



Traitor's Kiss

Gerald Seymour

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For the past four years, a high-ranked Russian naval officer named Viktor Archenko has been passing valuable information to MI6. His contacts in London know nothing about him--but when the flow of information stops, they know for sure that he's under suspicion. The time has come to get him out.

But a new breed plays the spy game now: men like Gabriel Locke. Locke has no interest in irrelevant Cold War sparring or the risk of a scandal. He would rather leave Archenko to fend for himself. Only one veteran agent realizes that there is much more at stake than one man's life.

With his latest tale of intrigue, Gerald Seymour gives us a novelistic world that is as duplicitous, subtle, and as terrifyingly immediate as the headlines the world could wake up to tomorrow morning.

Traitor's Kiss Details

Date : Published February 27th 2007 by Harry N. Abrams (first published 2003)

ISBN : 9781585678853

Author : Gerald Seymour

Format : Paperback 428 pages

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

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From Reader Review Traitor's Kiss for online ebook

Peter says

A tension filled spy thriller with an uniquely creative ending.

Sujeetha says

This is one of the stirring books I have read in recent times. Maybe old-age is catching up to me and I am becoming sentimental but still Seymour has a way of giving blended and blistered edges to his characters. Nobody is described as being larger-than-life, and at the end of the story pragmatism rules. When I was younger, I used to avoid his books like the plague, and his writing style used to give me splitting headaches. Now I am able to appreciate the melancholy in his writing, and the feeling appeals to my sense of liking. The characters behave like you and I will, and never are any cinematic qualities brought out. For that end, Seymour remains a true critic of his own work. Seymour has often been accused of as being formulaic, but then who is not? If the formula is going to keep me gripped then I do not mind, give me excess of it!

Caroline says

Cold War intrigue can seem a bit "last century" these days, but I thoroughly enjoyed this. I like spy thrillers and this one had enough plot twists and turns and interesting characters to keep me flipping the pages.

Kev says

Reasonable read but took a while to get into. I came close to giving up but in the end I persevered and was rewarded with compelling page turning at the end but still somehow felt disappointed. I never really understood who I was rooting for, there was no clear hero. I am guessing that if you have the time to sit down and read more than a few pages at a time then it would have been far more rewarding. Young family and bus job make this difficult for me. I still recommend it though as I usually don't get. To the end if I think something is crap, life is too short.

Jon says

I was enthralled most of the way through but found the ending landed far too softly and conveniently. He could've saved himself about 100 pages by cutting out details that I didn't find added to the storyline.

Bob says

Complex story. Well developed characters. Fiction/nonfiction/historical/mystery/thriller. The very best stories are ALL of these. Seymour is among the best of the best in the spy/historical fiction space. I made all sort of excuses to not put down this book, and now I miss it. I think there is more truth and insight and wisdom in this sort of work than any other, with the possible exception of the incredible exploration stories such as Endurance and Jo's Anything Worth Doing...

Eric Grounds says

Cracking good tale. I have read it before but do not regret doing so again. I can only learn from the Master how to craft a good read

Craig says

Really hard to get into.....seemed a little long winded as in too descriptive at times. Once the characters started to come together I really started to enjoy this book.

Different from what I have read before but by the end I could not put it down!

Debbie says

Terrific thriller, very enjoyable.

Henri Moreaux says

Traitor's Kiss takes a little while to build momentum covering the building blocks of the story in depth, however once laid the machinations of each character slowly unfold moving towards a climatic ending.

It's about a Russian who decides to spy for the UK and is then caught through a small error, the UK decides to do nothing so a administration officer leaks what is happening to a retired spy who decides to take matters into his own hands and push for an ex-filtration of the prized spy. Whilst some characters are unlikable then redeem themselves to a degree others seem to be a perfect example then push things too far.

I found it to be a good story that kept my attention, would recommend for anyone who enjoys a spy tale.

Emma Milan says

rtc

Ginnz says

Slow, ponderous and when the action was supposed to be kicking in, it still felt slow and ponderous. What is it with authors killing everyone off at the end. The story had promise but I just didn't get into the story. Ironically the character I disliked the most in the was the one who showed the most growth and became less of a pratt.

Amy says

Boring. One star since it felt like a chore to read. Forced myself through 1/3 of the book but never wanted to read. Read it only out of a compulsive need to finish, but end then didn't bother. The book drags with so much detail and introduced too much in the beginning. The different people slowly begin to tie together but in an incredibly slow way.

I suspect the book might amp up towards the climax, but the pacing is off.

Barry Bridges says

Seymour has this way of storytelling that starts slow and slowly builds, dragging you in, taking you along, until the final crescendo which leaves you stunned by the reality of the denouement. Beautiful.

Richard Jr. says

Here's a writer who has definitely found his groove in the modern spy, suspense world. A position that rivals John LeCarre's original supreme level. You'll want to dig out the world atlas and locate Kaliningrad, Russia to see why it's both forgotten and at the same time one of the most strategic of Russian missile and troop sites on the North Sea! The tension within the book is palpable. A high ranking Russian military spy, living and working within this fortress of Russian defenses, with access to a General's top secret papers. The play-off and intrigue between the spy and the old style Soviet KGB counterspy system is accurate and well written. The resurrection of the old British commando type unit with all it's quirks constantly undercut by a modern Whitehall man who no longer believes in boots on the ground makes for a classic chess match of wits, bullying and countermoves in this race to pull out a spy who has been made but not yet put in chains. The side story of the Russian spy catcher and interrogator is absolutely amazing. It doesn't take water boarding to break even the toughest of men, only patience, empathy and the one on one techniques of a master. This is my pick for the best spy novel I've read. Action to the very end!
