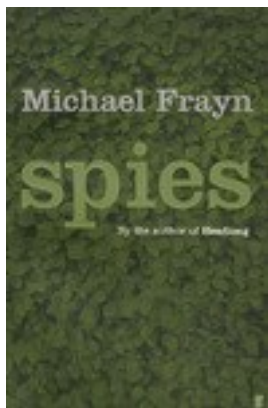


Spies



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著者:Michael Frayn

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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 skilfully 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 Rennison --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

'Deeply Satisfying... Frayn has written nothing better.' Independent; 'Spies improves upon rereading, which is the true test of depth. It is cerebral and sensuous; extremely funny and yet deeply serious.' Sunday Telegraph

'Frayn has never written more seductively and surely than in this book.'

'This is a deeply satisfying account of the everyday torments and confusions experienced by a not especially bright boy at a time of international madness. Frayn has written nothing better.'

'This is a lovingly conceived, handsomely detailed novel . . . never less than witty, ingenious and a pleasure to read.'

'In a recent interview, Frayn, a former journalist, said it was very difficult to explain what a story is. 'Spies' is a near-perfect exemplar.'

"'Spies' is too good for the Booker Prize - can there be higher praise?"

'Spies' is a cleverly conceived and intricately executed novel in which different layers of irony are nested like Russian dolls.'

作者介绍:

目录:

[Spies_ 下载链接1](#)

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外国文学

历史

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