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Double Cross: The True Story of the D-Day Spies

By Ben Macintyre



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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF A SPY AMONG FRIENDS

On June 6, 1944, 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy and suffered an astonishingly low rate of casualties. A stunning military accomplishment, it was also a masterpiece of trickery. Operation Fortitude, which protected and enabled the invasion, and the Double Cross system, which specialized in turning German spies into double agents, tricked the Nazis into believing that the Allied attacks would come in Calais and Norway rather than Normandy. It was the most sophisticated and successful deception operation ever carried out, ensuring Allied victory at the most pivotal point in the war. This epic event has never before been told from the perspective of the key individuals in the Double Cross system, until now. Together they made up one of the oddest and most brilliant military units ever assembled.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, August 2012: What do a Polish pilot, a Peruvian party girl, and a Spanish chicken maven have in common? They were all central to the success of Operation Fortitude, the audacious ruse that kept Hitler guessing over the location of the D-Day invasions, saving the lives of countless Allied soldiers and turning the war in their favor. In the same enthralling and entertaining fashion of his previous World War II spy stories (*Agent Zigzag*, *Operation Mincemeat*), Ben Macintyre's *Double Cross* goes behind the standard narratives of armies, generals, and tactics to chronicle the unlikely--and occasionally outlandish--stories of the spooks, spymasters, and double agents that changed the course of the war. --*Jon Foro*

Review

"Gripping stories from the perspective of a remarkable ragtag group of spies who tricked the Nazis in an astounding D-Day deception. Puts other spy tales to shame." —People

"It should be said loud and clear that Macintyre is a supremely gifted storyteller. He spins quite a yarn. His books are absurdly entertaining. I would kill for his keen wit. He takes us into a world of bounders, spivs, roués, and men (and women) on the make....*Double Cross* is a blast."

—*Boston Globe*

"Forget fiction when you are buying beach reading this summer. Ben Macintyre's factual account is more gripping than what you will find anywhere else. It is a story unsurpassed in the long history of intelligence."

—Washington Times

"Macintyre at once exalts and subverts the myths of spycraft, and has a keen eye for absurdity."

—New Yorker

"[A] complex, absorbing final installment in his trilogy about World War II espionage....Macintyre is a master storyteller. Employing a wry wit and a keen eye for detail, he delivers an ultimately winning tale fraught with European intrigue and subtle wartime heroics."

—San Francisco Chronicle

"Superb....the story comes alive again in all its stupendous, unimaginable duplicity....intensely readable"

—Washington Post

"A wonderfully entertaining story of deception and trickery that is told with verve and wit....Macintyre's early books about espionage in World War II have been bestsellers, and this will be no exception."

—Christian Science Monitor

"Macintyre revels in the surreal aspects of his story, writing with a breezy, almost tongue-in-cheek style. But the author is also adept at communicating the seriousness and the stakes of the underlying game....Nail-biting and chuckle-inducing reading."

—Columbus Dispatch

“Another captivating, improbably fresh story of World War II....*Double Cross* is ennobling, invigorating and, above all, entertaining. Macintyre's research is impressive, as is his ability to shape disparate facts into a breathless page-turner....Throw in nail-biting suspense and the occasional decadent Nazi (fickle mistress optional) and, with Macintyre in charge, you're virtually guaranteed a history book that reads like a spy novel.”

—Richmond Times-Dispatch

“It is the riveting tales of these agents on which Ben Macintyre focuses, to full advantage, in *Double Cross*....Macintyre makes good use of the material. He knows how to let the high drama unfold on its own.”

—Wall Street Journal

“London Times writer Macintyre (*Agent Zigzag*, *Operation Mincemeat*) concludes his WWII espionage trilogy with the tantalizing tale of an oddball, ‘Dirty Dozen’-like group of double agents who fool the Nazis into believing the Allied D-Day attack would come at Calais, not Normandy.”

—New York Post, Required reading

“A tale of smarts, personal courage and — even knowing what happened on June 6, 1944 — suspense. Where would we be if these troubled, eccentric and hang-it-all characters hadn't known how to lie, and lie well?”

—Seattle Times

“As in his earlier best-sellers about WWII-era spycraft, *Agent Zigzag* and *Operation Mincemeat*, Macintyre writes with novelistic flair.”

—Entertainment Weekly

“The story of D-Day – when 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy – as it's never been told before....this amazing story shows how double agents and spies tricked the German army and saved thousands of Allied lives.”

—New York Post

“Only with author Ben Macintyre's scintillating account has this complex human drama, with all its tortuous twists and turns, finally received the cinematic treatment it deserves....This is edge-of-the seat stuff.”

—WWII Magazine

“Macintyre does a fine job depicting this extraordinary cast and exposing the ambiguous world of espionage....compelling.”

—MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History

“With the same skill and suspense he displayed in *Operation Mincemeat* and *Agent Zigzag*....Macintyre effortlessly weaves the agents' deliciously eccentric personalities with larger wartime events to shape a tale that reads like a top-notch spy thriller.”

—Publishers Weekly (starred)

“Macintyre has written a tense, exciting real-life spy story that illuminates a largely obscure aspect of WWII.”

—Booklist

“With his latest book, *Double Cross*, Ben Macintyre tells the astonishing true story of a bizarre group of misfit spies who played a critical role in the success of D-Day. The stories in this book, many of which have never before been told, are nothing short of incredible. Skillfully woven together, they form one of the most gripping narratives I have ever read.”

—Candice Millard, author of *The River of Doubt* and *Destiny of the Republic*

“Ben Macintyre and I work in the same period, and I should be reading him because he is such a scrupulous and insightful writer – a master historian. But, with *Double Cross* and his other excellent works, I always wind up reading him for pleasure. *Double Cross* may be his best yet, falling somewhere between top-class entertainment and pure addiction.”

—Alan Furst, author of *A Mission to Paris*

"Ben Macintyre's spellbinding account features an improbable cast of characters who pulled off a counter-intelligence feat that was breathtaking in its audacity. Their deceptions within deceptions—known as the Double Cross—were critical to the success of the D-Day invasion, and continued to mislead the Germans long after Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. A truly bravura performance, as is Macintyre's fast-paced tale."

—Andrew Nagorski, author of *Hitlerland: American Eyewitnesses to the Nazi Rise to Power*

"How on earth, in 1944, did we dupe Berlin that we would attack the coast of France in completely the wrong place? It was a deception that saved tens of thousands of Allied lives. In *Double Cross*, Ben Macintyre ingeniously explains exactly how it was done."

—Frederick Forsyth

"Never before revealed facts about the workings of the Intelligence Service in the build up to D-Day in the Second World War. Ben Macintyre's remarkable book is a gripping revelation."

—Jack Higgins

“[Macintyre] has excelled himself with a cast of extraordinary characters and in his storytelling abilities....*Double Cross* is an utterly gripping story.”

—Antony Beevor, *The Telegraph*

“Enthralling....Macintyre is a master at leading the reader down some very tortuous paths while ensuring they never lose their bearings. He's terrific, too, at animating his characters with the most succinct of touches....gripping.”

—London Evening Standard

About the Author

BEN MACINTYRE is a writer-at-large for *The Times* of London and the bestselling author of *A Spy Among Friends*, *Double Cross*, *Operation Mincemeat*, *Agent Zigzag*, *The Napoleon of Crime*, and *Forgotten Fatherland*, among other books. Macintyre has also written and presented BBC documentaries of the wartime espionage trilogy.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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What do you with regards to book? It is not important with you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They have to answer that question because just their can do this. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on pre-school until university need this kind of Double Cross: The True Story of the D-Day Spies to read.

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