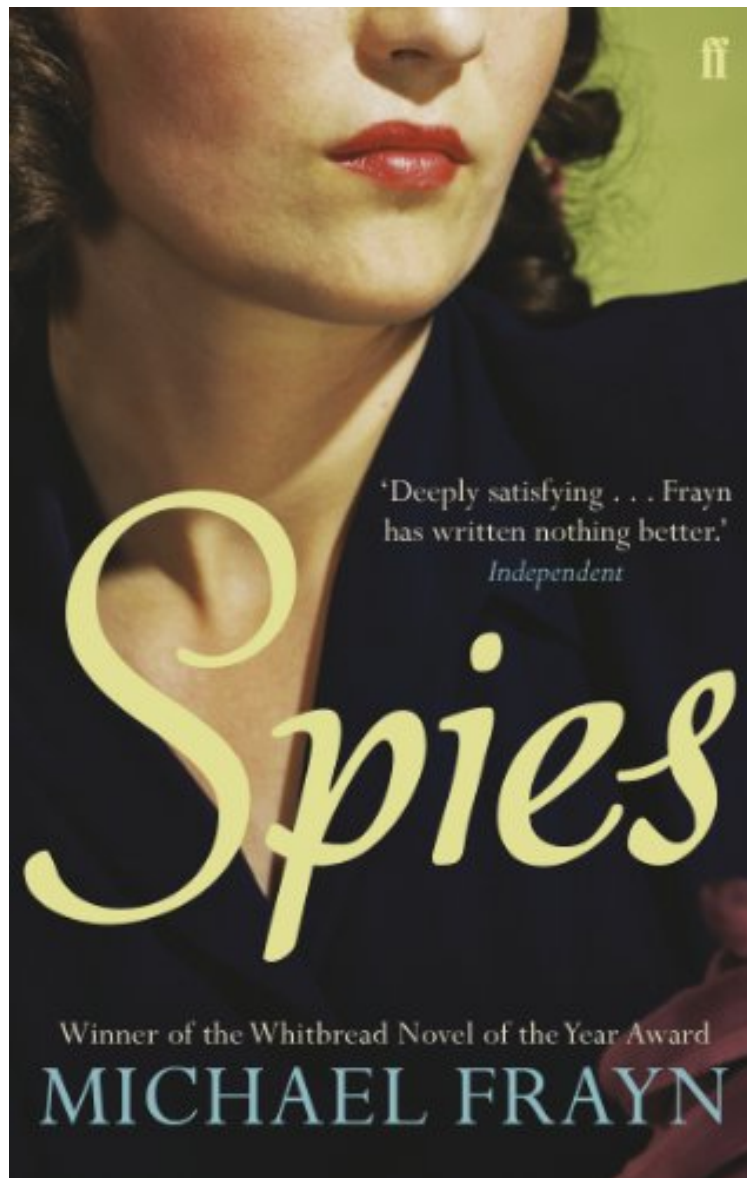


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Spies (English Edition)

Von Michael Frayn

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Von Michael Frayn : Spies (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spies (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Spionage mal anders Von Valentine England 1942, eine ruhige Seitenstrae in einer kleinen Indlichen Siedlung. Stephen und Keith sind 11 oder 12 Jahre alt und spielen hufig miteinander. Eines Tages verrt Keith Stephen ein aufregendes

Geheimnis. "Meine Mutter ist eine Spionin der Deutschen." Von da an beschatten die beiden Jungs Keiths Mutter auf Schritt und Tritt, führen Buch über sämtliche "Bewegungen" und reimen sich aus den Indizien eine glaubwürdige scheinende Geschichte zusammen. Doch irgendwann bekommt Stephen seine Zweifel, ob das wirklich stimmt, und folgt Keiths Mutter auf eigene Faust... Michael Frayn gelingt eine wunderbare Gratwanderung - die beiden Jungs erstehen deutlich vor dem geistigen Auge, ihre Motivationen und Gedankengänge sind absolut nachvollziehbar und "altersgerecht", und gleichzeitig zeigt er gehörigen Tiefgang, formuliert wunderschön und baut zudem unglaubliche Spannung auf. Man wird mit Stephen förmlich in die Geschichte hineingezogen - und immer wieder durch verblüffende, aber glaubwürdige Wendungen überrascht. Das Buch kann allerdings in der Übersetzung nur verlieren, da es im Original viele herrliche Wortspiele enthält. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Spies - A review Von Susanne Kuhn "Spies" is a story about childhood, friendship, memories and growing up. In it we meet Stephen, the main protagonist, and Keith, his supposedly best friend. In times of war, the two of them embark on an adventurous game when Keith announces that his mother is a German spy. But what started as a game, suddenly turns into a nightmare. All at once Stephen is on his own in the confusing world of adults, torn between loyalty and curiosity. When the puzzle finally is solved, childhood for Stephen is gone forever and he is forced to grow up. Michael Frayn expertly takes us back to our childhood days and triggers memories long forgotten. He skillfully twists the plot in a way the reader can't really put his finger on the point of where it all changes. All throughout reading, the book has been a suspenseful source for imagination and speculation and is well worth reading. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A fascinating, mysterious and beautifully accomplished novel. Von - "Spies" written by Michael Frayn is a story about friendship and secrets. The author exactly knows how to use language to give us the feeling of being young again and to show us the protagonist's thoughts. He takes us on a journey through time and leads us back to our own childhood. By reading his book it is easy to understand what it was like to be a child during the Second World War. The whole story is full of suspense because of long kept secrets. Frayn often uses an ironic way of writing that makes this novel even more interesting. "Spies" is an expertly controlled story about things running out of control. Sometimes it is warm and funny, then melancholy and sad. This book is absolutely worth reading.

Kurzbeschreibung In the quiet cul-de-sac where Keith and Stephen live the only immediate signs of the Second World War are the blackout at night and a single random bombsite. But the two boys start to suspect that all is not what it seems when one day Keith announces a disconcerting discovery: the Germans have infiltrated his own family. And when the secret underground world they have dreamed up emerges from the shadows they find themselves engulfed in mysteries far deeper and more painful than they had bargained for. 'Bernard Shaw couldn't do it, Henry James couldn't do it, but the ingenious English author Michael Frayn does do it: write novels and plays with equal success ... Frayn's novel excels.' John Updike, New Yorker 'A beautifully accomplished, richly nostalgic novel about supposed second-world-war espionage seen through the eyes of a young boy.' Sunday Times 'Deeply satisfying ... Frayn has written nothing better.' Independent.de In Michael Frayn's novel Spies an old man returns to the scene of his seemingly ordinary suburban childhood. Stephen Wheatley is unsure of what he is seeking, but as he walks once-familiar streets he hasn't seen in 50 years, he unfolds a story of childish games colliding cruelly with adult realities. It is wartime and Stephen's friend Keith makes the momentous announcement that his mother is a German spy. The two boys begin to spy on the supposed spy, following her on her trips to the shops and to the post office, and reading her diary. Keith's mother does have secrets to conceal but they are not the ones the boys suspect. Frayn skillfully manipulates his plot so that the reader's growing awareness of the truth remains just a few steps beyond young Stephen's dawning realization that he is trespassing on painful and dangerous territory. The only false notes occur in the final chapter when the central revelation is too swiftly followed by further disclosures about Stephen and his family that seem somehow unnecessary and make the denouement less satisfyingly conclusive. This is a much sparer and less expansive book than Frayn's 1999 novel Headlong, which was short-listed for the Booker Prize. --Nick Rennison, .co.uk.co.uk In Michael Frayn's novel Spies an old man returns to the scene of his seemingly ordinary suburban childhood. Stephen Wheatley is unsure of what he is seeking but, as he walks once-familiar streets he hasn't seen in 50 years, he unfolds a story of childish games colliding cruelly with adult realities. It is wartime and Stephen's friend Keith makes the momentous announcement that his mother is a German spy. The two boys begin to spy on the supposed spy, following her on her trips to the shops and to the post, and reading her diary. Keith's mother does have secrets to conceal but they are not the ones the boys suspect. Frayn skillfully manipulates his plot so that the reader's growing awareness of the truth remains just a few steps beyond Stephen's dawning realisation that he is trespassing on painful and dangerous territory. The only false notes occur in the final chapter when the central revelation (already cleverly signposted) is too swiftly followed by further disclosures about Stephen and his family that seem somehow unnecessary and make the denouement less satisfyingly conclusive. This is a much sparer and less expansive book than Headlong, Frayn's Booker Prize-shortlisted 1999 novel, more understated in its wit, but it is, in many ways, more compelling. --Nick

