



## Twice a Spy

*Keith Thomson*

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**On the heels of *Once a Spy*, which *PW* hailed as a “wildly original debut [with] an action-packed story line,” Keith Thomson returns with a breakneck thriller that’s twice as explosive as the original.**

In the tradition of Robert Ludlum, with a witty twist, Thomson’s second novel featuring a former spy and his son once again poses the question: What happens when a former CIA agent can no longer trust his own mind?

Charlie and Drummond Clark are now in Switzerland, hiding out from criminal charges in America and using the time to experiment with treatments to retrieve Drummond’s memory. When NSA operative Alice Rutherford, with whom Charlie has fallen in love, is kidnapped, the Clarks must dodge a formidable CIA case officer and his team to get her back.

## Twice a Spy Details

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Author : Keith Thomson

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# From Reader Review Twice a Spy for online ebook

## Elizabeth A. says

Picking up just a few weeks after the events of Once a Spy ended, Twice a Spy finds father and son Drummond and Charlie Clark, fugitives wanted for capital crimes in America, on the run trying to avoid an international manhunt for them.

Along with Charlie's girlfriend and renegade NSA agent, Alice Rutherford, the Clarks are off the grid in Switzerland, trying to find a way to establish their innocence as well as looking into alternative treatments for Drummond's advancing Alzheimer's.

Having only recently learned that his father's entire humdrum life as an appliance salesman with Perriman Appliances had been a front for his career as a CIA operative, Charlie is still coming to grips with the fact his dad has James Bond-like skills and holds secrets with world changing implications in his increasingly unreliable mind.

When Alice is kidnapped by a group that demands Drummond provide them with the location of a nuclear bomb, which was disguised as a washing machine as part of the cover project Drummond and his fellow "appliance salesmen" were working on, Charlie and Drummond once again find themselves having to rely on Charlie's street smarts and Drummond's intermittent flashes of his old spy self in order to stay one step ahead of the law and save the day.

Just as in Once a Spy, spy gadgets, surveillance and counter-surveillance techniques, non-stop action, and plot twists abound in Twice a Spy. Yet despite the James Bond meets Jack Bauer breakneck pace with global ramifications, it's the relationship between Drummond and Charlie that really propels Twice a Spy. Amidst the amphibious vehicle chases, gun fights, plane crashes, and wicked one-liners, author Keith Thomson has subtly and skillfully worked a quite touching plot line about the reuniting of a father and son into a spy thriller.

With Twice a Spy Thomson clearly and unquestionably demonstrates that the success of Once a Spy was no fluke. It's not very charitable to the Clarks for me to say this, but I for one hope their unfortunate talent for finding themselves up to their eyes in espionage and intrigue never ends. Once was great, Twice was even better... Third time's the charm, right? Can't wait!

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## Peter says

This is the Sequel to the truly stunning novel, Once A Spy, the novel about a CIA agent in the early stages of a very virulent alzheimer and his son, a nere do well math genius turned gambler. The first book was truly inspired and this one is very good but some of the edge of the first tale is dulled by the fact that we know Dad has moments of lucidity and oft times truly amazing recollections of trade craft. Having said that this novel moves along, has some great characters and some almost Elmore leonard momnents of dialogue. And at the end we understand there will be a third in the series.

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## **Melissa Johnson says**

Pretty unrealistic and over the top.

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## **Nick Brett says**

The follow up to *Once a spy*, which was a light but fast paced thriller using the unusual subject of a main lead being a spy with Alzheimer's. I thought it was okay, but was slightly underwhelmed as it was almost comic book like in its pace and the logic didn't work at times. But this is a slightly more low key event and it works much better. It has all the component parts of the first, but tighter and more toned down.

Charlie Clark, along with his ex spook father (he's the one with Alzheimer's) and girlfriend Alice (also a NSA spook) have escaped to Switzerland. Alice is then kidnapped and held in ransom in exchange for a washing machine containing a small nuke...

Once again the good guys and the bad guys blur into 'who do you trust' and the usual double crossing fast paced action. I enjoyed this, it doesn't pretend to be anything else than a light and fun thriller and the things that annoyed me in the first have mainly been removed from this, making it far more readable and enjoyable.

So no deep and complex plotting or gritty realism, but a fun and light alternative to the traditional Jason Bourne type thriller.

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## **Joe O'Connor says**

Good; Continuing characters: Duncan and Charlie Clarke; the father and son duo are at it again, trying to keep washing machines that are really nuclear devices from falling into the wrong hands

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## **Chris Cutler says**

Just a few weeks after the explosive events of *Once a Spy*, Charlie is fully in the driver's seat of his own adventure. Drummond is indispensable, but this time the former spy with early-onset Alzheimers is more of a partner to his son than a rescuer. The miraculous bouts of lucidity in *Once a Spy* were fun, but Charlie and this sequel survive on more than Drummond's seeming invincibility.

I particularly liked the slight change of pace. Charlie is much more focused on evading tails and staying off the grid than taking on enemies in fire fights, which allows him to succeed (most of the time) with keen observation. And when the body count does start to rise, it is the bad guys not the heroes that are responsible--in contrast to the previous book.

I was impressed by Thomson's ability to turn scene descriptions into a window on the characters' emotions. The dialogue was also pleasantly original. One of the mid-level villains had unconvincing motivations, but

the rest were all admirably self-consistent.

Most of the book contained far less profanity than the first one--another welcome change. I appreciated the frequent chapter breaks as well. They allowed for scene-by-scene stopping points, or more often for "It's late but I can read the next chapter since it's only a few pages" justifications.

Verdict: read *Once a Spy* first, but double down for the sequel.

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### **Ruth says**

Good. Interesting book, Charlie ill prepared reluctant resourceful spy.

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### **Rebecca Dougherty says**

This sequel is not as good as the first book, *Once a Spy*. This one is more about Charlie, the son, rather than Drummond, the CIA spook father with Alzheimer's. In this book, Charlie's love interest, Alice, is kidnapped, while the antagonist, Bream, tries to secure a nuclear equipped washing machine from the Clarks. There are many other players along the way, none of which are very interesting or humorous, unlike in the first book. There was some promise with a spy couple, Stanley and Hadley, but without a sensible explanation, Stanley turns rogue, and the interesting character, Hadley, is shot and out of commission.

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### **Bill Schiff says**

I really enjoyed these two books.

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### **Donna says**

This is the first novel I've read by this author and it was a book challenge read. It falls into the genre of spy thriller, which is one of my favorite genres to spend my time in. I liked the father/son duo and that the father had Alzheimers. That was an interesting element.

Overall, this wasn't my favorite kind of book. I wasn't a fan of the writing style. I liked the humor, but the plot was so light and fluffy. It also read like a dictionary. The author would throw out a word or a phrase and then proceed to define it. This happened in almost every scene. While that is a nice tool to use occasionally, this one was abused in this book. It took me out of the story every time with all of the explaining going on. So 2 stars because it was just okay for me.

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### **Laura says**

Still more Perils and Escapes for our heroes - so many and so ridiculous that they made me laugh with glee.

A delight.

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### **C.S. Slaton says**

As good as the first.

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### **Bernie Davis says**

This writer has what appears to be a strong fan base. Many books seem to rely on bringing the same characters into the fray time after time. But, are these books in any really sense, "literature" - or just a pleasant way to spend time - sometimes not so pleasurable.

As I've mentioned, I sometimes grab a handful of books in that "New Section" of the library - no idea what the book or author is about - sometimes at the Oakridge branch of the Vancouver Library System, sometimes at other branches. Maybe I should spend more time reading reviews about books - but, they themselves tend to be more about themselves than the actual merits of a book that might be of interest. Random picking seems to work for me.

Do I remember off hand what this book is about? I have a fairly good memory. And the answer is no - I haven't a clue - other than there must be a spy in the book. What is a spy these days, when there really is not anyone to truly spy on - like the old days of the cold war?

I made a note that indicates that the book is mostly formulaic - fans should like it, I assume. Assume is a tricky word as a description. And reading this book certainly was better than watching mindless tv - at the time about how a bunch of Tea Party Republicans were successfully tanking the stock markets.

Can I recommend the book? - I can remember the time. Well, I don't not recommend it. Is such a recommendation allowed?

Confusing. The book was relatively straightforward and worth spending the time - it went by quickly. It won't hurt to give it a chance - unless something really new and interesting comes up with those crazy wild Tea Party people.

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### **Spenser says**

Not anywhere near as entertaining as book 1 of the series. As I read this book, I often found myself wishing it would end soon. My advice to any mulling over taking the time to read the series, go for book 1 (Once a Spy) and quit while you're ahead.

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## **John says**

I got sucked in by "Think Carl Hiaasen taking on John LeCarre", two authors that I've read extensively and like a lot. There's no LeCarre in this novel besides spy genre; it's Hiaasen in that it's outrageously adventuresome and funny, just not at the Hiaasen level. It was enjoyable, but not engaging. Perhaps *Once a Spy*, which got nice reviews, is better.

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