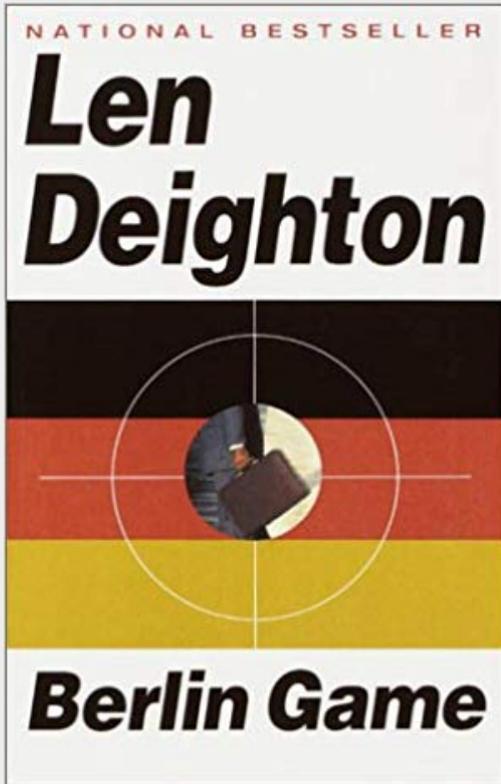


Berlin Game by Len Deighton



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Author: Len Deighton

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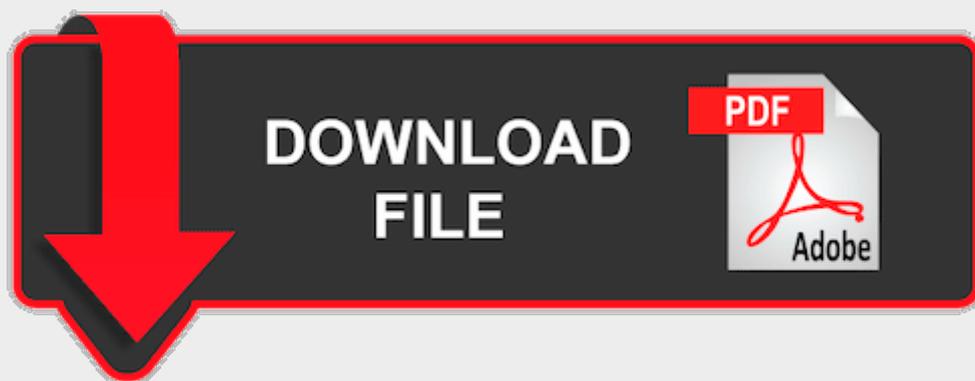
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When a valuable agent behind the Iron Curtain signals he wants out, it's up to Bernard Samson, once active in the field but now anchored to a London desk, to undertake the crucial rescue. But soon, Samson is confronted with evidence that there is a traitor among his colleagues. And to find out who it is, he must sift through layers of lies and follow a web of treachery from London to Berlin until hero and traitor collide."Each scene in this story is so adroitly realized that it creates its own suspense."NEWSWEEKFrom the Paperback edition.



Reviews of the Berlin Game by Len Deighton

1. Chuynopana

If you like this book you will want to read the entire Samson series so this review is just a few notes on the series as a whole. The complete series in order of publication is:

-Berlin Game / Mexico Set / London Match

-Winter

-Spy Hook / Spy Line / Spy Sinker

-Faith / Hope / Charity

This is the order I read them when first published but I recently re-read them with Winter first. Winter is a sort of prequel but could be stand alone or omitted, however I think it should be included to set the tone/ambience for the setting, namely Berlin, which could be considered one of the major characters.

Superficially this a spy story but at a deeper level it is a soap opera/ family saga involving people who just happen to be spies. Except for Winter and Spy Sinker each book is written in first person from the point of view of Bernard Samson. Spy Sinker is written in third person in order to reveal certain events and action that are hidden from Samson and the reader. By the time you reach this volume you will likely be quite sympathetically engaged with the character Samson so in a sense Spy Sinker is a "spoiler" -and some what flat and unengaging but serves the function making the ambience even darker -thus should not be omitted.

If you were born too young to remember the Cold War the series will most likely be just entertain as a good read. If you are older and especially if you were a British or American who spent a significant part of your formative years in a military family living in West Germany you may find yourself identifying with Samson even if your experience was much tamer than his.

2. September

I've read this many moons ago, and rarely go back to the scene of the crime, particularly when I knew who was the mole. But I'd just read the Harry Palmer quartet and was in full Len Deighton mode. I wanted more challenging, gripping, espionage. Set during The Cold War.

Berlin Game did not disappoint. Deighton reads like a younger, non-public school, spymaster, his ability coming through as slight contempt for the hoorays of the Establishment.

The end is a glorious cliffhanger, clearly indicating there's more to come in the three further books in this series.

No wonder I was hooked on this stuff-especially as from 1969 on I went behind Communist borders for my summer holidays. I used to leave the latest Le Carre or Deighton on the rear parcel shelf as part of the Border Game wind up, but apart from the usual shouting and gesticulating there border boys didn't rise to the bait!

Now I live just outside Prague, permanently and legally, and am grateful that Progress has delivered plenty of enjoyable books to read.!

As I write this the temperature outside is struggling up from -17°C and will be perfect for the next book, set in warmer climes!

3. BlackHaze

Interesting book - about 33% of the whole volume with near endless ambience and weather descriptions as well as interiors, including utensils and other irrelevant details. Easily distinguishable from American spy or mystery stories with abundance of action, not interminable conversations, accompanied by heavy alcohol consumption and smoking. It is passable if once has some time to kill to reach an implausible ending.

4. Asher

This is the first book of a nine part series. When you think about Germany and the wall and do not remember the history. This is the book to read. It tells holds your imagination in a way that you are there seeing, feeling berlin in that time period and the British Secret Service, of which Bernard Samson is part of. All the aspects of his life as a boy and now a married man. His friends, his wife, his family and all the sinister people and plots going on. The setup of a Russian mole in the British Secret Service. I know this book was published in 1983 and the cover in 2010. This is a timely book and story. You will enjoy this book and the addition eight books.

Each set is a trilogy Game, Set Match. Hook, Line, Sinker, Faith, Hope and Charity.

I have read the entire set a couple of years ago and wanted to Berlin Game again. I am so glad I did Len Deighton write a book so easy to read, yet the spy craft then and today is the same. The spy story whether Russian or other countries is the long game.

5. Naril

This is the first Len Deighton book that I read. I thought that the dialogue was first rate and the interaction of the main characters was superb. The storyline was also believable and not far fetched. I was in Berlin while I read it and could understand where the action was taking place. My only complaint is that it ended too abruptly.

6. Dancing Lion

booooooring! based on all the reviews, I really should have known I wouldn't like it. Someone said "office politics" in a spy game. EXACTLY! and do I hate office politics?- yes! YES I DO

7. Anarus

The author plays the hook well, and you take the hook, line and sinker early in the story's build-up. The seemingly inept aren't. The seemingly clever aren't as clever as they believe. A "mystery within an enigma" is the main character, Bernard Samson. Loved how the story progressed, and the inter woven personalities in Berlin and London. A great read for an espionage fan.

8. Not bad, but not good enough to make me want to read the rest of the series. The author tried for a John LeCarre style but didn't quite pull it off.

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