprising and McColl's troubles behind enemy lines in Western Europe. The background to the Irish uprising is interesting as are the escapades of Caitlin and Jack.

I really enjoyed David Downing's Station novels, which I felt were more immersive than the McColl series. That has not to say I do not like them but enjoyed the Station novels more. It could be that the period that the McColl novels are set does not hold the same appeal. There are another two to come and I will definitely be reading

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## Cletus Lee says

This is turning out to be a great series. Lots of tension that makes you want to keep on reading. I'm already seeking out #3 in the series.

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## **Liviu says**

quickly lost interest after a so-so volume 1; big time missing the The John Russell - Effi Koenen series which was so good...

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## **Meg says**

The second book remains as interesting as the first. It's a good mystery series.

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## **Jim Hunter says**

Politically correct socialist cant cast in a century old story smells worse than an academic in August run over in July

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## **Nooilforpacifists says**

In this, the second book of his WWI series, Downing reprises two genuinely likable characters from the first book. And, because of each's flaws, they're better together than they are apart. But, during this book, they're together perhaps two percent of the time. I object both to all the switching back and forth as well the lost plot opportunities were they together.

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## **Manchester Military History Society (MMHS) says**

### **Thrilling World War 1 espionage story.**

David Downing continues on from "Jack of Spies" with Jack McColl, an agent for His Majesty's Secret Service, and his ex-lover Caitlin Hanley, an American journalist and suffragette against the background of the threat of a Rising in Dublin.

The book uses the proven formula of his "Berlin Station" series with a strong male and female role this novel stands quite well on its own despite being the sequel to "Jack of Spies."

If you have enjoyed David Downing's previous books you know what to expect. Great attention to historical detail, encompassed within a plausible and exciting storyline.

I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

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## Daniel Kincaid says

Three stars. While slightly less engulfing than the first book, it was still a great read.

As usual, Downing's descriptions of places, war horrors, politics, people and their psychologies is as good as ever. I especially loves the way he described the Easter Rising of 1916- even if you don't know much about it, the way he describes what happens and its effects makes you feel as if you are there. Not a lot of authors can do that.

I also didn't mind the fact that he split the book into two main plots- one with McColl and his spying adventures, the other concerning Caitlin, the Irish-American journalist- which eventually intersected. But to be completely honest- While McColl's plot was a lot more engaging and thrilling and offered a lot more in the way of adventures, the way he felt about doing his service and seeing a war-torn Europe through his eyes- Caitlin's plot felt as if it always dragged the book down. She's not even that interesting as a character- she usually just seems to be angry at the whole world, and at times incapable to admit that she can wrong, or that her perspectives are not always right. Events that happened around her usually aren't as interesting, and just seemed to fill pages (and honestly- if you read the John Russell Series, you know Caitlin isn't half as interesting as Effi.)

Other than that- a good read nonetheless. I will continue with book no.3. I just hope it will feature less of Caitlin, or at the very least, give her something more interesting to do. Maybe even grow her up a bit (as there are times when I struggle to understand what McColl sees in her).

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## Kirsten says

Very thought provoking.

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## Andrew says

David Downing's premises in *One Man's Flag* were excellent. The weaving together of the Great War; women's suffrage; and revolutionary action (at various stages and levels of success) in Ireland, Russia, and India through spies and reporters should have been a grand slam, but the novel often fell flat. It just didn't come together enough for me to be consistently interested.

Some aspects of the time period seemed forced, at the expense of the plot development, such as a character's viewing of *The Birth of a Nation*.

There were pieces, however, that transcended the mediocrity, especially some passages of dialogue and descriptions of the horrors of war. To be fair, although *One Man's Flag* works as a standalone story, it is a sequel, so maybe I was supposed to be more interested in the protagonist than I was.

\*\*\*I received this book for free through Goodreads Giveaways.\*\*\*

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## **Thomas Stoner says**

I enjoyed this book as much for the different settings and the glimpse into a different time in history as I did the story. But, I did enjoy the spy story as well with all the different adventures too.

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## **Joanne says**

One Man's Flag 4 stars

This book had a little of all things I enjoy in story- Some history, people with deep emotional connections(which the author does not have to prove by vivid sex scenes-thankfully), some espionage and a pretty good story.

This happens to be the second book in a series, which I did not realize until the 3rd or 4th chapter. It was not any problem though to catch on and figure out what had happened previously.

The era is WWI, the setting: switching between England, India, Ireland and France. Jack McColl is a spy for his Majesty's service/ Catlin Hanely an American journalist. They have a history from the previous novel, which puts them at odds with each other as the story continues in this book. Jack is stalking Germans across the globe, while Catlin comes to grips with her brother's execution for treason. Each burying their feelings for each other so they can get on with the important work they do.

I enjoyed this book, an excellent vacation read!

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