

FICTION

ENIGMA Robert Harris (*Random House, \$23*) *Fatherland*, the first novel from Robert Harris, spun a nightmarish tale from the premise that the Nazis had won World War II. *Enigma*, his second, focuses on one of the central reasons the Nazis didn't win: the code breakers of Britain's Bletchley Park. Among them is Tom Jericho, who faints like a maiden aunt and suffers a nervous breakdown after momentarily breaking the German code. Harris does a crackerjack job here, playing his characters' lives off historical events in surprising ways. At the center of it all is Enigma, a dastardly encryption device that keeps the Nazis one step ahead and gives this satisfying thriller a cold, implacable, mechanical villain. **B** —*Michael Giltz*