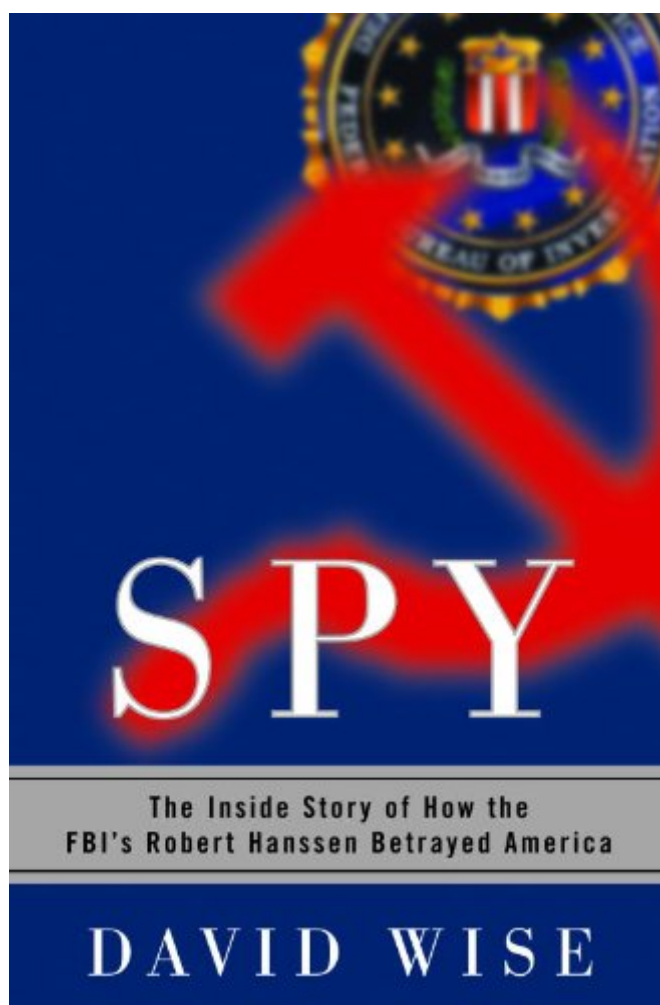


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Spy: The Inside Story Of How The FBI's Robert Hanssen Betrayed America



Synopsis

Spy tells, for the first time, the full, authoritative story of how FBI agent Robert Hanssen, code name grayday, spied for Russia for twenty-two years in what has been called the worst intelligence disaster in U.S. history—and how he was finally caught in an incredible gambit by U.S. intelligence. David Wise, the nation's leading espionage writer, has called on his unique knowledge and unrivaled intelligence sources to write the definitive, inside story of how Robert Hanssen betrayed his country, and why. Spy at last reveals the mind and motives of a man who was a walking paradox: FBI counterspy, KGB mole, devout Catholic, obsessed pornographer who secretly televised himself and his wife having sex so that his best friend could watch, defender of family values, fantasy James Bond who took a stripper to Hong Kong and carried a machine gun in his car trunk. Brimming with startling new details sure to make headlines, Spy discloses:—the previously untold story of how the FBI got the actual file on Robert Hanssen out of KGB headquarters in Moscow for \$7 million in an unprecedented operation that ended in Hanssen's arrest.—how for three years, the FBI pursued a CIA officer, code name gray deceiver, in the mistaken belief that he was the mole they were seeking inside U.S. intelligence. The innocent officer was accused as a spy and suspended by the CIA for nearly two years. —why Hanssen spied, based on exclusive interviews with Dr. David L. Charney, the psychiatrist who met with Hanssen in his jail cell more than thirty times. Hanssen, in an extraordinary arrangement, authorized Charney to talk to the author.—the full story of Robert Hanssen's bizarre sex life, including the hidden video camera he set up in his bedroom and how he plotted to drug his wife, Bonnie, so that his best friend could father her child.— how Hanssen and the CIA's Aldrich Ames betrayed three Russians secretly spying for the FBI—including top hat, a Soviet general—who were then executed by Moscow. —that after Hanssen was already working for the KGB, he directed a study of moles in the FBI when—as he alone knew—he was the mole. Robert Hanssen betrayed the FBI. He betrayed his country. He betrayed his wife. He betrayed his children. He betrayed his best friend, offering him up to the KGB. He betrayed his God. Most of all, he betrayed himself. Only David Wise could tell the astonishing, full story, and he does so, in masterly style, in Spy. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

File Size: 2016 KB

Print Length: 320 pages

Publisher: Random House; 1st edition (October 22, 2002)

Publication Date: October 22, 2002

Sold by: Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004SOVCBA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #266,900 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #18

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > Canada > Military History #63 in Books

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Customer Reviews

"Spy: The Inside Story of How the FBI's Robert Hanssen Betrayed America" is a highly informative and very well-written book about the most damaging espionage case in United States history. For 22 years, beginning in 1979 and ending with his arrest in 2001, Robert Philip Hanssen, a counterintelligence agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, sold secrets to various intelligence agencies of the Soviet Union and Russia. It's estimated that Hanssen handed over 6,000 pages of classified documents to the Soviets; warned the Soviets of the existence of several agents working for American clandestine services, warnings that resulted in those agents' execution or imprisonment; and gave the Soviets the United States' continuity of government plan. For these and many other traitorous actions, Hanssen was paid an estimated \$600,000, with an additional \$800,000 held in escrow by the Soviet government. "Spy" was written by David Wise, who is an American journalist recognized as an authority on espionage and intelligence subjects. His expertise certainly is evident in this short but information-packed book. In the space of 320 pages, Wise narrates in his clear, concise, and easy to understand prose how Hanssen began his career as an FBI agent and, at the same time, a Soviet mole within the FBI. Wise explains how Hanssen was able to carry on his espionage activities undetected for over two decades. Wise also explores the connection between Hanssen's ultra-conservative Catholicism and his spying; and provides an overview of Hanssen's sexual peccadilloes, including his secret video-taping of himself having sex with his wife, and then his selling of those tapes to third parties, and his affair with a stripper. "Spy"

may be about as comprehensive an account of the Robert Hanssen case as readers are likely to get. David Wise not only covers what Hanssen did, but also provides a thorough analysis of why he did it. This is a brilliantly written, disturbing, but essential account of America's worst-ever spy. Highly recommended.

Though I checked the "I Love It" (5-star) rating, it is hard to love a spy who sells out your country. I "loved it" because the story was well-told even if the subject matter was revolting to citizens, taxpayers and retired military, all of which describe me. The best part about the story is that the good guys finally got the bad guy. The worst part is that it took so long - nearly two decades. This book and the movie made of the story are about equal in quality and it is a good quality. Having seen the movie first I was baited to read the book; either sequence is acceptable, one reinforces the other and does not feel like a waste of time.

This is a thorough and insightful piece dealing with arch-traitor Robert Hanssen, the most damaging Soviet agent in FBI history. Hanssen was a veteran FBI agent who had himself worked in various FBI counter-espionage departments against the Soviet Union. When he inexplicably turned traitor and offered his services to the Soviets he was in a position to do incalculable damage to American security and by all accounts did exactly that. No one will ever know how many American agents within the KGB met their deaths due to Hanssen betraying them to the Russians. Further, he gave the Soviets huge amounts of information on such things as US assessments of Soviet strategic weapons, the Continuity of Government plan for safeguarding the US Government in the event of war, and countless other critical secrets. This well-researched and engaging piece goes into much of this in depressing detail. This book tries harder than most to analyze what motivated Hanssen to turn traitor. He was a genuinely religious man who nonetheless was addicted to pornography. He was a family man who secretly took movies and photos of his wife in intimate circumstances and shared them on the internet. He was politically anti-Soviet and yet he spied for the Soviets. The book has some interesting speculations by experts on Hanssen's psyche, but at the end of the day the complex mix of evil that motivated him is probably beyond full human understanding. This book brings out many lessons. There were ample warnings that Hanssen was a mole. He lived much better than his Government salary should have allowed, and in fact his brother-in-law, who was also an agent, reported this to the FBI. When Hanssen was offered a prestigious posting within the FBI on condition that he take a polygraph, he refused and turned down the job. He was caught with hacking software on his computer and he was further caught hacking into colleague's computers. At

least back then, the FBI appeared not to want to suspect its own, or had an institutional blind spot. This book reads like fiction, but is far more interesting than any spy novel. One wonders where some of the details that the author dredges up came from. The details of the battle of spies between the KGB (later SVR) on the one hand, and the CIA and FBI on the other, is fascinating. Highly recommended. RJB.

I saw the movie on Robert Hanssen before I got this book. My thoughts are the same: I hope he slowly rots in his cell. Not only did he betray his country but he betrayed his wife in the most vile ways. It's hard to believe he got away with his spying for so long...his colleagues just didn't want to believe a mole was in their midst. A compelling read.

It is a detailed book on how the FBI finally caught Robert Hanson. He was a spy for Russia for twenty years. They knew there was a mole, beside Aldridge Ames, but he was so smart, that if a source in the KGB had not given them clues as to who, he might be, he would have retired & they would have never discovered him. FBI went after the wrong man several times & ruined careers, but he was a seasoned agent & knew how to stay below the "radar". Interesting book, but it is not too flattering for the FBI in their hunt for moles. At one point, he was put in charge of ferrating out the mole (which was himself).

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