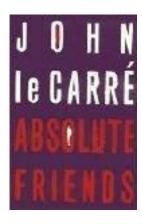
Absolute Friends



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By chance and not by choice, Ted Mundy, eternal striver, failed writer and expatriate son of a British Army officer, used to be a spy. But that was in the good old Cold War days when a cinder-block Wall divided Berlin, and the enemy was easy to recognize. Today, Mundy is a down-at-heel tour guide in South Germany, dodging creditors, supporting a new family, and keeping an eye out for trouble while in spare moments vigorously questioning the actions of the country he once bravely served. And trouble finds him, as it has before, in the shape of his old German student friend, radical, and one-time fellow spy, the crippled Sasha, seeker after absolutes, dreamer and chaos addict. After years of trawling the Middle East and Asia as an itinerant university lecturer, Sasha has yet again discovered the true, the only answer to life?this time in the form of a mysterious billionaire philanthropist named Dimitri. Thanks to Dimitri, both Mundy and Sasha will find a path out of poverty, and with it their chance to change a world that both believe is going to the devil. Or will they?Who is Dimitri? Why does Dimitri s gold pour in from mysterious Middle Eastern bank accounts? And why does his apparently noble venture reek less of starry idealism than treachery and fear? Some free gifts are too expensive to accept. Could this be one of them? With a cooler head than Sasha s, Mundy is inclined to think it could. In Absolute Friends, John le Carr? delivers the masterpiece he has been building to

since the fall of Communism: an epic tale of loyalty and betrayal that spans the lives of two friends from the riot-torn West Berlin of the 1960s to the grimy looking-glass of Cold War Europe to the present day of terrorism and new alliances. This is the novel le Carr? fans have been waiting for?a brilliant, ferocious, heartbreaking work for the ages.
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