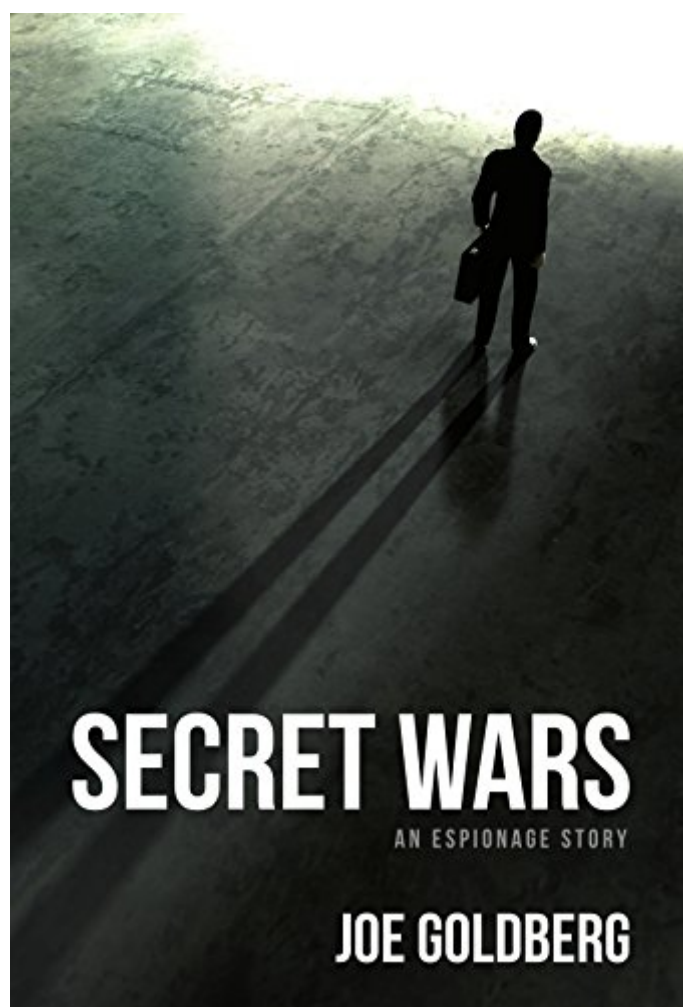


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Secret Wars: An Espionage Story



Synopsis

Secret Wars: An Espionage Story is a suspenseful glimpse into the shadowy world of the CIA, where deceivers become the deceived and the consequences are life or death. It's a clandestine world where intricate networks of people fight a complex battle to keep the world safe from terrorism. When terrorists funded by the Libyan government strike airports in Rome and Vienna in 1985, the CIA enlists top propaganda expert Mike Garnett to help recruit a high-ranking Libyan official, Foreign Minister Abdallah Mukhtar, to work for the CIA. As violence escalates between the US military and terrorists based in Libya, Garnett utilizes CIA assets in Hollywood to produce a propaganda video designed to convince Mukhtar he was betrayed by his own regime. Garnett's plan works but goes sideways when it motivates the Libyan official to do something Garnett didn't even consider. Sharp and insightful, Secret Wars: An Espionage Story is a thrilling tale of deception, betrayal, and patriotism and Garnett soon learns they're not as black and white as they seem when he's forced to reevaluate the true nature of the business of deception. For fans of Tom Clancy, David Ignatius, and Frederick Forsyth, Secret Wars is a fictional thriller set against the backdrop of historical events. Meticulously researched, it pulls from the author's personal experiences as a member of the CIA.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this 'fictional' account of the attempt to bomb Muammar Gaddafi. What happened before, during and afterwards makes for a very detailed and interesting read. The book describes the planning and the real dangers that face our front line CIA Agents that are protecting the United States. I have a deeper appreciation for the Agency and the Americans along with their foreign contacts that work behind the scenes to keep us all safe. Goldberg's book is heavily wrapped in detail that seems to come from real life. There are no fantastic James Bonds with otherworldly martial arts skills or SciFi weapons, just smart people doing what they can to protect America.

Transparency compels me to start this review by saying that I am a friend and colleague of the author. My connection to Goldberg is what brought *Secret Wars* to my attention and caused me to give it a try. That said, I'm very glad that I was made aware of Joe's book. It was a very enjoyable, page-turning ride from start to finish. I quickly went from "hey, Joe wrote a book" to "hey, this is really well done." Goldberg grabs the reader in the first few pages and propels him through the story with pace. Character development was strong and the action felt real. It was easy to get lost in this compelling story. *Secret Wars* was also a departure from the many novels I've read recently that focus on the post-September 11th period, instead going back to a time when many were more interested in the Cold War than in the growing threat of international terrorism. I encourage you to pick this up and give it a try. I am confident that you will be glad that you did.

I think I would have liked the book but the formatting made nearly impossible to read. Jumps in time and place were not indicated at all. A quote would end a statement and the next paragraph would begin with another quote leading one to think it was part of the same conversation, but it wasn't. It was another conversation involving other people perhaps on a different continent on a different subject. I finally gave up on reading the book.

There was total confusion on my part . . . occasionally since the author refused to let the reader know when he changed scenes. Frequently, I would be halfway into a new paragraph before discovering that I was no longer in Germany, but Washington or somewhere else. Where was the editor?.

A fascinating look behind the curtain of the CIA. Libyan sponsored terrorists are striking out at the west with deadly results. The CIA is tasked with helping to stop them using all the tools at their disposal. The tools for this situation are turning assets in the country and the newly created media department. This new department delivers everything they'd hope for and turns out to be so good that the operation is spun on it's head. I really enjoyed this book for it's difference from a lot of the other CIA thrillers out there. This isn't the CIA where the agents are running around shooting and torturing people. There is a very real feeling in this story, which isn't surprising as the author is a former CIA employee. I really felt like I was reading the unclassified field reports from actual events, it feels that real and fascinating. Most thrillers written about government groups or military forces have artificial actions designed to continually ratchet up the adrenaline to keep the readers attention. This book doesn't need to do that because the story line is familiar and it's easy to imagine that the events in the book really happened. A great first book for a new author and I'm looking for more from him.

This is a classic story of personal, ethical dilemmas faced by a spy during their career that give pause to the allure of deception to the moral patriot, but who does what's ordered, needed, and moves on to the next operation. This was well portrayed amid a complex story of the "good defection" with the deceivers becoming saviors, if only for the time needed to complete the extraction, salted with the warmhearted reunion of family in a rescue scenario that might have just as easily turned sour as be successful. Very brilliant demonstration of the use and potential effects of a continuous stream of tactical propaganda.

Like others have said, Goldberg is ex-CIA, so he knows what he is writing about. He creates believable characters just out to do the best they can, and places them into a story mixing fiction with history. A spy story without the gadgets and glamour -- shades of Len Deighton. I thought it was a great read. Some spots it was tough to figure who was who, so that drops it to 4 of 5 stars for me.

I really enjoyed this book. It has a little bit of everything to keep the reader interested. It's a very well put together story, very well done. I would certainly recommend this to any reader, who is interested in espionage stories.

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