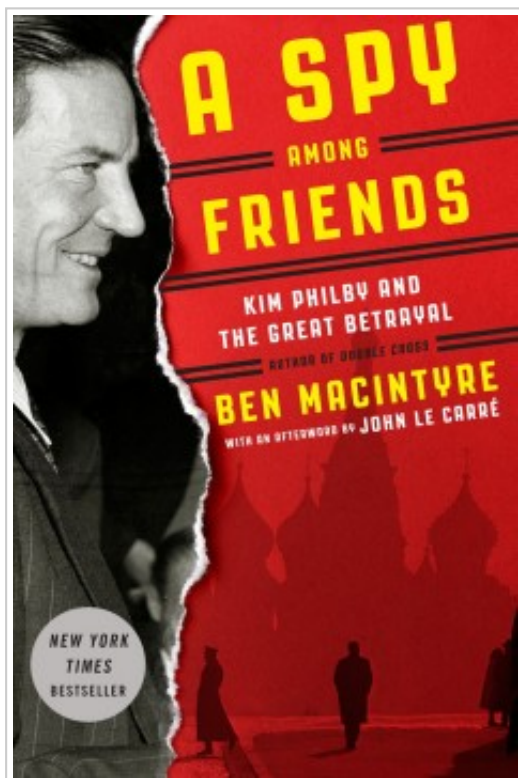


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A Spy Among Friends

by Ben Macintyre, John Le Carre

Price: \$27.00(Hardcover)

Published: July 29, 2014

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: Master storyteller Ben Macintyre's most ambitious work to date brings to life the twentieth century's greatest spy story.

Kim Philby was the greatest spy in history, a brilliant and charming man who rose to head Britain's counterintelligence against the Soviet Union during the height of the Cold War—while he was secretly working for the enemy. And nobody thought he knew Philby like Nicholas Elliott, Philby's best friend and fellow officer in MI6. The two men had gone to the same schools, belonged to the same exclusive clubs, grown close through the crucible of wartime intelligence work and long nights of drink and revelry. It was madness for one to think the other might be a communist spy, bent on subverting Western values and the power of the free world.

But Philby was secretly betraying his friend. Every word Elliott breathed...

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What We Say

This is a corker. The British are obsessed -- and rightly so -- with the Cambridge Spy Ring. Why would men of privilege, the bluest of bloods, betray their country and spy for the Soviet Union? I first became intrigued by this true tale of espionage and betrayal thanks to the fictional treatment it was given in the play and film "Another Country." That led me to read some classic books on the subject. Now Ben Macintyre has made this oft-told tale seem fresh and riveting all over again. He focuses on Kim Philby, the greatest and most damaging spy in this scandal. Mcintyre approaches Philby's tale from a new angle as the story of friends. Philby completely hoodwinked his fellow MI6 officer Nicholas Elliott (his best friend) and the legendary James Jesus Angleton of the CIA. These two men simply could not imagine "one of them" -- much less their closest friend, Kim -- being a turncoat. Friendship and connections, the old boy network, the nod of approval from senior officials who knew Philby's father and saw the young man as "one of us" was his way into MI6. Friendship was his way up the ladder. Friendship was what protected him long after it should have been obvious or at least suspected a LOT more that he was betraying everyone. Mcintyre delves into just how devastating Kim Philby's betrayal was, making this story riveting indeed. He also does a convincing job on two disputed issues. The way Mcintyre makes his case, there is virtually no question that both Elliott and Angleton were duped right up the very end, despite their desire to retroactively insist they had been suspicious for years. Also, there's little doubt they practically begged Philby to escape to the Soviet Union, letting him slip out of their hands rather than go through the embarrassment and public nightmare of a trial. As an afterword, novelist John Le Carre shares notes of his conversations with Philby after the man's betrayal was known that bring Philby's deeply blinkered attitude (why shouldn't he and Elliott still be friends?) to life with intriguing verve. Despite knowing how it all ended, I was hooked. -- Michael Giltz

[Less](#)

What Others Say

New York Times Bestseller

New York Times Book Review Notable Book

An Amazon Best Book of the Year

Washington Post Notable Book

Entertainment Weekly's Best Spy Book of 2014

"Macintyre has produced more than just a spy story. He has written a narrative about that most complex of topics, friendship...When devouring this thriller, I had to keep reminding myself it was not a novel. It reads like a story by Graham Greene, Ian Fleming, or John Le Carré, leavened with a dollop of P.G. Wodehouse...[Macintyre] takes a fresh look at the grandest espionage drama of our era." —**Walter Isaacson, New York Times Book Review**

"Superb... Riveting reading." —**Malcolm Gladwell, The New Yorker**