



An Officer and a Spy: A novel

By Robert Harris

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An Officer and a Spy: A novel By Robert Harris

Robert Harris returns to the thrilling historical fiction he has so brilliantly made his own. This is the story of the infamous Dreyfus affair told as a chillingly dark, hard-edged novel of conspiracy and espionage.

Paris in 1895. Alfred Dreyfus, a young Jewish officer, has just been convicted of treason, sentenced to life imprisonment at Devil's Island, and stripped of his rank in front of a baying crowd of twenty-thousand. Among the witnesses to his humiliation is Georges Picquart, the ambitious, intellectual, recently promoted head of the counterespionage agency that "proved" Dreyfus had passed secrets to the Germans. At first, Picquart firmly believes in Dreyfus's guilt. But it is not long after Dreyfus is delivered to his desolate prison that Picquart stumbles on information that leads him to suspect that there is still a spy at large in the French military. As evidence of the most malignant deceit mounts and spirals inexorably toward the uppermost levels of government, Picquart is compelled to question not only the case against Dreyfus but also his most deeply held beliefs about his country, and about himself.

Bringing to life the scandal that mesmerized the world at the turn of the twentieth century, Robert Harris tells a tale of uncanny timeliness—a witch hunt, secret tribunals, out-of-control intelligence agencies, the fate of a whistle-blower—richly dramatized with the singular storytelling mastery that has marked all of his internationally best-selling novels.

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An Officer and a Spy: A novel By Robert Harris Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, February 2014: A spy thriller and psychological examination, Robert Harris's *An Officer and a Spy* looks at the infamous Dreyfus affair through the personage of a functionary-turned-whistle-blower. It's Paris, 1895. A Jewish army officer, Alfred Dreyfus, has been convicted of treason and is imprisoned on Devil's Island; he has been publicly humiliated, bound in chains, banished to solitary confinement. But was he really a spy for Germany--or was his fate sealed because he was a Jew in an anti-Semitic time and place? Slowly, the petit bureaucrat Georges Picquart begins to suspect that Dreyfus--portrayed here mostly through heart-wrenching real-life letters he wrote from prison to his beloved family--has been scapegoated. As Picquart amasses more and more evidence about Dreyfus, he also must come to terms with some of his own behaviors and attitudes. Still, for all its delicious detail about the mores of Belle Epoque Paris, both social and political, this novel is also one for the ages, or at least for the ages in which powerful intelligence agencies, government surveillance and cover-ups are worrisomely becoming the norm. --Sara Nelson

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Harris' instantly absorbing thriller reanimates the Dreyfus Affair of 1895 through Colonel Georges Picquart, who exposed the conspiracy to frame Dreyfus for supplying the Germans with French Army secrets. After serving as the minister of war's observer at Dreyfus' military trial, Picquart is promoted to lead the army's espionage unit. Picquart immerses himself in the dark work and quickly discovers evidence of another soldier leaking information to the German attaché. When he's denied permission to launch a sting operation, Picquart joins forces with a Sûreté (police) detective to gather evidence through an unofficial surveillance scheme. Convinced that the secret evidence that convicted Dreyfus implicates his current target instead, Picquart investigates further and finds a conspiracy originating in the army's top ranks. In the anti-Semitic climate of this pivotal period in French society, Picquart's insistence that Dreyfus "the Jew" may be innocent creates dangerous, powerful enemies. Harris combats the predictability that can haunt fictional accounts of well-known events by teasing out the tale through Picquart's training in espionage and investigation, his unsanctioned detecting, and the complex intrigues he navigates to secure a reexamination of Dreyfus' case. Great for fans of Ken Follett, John le Carré, Louis Bayard, Caleb Carr, and Martin Cruz Smith, all of whom also portray historical intrigues and investigations with intricate detail and literary skill. Also try Jason Matthews' recently published *Red Sparrow* (2013). --Christine Tran

Review

Winner of the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger and the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction

British National Book Awards—Popular Fiction Book of the Year

"Outstanding . . . Finds its chilling thrills in the unlikeliest of places." —*USA Today*

"[A] superb historical thriller. . . . Thick with scenes of code-breaking, covert surveillance, hairsbreadth escapes and violent death." —*The Wall Street Journal*

"Harris has, with this novel, taken [Le Carré's] place as the master of making documents and scraps of paper,

the details of painstaking intelligence work, into drama.” —*The Daily Beast*

“[Harris] outdoes himself. The period details are pitch-perfect . . . and the action pulses with intensity.”
—*The Miami Herald*

“A gripping tale.” —*The New York Times*

“Mesmerizing. . . . The Dreyfus affair remains astonishing, and this exceptional piece of popular fiction does it justice.”
—*The Washington Post*

“A thrilling page-turner. . . . Thick with espionage, daring and cruel turns of fate.”
—*New York Daily News*

“A crisp, fast-paced drama. . . . From one of the great scandals of the late 19th century, Harris has written a novel which is true to the facts, scrupulously so, but reads like a combination of Le Carré at his best and Conan Doyle writing about Sherlock Holmes.”
—*The Daily Beast*

“Robert Harris’s novel speaks to our times in its examination of the potential dangers of military intelligence.”
—*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

“A compelling narrative of state corruption. . . . While finely attuned to modern resonances of surveillance, cultural identity and patriotic loyalty, Harris stays true to the atmosphere and morals of the period.”
—*The Guardian* (UK)

“A master storyteller at the top of his game. . . . The echoes of our own time are deafening. But Harris is far too smart to labor the point. He just drives his story forward, marshalling his cast of fools and knaves, soldiers and spies, dodgy handwriting experts and discreet mistresses, to superlative effect.”
—*Mail on Sunday* (UK)

“Claustrophobically gripping. . . . Written in elegant prose reminiscent of the 19th-century historical novel, but its form is a hybrid of the contemporary thriller, the spy novella and the courtroom drama. It is persuasive and engaging on all of these levels, while providing a unique and fresh reading of the Dreyfus affair.”
—*The Irish Times*

“Instantly absorbing. . . . Great for fans of Ken Follett, John le Carré, Louis Bayard, Caleb Carr, and Martin Cruz Smith.”
—*Booklist* (starred review)

“Easily the best fictional treatment of the Dreyfus Affair. . . . Harris perfectly captures the rampant anti-Semitism that led to Dreyfus’s scapegoating.”
—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Espionage, counterespionage, a scandalous trial, a cover-up, and a man who tries to do right make this a complex and alluring thriller.”
—*Kirkus Reviews*

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gloria Duncan:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with education books but if you want really feel happy read one using theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. Often the An Officer and a Spy: A novel is kind of publication which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Brian Smith:

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Daniel Martin:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book may be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the reserve untitled An Officer and a Spy: A novel can be fine book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

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