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An Ordinary Spy: A Novel

By Joseph Weisberg



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An Ordinary Spy: A Novel By Joseph Weisberg

A former CIA case officer's novel about two embattled spies who go to extraordinary lengths to keep their informants out of harm's way, published as vetted by the agency itself.

Mark Ruttenberg may not be fit for the CIA. Early in his tenure with the agency, he learns about a former operative, Bobby Goldstein, and becomes curious about the case that led to his termination. Before he can get to the bottom of what happened, however, he's shipped off to [REDACTED], where he hobnobs with foreign diplomats and informants, who have access to [REDACTED] information and contacts like the powerful General [REDACTED], in the hopes of recruiting them as agents. But, when he falls for the wrong woman, he's quickly sent back to [REDACTED], with nothing to show for his secretive work but a mysterious postcard with an unknown address on it. Who sent the postcard, and where is it supposed to lead him? Could this all be an ops test, with Mark's future hanging in the balance? Soon, he'll have to decide if righting an old wrong is worth taking a terrible and very personal risk. Published with redacted material throughout the novel, *An Ordinary Spy* is a riveting and dramatic portrait of modern espionage, filled with suspense, intrigue, and betrayal.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Mimicking many nonfiction books about the CIA, Weisberg, a former CIA officer, has included a blizzard of redacted (blacked out) words and sentences in his second novel (after *10th Grade*), as if the agency's publications review board had worked the manuscript over with a heavy hand. Did they? Or is it just a clever ploy for verisimilitude? Mark Ruttenberg, a newly minted agent, is on his first foreign assignment trying to persuade citizens of an unknown country (the location has been redacted) to spy for American interests. He's doing well until he starts sleeping with one of his contacts and his superiors eventually fire him. Back in America, Ruttenberg meets another cashiered spy, Bobby Goldstein, and the two men share their experiences. Ruttenberg and Goldstein may be pretty ordinary spies, as the title suggests, but their stories compel, thanks to the author's deft prose and insider expertise. Given the quantity of blacked-out material, some readers may be more annoyed than intrigued as they puzzle over the missing information. (*Jan.*) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

"Wholly original."—*Los Angeles Times*

"Weisberg, a former C.I.A. agent, skillfully maintains a tension-filled plot and offers a humanistic spin on the typical spy story, sensitively portraying the pain of risking lives for the sake of ambition."—*New Yorker*

"In a spare but beautifully written book, Weisberg captures the paranoia and frustration, if not the futility, of the real world of spying."—*Newsweek*

"The best of new American spy fiction."—*Chicago Tribune*

"Recalls Graham Greene's comic *Our Man in Havana*...An odd, well-written and interesting novel, a low-key corrective to all the razzle-dazzle spy tales we've read."—*Washington Post*

"A superb CIA novel."—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"A well-wrought, beautifully crafted, incisive book...a remarkably honest and revealing picture of those who shouldn't have become spies in the first place."—*Washington Times*

About the Author

Joseph Weisberg is the author of the critically acclaimed *10th Grade*, which was a 2002 *New York Times* Notable Book. A former CIA officer, he grew up in Chicago and currently lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Mohammad:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book thus. There are a lot of reasons why people love it. First reading a guide will give you a lot of new details. When you read a publication you will get new information since book is one of various ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, looking at a book will make a person more imaginative. When you reading through a book especially hype book the author will bring someone to imagine the story how the personas do it anything. Third, you could share your knowledge to other individuals. When you read this An Ordinary Spy: A Novel, you are able to tells your family, friends in addition to soon about yours reserve. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a book.

Lori Barnes:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love An Ordinary Spy: A Novel, it is possible to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Theodore Mullis:

This An Ordinary Spy: A Novel is great reserve for you because the content and that is full of information for you who all always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This book reveal it facts accurately using great plan word or we can claim no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but hard core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having An Ordinary Spy: A Novel in your hand like getting the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no book that offer you world within ten or fifteen small right but this publication already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt in which?

Casey Russell:

Many people said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a publication. They are directly felt that when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the actual book An Ordinary Spy: A Novel to make your personal reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading expertise is developing when you like reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the impression about book and reading through especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to available a book and study it. Beside that the publication An Ordinary Spy: A Novel can to be your brand new friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse using what must you're doing of that time.

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