



Page Turners at the Monroe Library

Spy Stories

July 2023

The Alice Network by Kate Quinn

Two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.

The Amber Room by Steve Berry

The history of art has produced few works as ambitious and as valuable as the Amber Room. Famous throughout Europe as "the eighth wonder of the world," its vast and intricately worked amber panels were sent in 1717 by Frederick I of Prussia as a gift to Peter the Great of Russia. Erected some years later, they quickly became a symbol of Russia's imperial might.

For more than two hundred years the Amber Room remained in its Russian palace outside St. Petersburg (Leningrad), but when the Nazi army invaded Russia and swept towards Leningrad in 1941, the panels were wrenched from the walls, packed into crates, and disappeared from view, never to be seen again.

Dozens of people have tried to trace the whereabouts of the Amber Room, and several of them have died in mysterious circumstances. Adrian Levy and Catherine Scott-Clark have gone further along the trail of this great lost treasure than anyone before them and have unraveled the jumble of evidence surrounding its fate.

The Beach at Summerly by Beatriz Williams

In 1954, Emilia Winthrop, a professor at Wellesley College, is summoned to CIA headquarters, where she is forced to confront the harrowing consequences of the summer, she exposed a traitor amongst the New England elite and a choice that could destroy her chance for redemption all over again.

Code Name: Lise: The True Story of the Woman Who Became WWII's Most Highly Decorated Spy by Larry Loftis (Non-Fiction 940.5486)

The extraordinary true story of Odette Sansom, the British spy who operated in occupied France and fell in love with her commanding officer during World War II-- perfect for fans of *Unbroken*, *The Boys in the Boat*, and *Code Girls*.

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein

October 11th, 1943 -- A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other lost the game before it's barely begun.

When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution. As she intricately weaves her confession, Verity uncovers her past, how she became friends with the pilot Maddie, and why she left Maddie in the wrecked fuselage of their plane. On each new scrap of paper, Verity battles for her life, confronting her views on courage, failure and her desperate hope to make it home. But will trading her secrets be enough to save her from the enemy?

The Fox by Forsyth, Frederick

Most weapons do what you tell them. Most weapons you can control.

But what if the most dangerous weapon in the world isn't a smart missile or a stealth submarine or even an AI computer program? What if it's an 18-year-old boy with a blisteringly brilliant mind, who can run rings around the most sophisticated security services across the globe, who can manipulate that weaponry and turn it against the superpowers themselves? How valuable would he be? And what **wouldn't** you do to get hold of him?

The Golden Dove by Marth Hall Kelly

Two former female spies, bound by their past, risk everything to hunt down an infamous Nazi doctor in the aftermath of World War II.

I Am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes

"Pilgrim" is an American former intelligence agent known as the "Rider of the Blue" who later writes a book on forensic pathology. Pilgrim becomes involved in a case in New York City where a mysterious woman uses his book to commit untraceable murders in the aftermath of 9/11.

Killers of a Certain Age by Dianna Raybourn

Older women often feel invisible, but sometimes that's their secret weapon.

They've spent their lives as the deadliest assassins in a clandestine international organization, but now that they're sixty years old, four women friends can't just retire - it's kill or be killed in this action-packed thriller.

Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Woman Undercover in the Civil War by Karen Abbott (Non-Fiction 973.785)

The never-before-told story of four real-life women who risked everything to take on a life of espionage during the Civil War.

Mother, Daughter, Traitor, Spy by Susan Elia MacNeal

Inspired by the real mother-daughter spy duo who foiled Nazi plots in Los Angeles during WWII, *Mother Daughter Traitor Spy* is a powerful portrait of family, duty, and deception that raises timeless questions about America--and what it means to have courage in the face of terror.

Mr. Churchill's Secretary: A Maggie Hope Mystery by Susan Elia MacNeal

London, 1940. Winston Churchill has just been sworn in, war rages across the Channel, and the threat of a Blitz looms larger by the day. But none of this deters Maggie Hope. She graduated at the top of her college class and possesses all the skills of the finest minds in British intelligence, but her gender qualifies her only to be the newest typist at No. 10 Downing Street. Her indefatigable spirit and remarkable gifts for codebreaking, though, rival those of even the highest men in government, and Maggie finds that working for the prime minister affords her a level of clearance she could never have imagined—and opportunities she will not let pass. In troubled, deadly times, with air-raid sirens sending multitudes underground, access to the War Rooms also exposes Maggie to the machinations of a menacing faction determined to do whatever it takes to change the course of history.

Ensnared in a web of spies, murder, and intrigue, Maggie must work quickly to balance her duty to King and Country with her chances for survival. And when she unravels a mystery that points toward her own family's hidden secrets, she'll discover that her quick wits are all that stand between an assassin's murderous plan and Churchill himself.

Never by Ken Follett

In the United States, Pauline Green, the country's first woman president, navigates terrorist attacks, illegal arms trading, and the smear campaigns of her blustering political opponent with careful and deft diplomacy. She will do everything in her power to avoid starting an unnecessary war. But when one act of aggression leads to another, the most powerful countries in the world are caught in a complex web of alliances they can't escape. And once all the sinister pieces are in place, can anyone--even those with the best of intentions and most elite skills--stop the inevitable?

The new must-read epic from master storyteller Ken Follett: more than a thriller, it's an action-packed, globe-spanning drama set in the present day.

The Secret History of the Pink Carnation by Lauren Willig

Nothing goes right for Eloise. The one day she wears her new suede boots, it rains cats and dogs. When the subway stops short, she's always the one thrown into some stranger's lap. Plus, she's had more than her share of misfortune in the way of love. In

fact, ever since she realized romantic heroes are a thing of the past, she's decided it's time for a fresh start.

Setting off for England, Eloise is determined to finish her dissertation on that dashing pair of spies, the Scarlet Pimpernel and the Purple Gentian. But what she discovers is something the finest historians have missed: the secret history of the Pink Carnation—the most elusive spy of all time. As she works to unmask this obscure spy, Eloise stumbles across answers to all kinds of questions. Like how did the Pink Carnation save England from Napoleon? What became of the Scarlet Pimpernel and the Purple Gentian? And will Eloise Kelly escape her bad luck and find a living, breathing hero all her own?

The Spymistress by Jennifer Chiaverini

Born to slave-holding aristocracy in Richmond, Virginia, and educated by Northern Quakers, Elizabeth Van Lew was a paradox of her time. When her native state seceded in April 1861, Van Lew's convictions compelled her to defy the new Confederate regime. Pledging her loyalty to the Lincoln White House, her courage would never waver, even as her wartime actions threatened not only her reputation, but also her life.

Van Lew's skills in gathering military intelligence were unparalleled. She helped to construct the Richmond Underground and orchestrated escapes from the infamous Confederate Libby Prison under the guise of humanitarian aid. Her spy ring's reach was vast, from clerks in the Confederate War and Navy Departments to the very home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

Although Van Lew was inducted posthumously into the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame, the astonishing scope of her achievements has never been widely known. In Chiaverini's riveting tale of high-stakes espionage, a great heroine of the Civil War finally gets her due.

The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen

A 2016 Pulitzer Prize winner, *The Sympathizer* is a spy novel but also a war novel, mystery book, and historical fiction work following the South Vietnamese army, and the role of a North Vietnamese mole during the Vietnam War. The narration style involves a series of flashbacks from an unnamed narrator, adding an extra layer of mystery.

Transcription by Kate Atkinson

In 1940, eighteen-year-old Juliet Armstrong is reluctantly recruited into the world of espionage. Sent to an obscure department of MI5 tasked with monitoring the comings and goings of British Fascist sympathizers, she discovers the work to be by turns both tedious and terrifying. But after the war has ended, she presumes the events of those years have been relegated to the past forever.

Ten years later, now a radio producer at the BBC, Juliet is unexpectedly confronted by figures from her past. A different war is being fought now, on a different battleground, but Juliet finds herself once more under threat. A bill of reckoning is due, and she finally begins to realize that there is no action without consequence.

A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell (Non-Fiction 940.5486)

The never-before-told story of one woman's heroism that changed the course of the Second World War.

This spy was Virginia Hall, a young American woman--rejected from the foreign service because of her gender and her prosthetic leg--who talked her way into the spy organization deemed Churchill's "ministry of ungentlemanly warfare," and, before the United States had even entered the war, became the first woman to deploy to occupied France. In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: "She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her."

The White Lady by Jacqueline Winspear

This heart-stopping adventure follows the coming of age and maturity of former wartime operative Elinor White veteran of two wars, trained killer, protective of her anonymity when she is drawn back into the world of violence, she has been desperate to leave behind. A reluctant ex-spy with demons of her own, Elinor finds herself facing down one of the most dangerous organized crime gangs in London and exposing corruption from Scotland Yard to the highest levels of government.

Authors to look for....

Jeffery Archer

By then, Follett says, he'd figured out the secret sauce. "It was an early decision of mine to look for real-life situations where the work of a spy could change the course of history," he recalls. "I'd ask, 'What if there had been a spy who had better intelligence on the other side of this conflict? What if we knew there was that spy and we were trying to catch him?'" He says it's a winning formula that, "like the 12-bar blues, no matter how many times you do it, it always works." *Eye of the Needle* 1978

Ted Bell

Among the Alex Hawke novels, *Tsar* (2008) fictionalized the resurgence of the K.G.B. in Russia; *Warlord* (2010) concerned a vendetta against the British royal family; and *Overkill* (2018) featured Vladimir Putin in a plot to kidnap Hawke's son, Alexei. Mr. Bell published his 12th and last Hawke novel, *Sea Hawke*, in 2021.

Alex Berenson

he 12 John Wells novels Berenson published from 2006 to 2018 cover the gamut of America's 21st-century foreign policy preoccupations: Al Qaeda, North Korea, nuclear terrorism, CIA black sites, Saudi *jihadis*, the war in Afghanistan, terrorists in Somalia, conflict with Iran, ISIS, the complex US relationship with Israel, and the new Cold War

with Russia. The John Wells books are listed below in chronological order of their publication. Each title is followed by a link to its review.

Steve Berry

Cotton Malone, one-time top operative for the U.S. Justice Department, is enjoying his quiet new life as an antiquarian book dealer in Copenhagen when an unexpected call to action reawakens his hair-trigger instincts—and plunges him back into the cloak-and-dagger world he thought he'd left behind.

Matthew Dunn

Will Cochrane is the CIA's and MI6's most prized asset ... and their deadliest weapon. Since childhood, the only world he has ever known is a clandestine realm of elaborate lies and unholy alliances—where trust is rare, betrayal comes cheap, and a violent death is often the penalty for being outplayed by an opponent.

Alan Furst

Alan Furst, widely recognized as the master of the historical spy novel, is the author of *A Hero of France*, *Midnight in Europe*, *Mission to Paris*, and many other bestsellers. The year 1988 saw publication of *Night Soldiers*—inspired by his 1984 trip to [Eastern Europe](#) on assignment for *Esquire*—which invigorated his career and led to a succession of related titles. His output since 1988 includes a dozen works. He is especially noted for his successful evocations of [Eastern European](#) peoples and places during the period from 1933 to 1944. While all his historical espionage novels are loosely connected (protagonists in one book might appear as minor characters in another), only *The World at Night* and *Red Gold* share a common plot.

Alex Gerlis

Alex Gerlis is the author of nine Second World War espionage thrillers. He was a BBC journalist for nearly thirty years. He now lives in west London with his wife and two black cats. Alex has two daughters and two grandsons. As his publisher notes in his bio online, “He’s frequently asked if he’s ever worked for an intelligence agency but always declines to answer the question in the hope that someone may believe he actually has.”

David Hagberg

Isan American novelist best known for his techno-thrillers featuring super-spy Kirk McGarvey.

The former Air Force cryptographer was occasionally referred to as "the Nostradamus of novelists" because many of his novels anticipated important events, including the fall of the Soviet Union before the Berlin Wall came down, the military coup against Gorbachev and the Chechnyan terrorists' massacre of a school full of children. His upcoming novel, *Crash* (April 2020), co-authored with the financial journalist Larry Light, explores a worldwide economic collapse precipitated by massive global debt and greedy, devious Wall Street billionaires.

Mick Herron

Mick Herron began his career as a mystery writer in 2003 with the publication of the first of four novels about an Oxford-based private eye name Zoë Boehm. In 2010, he brought out the first of the ten Slough House novels published to date (with an eleventh on the way as I write). The fictional Slough House is where the misfits and rule-breakers of MI5 are sent to molder until retirement because, for one reason or another, they can't be persuaded to resign.

Stephen Hunter

A disgruntled Marine sniper is lured out of retirement by a shadowy organization for one last mission. But when he realizes the mission was a set-up, he becomes a national fugitive and must use his lethal skills to track down the conspirators and expose a plot against America.

David Ignatius

In addition to being a journalist, Ignatius is a successful novelist. He has written eleven novels in the suspense/espionage fiction genre that draw on his experience and interest in foreign affairs and his knowledge of intelligence operations. Reviewers have compared Ignatius's work to classic spy novels like those by Graham Greene. Ignatius's novels have also been praised for their realism; his first novel, *Agents of Innocence*, was at one point described by the CIA on its website as "a novel but not fiction."^[14] His 1999 novel.

Joseph Kanon

Kanon began his writing career in 1995. His first novel, *Los Alamos* (1997), became a bestseller and received the Edgar Award for Best First Novel in 1998. Further novels followed, including *The Prodigal Spy*, *The Good German* and *Alibi*. His stories are set in the period between World War II and 1950, and he has often used a real event, such as the Potsdam Conference or the Manhattan Project, as the background for a murder case.

John le Carre

Most of le Carré's books are spy stories set during the Cold War (1945–91) and portray British Intelligence agents as unheroic political functionaries, aware of the moral ambiguity of their work and engaged more in psychological than physical drama.

Robert Ludlum

Many of his early espionage thrillers revolved around Nazi conspiracies, while later his villains were usually Communists. As the Cold War waned, he switched his focus to the terrorism threat.

Daniel Silva

Gabriel Allon, the protagonist in over twenty Daniel Silva novels, an unassuming art restorer who is also, to those who have to know, a legendary and indispensable Israeli spy.

Brad Taylor

Brad Taylor's Pike Logan series follows veteran operator Pike Logan and his partner, Jennifer Cahill, through covert missions with the Taskforce, a clandestine team of operators that exists outside the bounds of U.S. law, created to eliminate threats posed by America's enemies.

Paul Vidich

Although he has been writing for many years, Paul Vidich's first novel, *An Honorable Man*, appeared in 2016. Five others have followed to date.