



## The Night Agent

*Matthew Quirk*

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**“Plenty of breathless one-more-chapter, stay-up-late suspense wrapped around a meaty and timely story ... irresistible.”**

— Lee Child

*To find a Russian mole in the White House, an FBI agent must question everything. . . and trust no one*

To save America from a catastrophic betrayal, an idealistic young FBI agent must stop a Russian mole in the White House in this exhilarating political thriller reminiscent of the early novels of John Grisham and David Baldacci.

No one was more surprised than FBI Agent Peter Sutherland when he's tapped to work in the White House Situation Room. From his earliest days as a surveillance specialist, Peter has scrupulously done everything by the book, hoping his record will help him escape the taint of his past. When Peter was a boy, his father, a section chief in FBI counterintelligence, was suspected of selling secrets to the Russians—a catastrophic breach that had cost him his career, his reputation, and eventually his life.

Peter knows intimately how one broken rule can cost lives. Nowhere is he more vigilant than in this room, the sanctum of America's secrets. Staffing the night action desk, his job is monitoring an emergency line for a call that has not—and might never—come.

Until tonight.

At 1:05 a.m. the phone rings. A terrified young woman named Rose tells Peter that her aunt and uncle have just been murdered and that the killer is still in the house with her. Before their deaths, they gave her this phone number with urgent instructions: “Tell them OSPREY was right. It's happening. . . “

The call thrusts Peter into the heart of a conspiracy years in the making, involving a Russian mole at the highest levels of the government. Anyone in the White House could be the traitor. Anyone could be corrupted. To save the nation, Peter must take the rules into his own hands and do the right thing, no matter the cost. He plunges into a desperate hunt for the traitor—a treacherous odyssey that pits him and Rose against some of Russia's most skilled and ruthless operatives and the full force of the FBI itself.

Peter knows that the wider a secret is broadcast, the more dangerous it gets for the people at the center. With the fate of the country on the line, he and Rose must evade seasoned assassins and maneuver past jolting betrayals to find the shocking truth—and stop the threat from inside before it's too late.

## The Night Agent Details

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Author : Matthew Quirk

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## **From Reader Review The Night Agent for online ebook**

### **Vinay Badri says**

A passable thriller that could have been something better if real events didn't really mock every piece of it. In a way serves as wish fulfillment but given the cynical nature of American politics, it really reads as a bad joke. Good time pass but your mind can't go thinking what-if and what could be

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### **Stuart Ashenbrenner says**

FBI Agent Peter Sutherland basically does one thing - he sits in the White House and answers a phone when it rings. He then runs whatever he hears up the chain of command, but one night, he hears a phrase that thrusts him into the middle of a conspiracy.

This book was action-packed, fast-paced, exciting, and entertaining. I thought it was a fun and fantastic read, and if you like audiobooks, Chris Andrew Ciulla did an amazing job narrating. I highly recommend this book to any thriller lover.

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### **Loy says**

I enjoyed this book. Peter is a FBI agent who works an emergency hotline at the white house at night. He has a tainted past, his father was a traitor and Peter is trying to make up for his father.

He picks up the phone and hears Rose who needs help. He ends up going out and helping her and finding out that there is conspiracy in the highest halls of government. they are chased and the bad guys are unknown.

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### **Sharman Bingham says**

Audiobook: maybe just the narrator, but could not get into it. DNF at 15%

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### **Chris (Norseman) Miller says**

I think this book was very well written with a storyline that was a fresh relief of counterterrorism and spying. The main characters set up was really cool and interesting while the support characters were phenomenal. The amount of detail and intrigue was over the top and left me questioning everything right up until the end. Matthew Quirk did a bang up job and he really earned all 5 ???!

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## Slaven Tomasi says

Introducing *The Night Agent*, by Matthew Quirk. Matthew spent five years at *The Atlantic* magazine reporting on crime, private military contractors, terrorism prosecutions, and international gangs. He then turned to fiction. Besides the must read political thriller *The Night Agent*, he has also written *The 500* – set in the heart of the world’s most powerful political arena. *The Directive* – a story about two brothers, billions of dollars, and the heist of a lifetime. *Dead Man Switch* – someone is hunting down America’s most elite special ops soldiers in their homes. And *Cold Barrel Zero* – A code hidden in plain sight. A black ops team that went too far.

*The Night Agent* is Peter Sutherland. A nobody! Living his most honest life by following the rules to the letter. Doing everything by the book. Working for the FBI at a rank that is described as a G. This rank provides him a job to conduct surveillance and basically do the leg work assigned by Special Agents. A rank he wishes to achieve. Held back by the past which ruined his name, an FBI agent in the family, his father who may or may not have been a spy for another state. Something that has never been proven one way or the other. The accusation however has tainted his name and while applying for any promotion which became available, Peter was always shot down.

An opportunity presented itself to Peter and he jumped at it. A job at the White House. Offered to him by an old acquaintance, the Chief of Staff for the President of the United States, Diane Farr. Thinking or assuming, she was being genuine, giving him a chance to prove himself once and for all, he took the job and continued his ‘do-good’ ways, following all the rules, ensuring every base was covered. His job, as *The Night Agent*, watch a phone which was designated “eyes only” for Farr, the Chief of Staff and James Hawkins, a senior advisor and veteran to the FBI’s national security division. Peter’s job, answer the phone, the person would provide a call sign and Peter would ask him to verify, or challenge him for a word or phrase to authenticate the caller. Almost a year on the job, the phone has only rung once thus far. For that phone call, Peter did exactly what was asked of him. Contacted the required persons per instruction and went about his business. Later, he would question himself wondering if he had signed that caller’s death warrant.

Rose Larkin is currently house-sitting for her aunt and uncle Henry and Paulette Campbell. Two old spooks, we learn that later, but they’re described as honorable and very good at their job. When shit hits the fan for them, they describe another situation they had been in and the only thing that came to mind was the fire fight scene in *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*, when they were attacked and had joined forces. Ultimately, nothing remotely like that occurred and they were killed, quickly. What I came to expect in my imagination as I was reading didn’t occur, which was a bit of a disappointment. Rose, awoke to a commotion, came downstairs and quickly learned their lives are in danger, her uncle, Henry gave her some quick instructions and urged her to get away. She tries but fails to reach the vehicle and ends up at a neighbor’s house. She breaks in, finds a phone, hides and dials the number given to her by her uncle. She dials and Peter answers, from here the two begin on a long journey of finding out the truth, deception at the highest government level, and espionage all while on a run for their lives. With professional assassins on their trail, assassins that are state sponsored, meaning their resources are practically unlimited. Yet, Peter & Rose manage to get away, sometimes with seconds to spare, with multiple cuts and bruises.

The thrill ride Matthew takes us on with *The Night Agent* will definitely keep you on the edge of your seat, forcing you to read this political thriller in one sitting. Each chapter leaves you wanting more and more, not wanting to put the book down. A must read, for all political thriller fans.

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## **Eckburg says**

FBI Agent Peter Sutherland is The Night Agent whose day-to-day life is to answer calls and transfer them up the line. Until he receives a call that challenges his American allegiance, family, and duty. The Night Agent takes you into six days of intrigue and espionage as everything Peter thought he knew isn't even close.

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## **The Real Book Spy says**

Matthew Quirk returns to the thriller scene with a thundering bang.

Saying you work at the White House sounds sexy unless you're FBI agent Peter Sutherland, whose entire job description requires spending eight hours a night in the Situation Room sitting at a desk that houses a single phone that never rings.

For Peter, though, the job symbolizes something much bigger than babysitting a silent hotline. The son of a disgraced FBI chief, Peter has had to work twice as hard to earn trust within the agency. Once a solid D1 basketball player, Sutherland left the NCAA behind to join the FBI in an effort to right the wrongs committed by his father. Instead, he was reassigned to a third-shift assignment in the basement, where he's unable to do any good until one night, out of the blue, the phone finally rings.

On the other end on the line, a frantic twenty-something-year-old woman named Rose Larkin battles through a panic attack long enough to inform Peter that someone had broken into her aunt and uncle's home and killed them both. As Peter talks to her while local police and FBI agents race to the scene, she also relays a coded message her aunt and uncle had passed on to her indicating that something big is supposed to happen in six days. The message means nothing to Peter, who kicks the info up the chain to his boss, James Hawkins, a veteran agent with the FBI's national security division, officially ending his involvement with the entire situation.

Unofficially, Peter isn't as quick to forget about Rose and what happened to her aunt and uncle, Paulette and Henry Campbell. After a series of truly innocent events, where Peter tried to offer his condolences to Rose and then be there for her after sensing she needed someone to lean on, he inadvertently finds himself present when the same people who killed the Campbells tries to terminate Rose, too.

Following the would-be attack, President Michael Travers' chief-of-staff, Diane Farr, reads Peter into what's really going on . . . revealing a huge conspiracy that, if the FBI is correct, means that Russia has infiltrated the highest levels of the American government and is planning something massive — which may go down in only a few days' time.

Thrilled to finally be off the bench and into the game, Peter realizes . . .

Read the rest of this review here: <https://therealbookspy.com/2018/10/22...>

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## **Andrew Langert says**

I received an advance reader's edition of this book in a Goodreads Giveaway.

The protagonist, the Night Agent, works in the White House, manning a hotline. Though his job is to refer trouble called in to others with more responsibility, he gets personally involved in investigating a case when a woman calls in as her aunt and uncle are being killed. The night agent begins to suspect that a traitor involved with Russian bad guys is in his midst at the White House.

What follows are hundreds of pages of the protagonist chasing and being chased, with the author going into elaborate detail about all elements of the action. All the running around really got tedious and I struggled to finish this book.

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## **Cheryle says**

This was the first book I have read by this author, but it won't be the last. Very well written with a fast paced plot that keeps you turning pages even when you want to go to sleep. Tremendous read!

To save America from a catastrophic betrayal, an idealistic young FBI agent must stop a Russian mole in the White House in this exhilarating political thriller reminiscent of the early novels of John Grisham and David Baldacci.

No one was more surprised than FBI Agent Peter Sutherland when he's tapped to work in the White House Situation Room. From his earliest days as a surveillance specialist, Peter has scrupulously done everything by the book, hoping his record will help him escape the taint of his past. When Peter was a boy, his father, a section chief in FBI counterintelligence, was suspected of selling secrets to the Russians—a catastrophic breach that had cost him his career, his reputation, and eventually his life.

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## **Bookreporter.com Mystery & Thriller says**

Peter Sutherland is the night agent. From just past sunset to just after sunrise, Peter staffs the night action

desk in the White House Situation Room. He sleeps during the day and works all night. His job, boiled down to essentials, is to sit at his desk, wait for the phone to ring and answer it. In the 10 months that Peter has worked there, the phone has rung only once.

During all the other hours, Peter does research. The chief of staff gives him a list of current events and questions, and he scours the internet and intelligence sites for answers. He reports to James Hawkins, head of counterintelligence, and Diane Farr, the president's chief of staff. Farr hired Peter, despite his rather dubious family lineage. For years, Peter had toiled tirelessly at the FBI. His character and ethics were unimpeachable, but he seemed unable to convince any of the FBI higher-ups of that, despite his impeccable service. No one there can forget that Peter's father, a section chief in FBI counterintelligence, was a traitor. Due to his father's actions, double agents were rounded up, sent back home and executed.

Farr is the first person in government service who's been able to look at Peter and see his potential and faithfulness, rather than his father's treasonous actions. She selects him and brings him from backstreet work in Boston to the nation's capital, specifically the basement floor of the White House, to become the newest night agent. Peter is thrilled to take the position, elated to have a chance to actually prove himself. He does his job well --- he knows the code words to be spoken if the phone rings, and serves his country conscientiously and devotedly --- even if, at times, he wishes he knew exactly what was going on when the phone rang.

Elsewhere in Washington, D.C., a man takes out his violin. Although he rarely plays these days, it's the perfect pastime to occupy his attention as he waits for a call from his contact, BEECH. Dimitri, who has been described by his neighbors or passersby on the street as "average" or "medium," has spent his adult life cultivating those very qualities. In fact, he's anything but average. The dexterity he displays with the violin is eclipsed by his abilities with the Glock, a sharp knife, and the tradecraft that enables him to remove enemies almost before they know he's in the room with them.

Rose Larkin, the beloved niece of Henry and Paulette, is visiting them in Virginia after a professional hiccup --- the failure of her startup on the West Coast. They're retired Department of Commerce employees who consult and contract from time to time. After a lovely evening with them, she's awakened by a shrill noise --- the house alarm. She gets up and finds her aunt and uncle armed and disposing of documents. They instruct her to leave the house quickly, find a pay phone and call the night agent. She's to give him code words and tell him that OSPREY was right --- that they have only six days and they have the red ledger. Rose flees, hears gunshots and makes the call.

Peter reports to work that same night. Finally, for the second time in his stint at the night desk, the phone rings. Rose is calling. She, along with America, is in enormous and imminent danger. Can Peter and Rose evade Russian assassins, expose treachery and survive long enough to keep the worst from happening?

If you love political thrillers and spy novels, you must read **THE NIGHT AGENT**. From the captivating opening chapter, to agents and double agents, to the ins and outs of D.C. and world politics, you'll race through Matthew Quirk's fascinating book. You won't be able to put it down and will be sorry once it's over.

Reviewed by Melanie Reynolds

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**Suzanne says**



Eerily prescient political thriller with a highly placed Russian mole in the West Wing. An FBI agent, with a troubled family past preventing him from rising in the ranks, finds himself in the middle of a spy caper and potential political maelstrom. Will he solve the mystery, rescue the Nation and save the girl? The tale is fast and addictive, not least because of the real life parallels. Another winner of a book from author Matthew Quirk. I received my copy from the publisher through Edelweiss.

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## Jay says

This was the second book in a couple of weeks that I picked up based off a recommendation from the BOLO Books blog and despite what it says on the entry for how long it took me to read it, I actually finished this is over the course of a weekend. Yes, it was that engrossing.

Matthew Quirk's *The Night Agent* introduces the reader to FBI agent Peter Sutherland. He's a completely by the book agent, following every possible rule to the letter. This devotion to the rules is brought on by the fact that his father was a suspected Russian spy. Now, Sutherland may be part of the FBI, but he's always looked upon with suspicion and his career prospects are limited.

That is until he got hired to work in the White House situation room as a night agent. His basic job parameters include watching over a phone. If that phone rings, he's supposed answer it and deal with whomever is on the other end. But the phone hardly ever rings. Until one night when that very thing happens. Picking up the phone, Peter learns from a woman named Rose that she was given the number and to tell whomever picked up the phone that OSPREY was right.

What Peter doesn't realize is that by answering the phone he is thrust into a massive conspiratorial undertaking that was years in the planning. He discovers that there is a Russian mole inside the White House hierarchy and it could bring down the country. And it could reach all the way to the Oval Office.

With no one to turn to and unsure of whether anyone can be trusted, Peter not only has to help save Rose from being killed by a team of Russian assassins, but he has to learn to step out of his carefully crafted life of following the rules in order to both save himself and discover the traitor in their midst.

On the cover of the book, there is a blurb from author Lee Child that says, "Breathless, one-more-chapter, stay-up-late suspense". Let me tell you that this is not just some random hyperbole. As I was reading the book, I said to myself at least 5 times that I was going to read just one more chapter and stop. It didn't happen, I had to keep going until I literally passed out from exhaustion very late at night (or very early in the morning as it were).

I couldn't wait to turn the page to see what was coming next. There was an immediate sense of tension as things progressed in the story and when the action broke out, you could feel an adrenaline jolt.

Not content with telling a tale that could be simply described as ripped from the headlines, there's many a twist to the plot and they come off as authentically as possible. The quest of Peter and Rose to unveil and stop the traitor's cause has not a single false step.

I'd never read one of Matthew Quirk's thrillers before, but after what I read with *The Night Agent*, that is something I'm not going to have to say again. This was a timely and relevant tale, fueled with a keen grasp of real world details and richly drawn characters.

If staying up late is the price for getting to read the book, it is well worth that cost. *The Night Agent* is a powerful thriller full of the best the genre has to offer.

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### **3 no 7 says**

“*The Night Agent*” by Matthew Quirk features Peter Sutherland, an FBI agent, and Rose Larkin, someone he meets through work. Readers gain insight into Sutherland’s public personality through his friendly banter with fellow employees. He has a deeper private side resulting from a past family impropriety that haunts him constantly. He is careful about the rules, avoiding even the slightest hint of impropriety, but no matter how faultless he is, he cannot not escape that nagging past.

“It was a long time ago, but there were moments, like now, when the past would come at him so vividly, a stab of pain. It was like stepping on a tiny piece of glass a month after you thought you’d swept up all the shards.”

Sutherland works a night agent, covering the phones, holding down the fort while everyone else sleeps. His job is important, more important than he knows, even though 284 nights have passed without a phone call. He spends his working life tied to that phone that never rings, and then, one night at 1:05 AM, it does.

“He’s here. He’s inside. He’s going to kill me. It’s happening in six days. We have the red ledger.”

Characters are genuine and sympathetic. Readers follow Rose and Peter; their everyday actions are intermixed with the out-of-the-ordinary and terrifying. Both are playing with hidden cards. There are other participants as well, and the narrative goes slightly back and forth in time to look at both spies and spy-hunters. Who are these people? What are they are doing in the time surrounding specific events? What is their function and purpose? How much do they know and what did they pass on? How did they get to where they are without people discovering their deception? Everyone at every level has both something to hide and something that should be made public.

Little details draw reader into the setting and action. The tension is palatable.

“Two steps. The floor flexed beneath her. The shadows shifted under the door. She clamped her eyes shut. The man moved closer, and the knob rattled softly as a hand closed around it.”

“*The Night Agent*” is a thrilling game of international politics, espionage, and treachery that reaches into the highest levels of government. I was given a review copy of “*The Night Agent*” by Matthew Quirk, William Morrow, and Edelweiss. Readers will never quite know who is to be trusted and who is to be feared and will keep turning page after page to find out.

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### **Stefan Fergus says**

Quirk really knows how to pace a thriller. This was a lot of fun. Nicely zeitgeist-y, decent characters. Good writing, avoided most clichés, and enjoyable. Just what I wanted from a thriller. In fact, it’s put me in the

mood for more thrillers.

More full review to come, on CR.

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