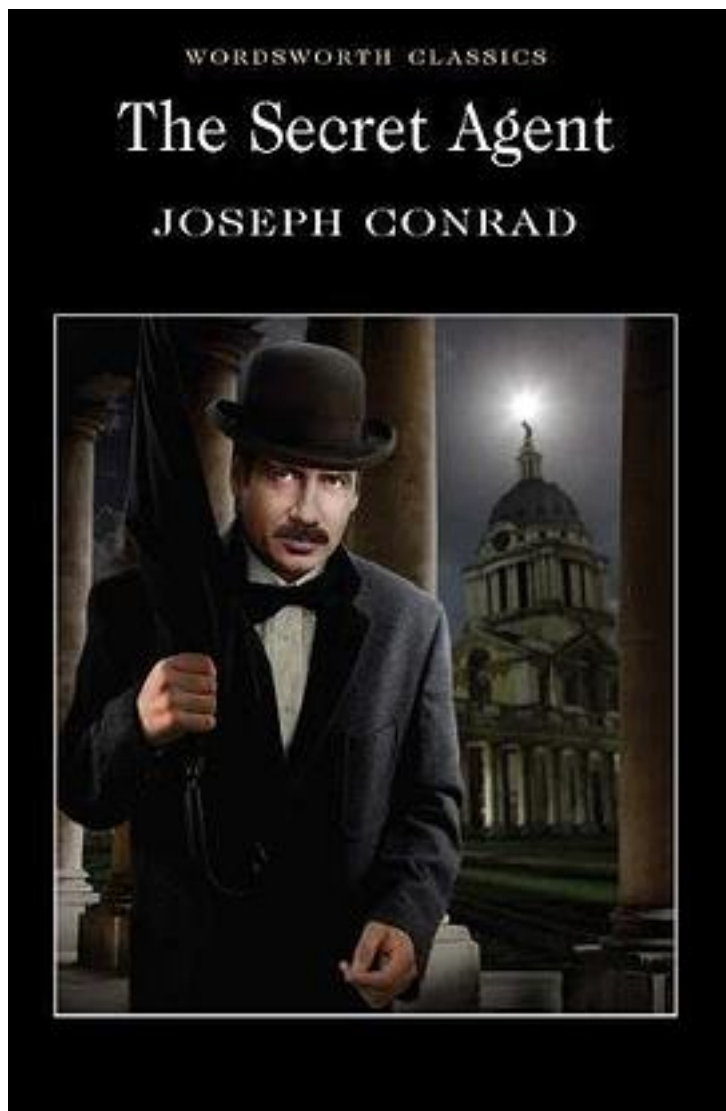


The Secret Agent



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In June 1940 Britain was driven from the continent by Hitler's conquering armies. As the British stared invasion in the face, a group of unconventional warriors planned a new form of warfare—and the Special Operations Executive was born. With a brief from Winston Churchill to "set Europe ablaze," this top-secret agency was given the dangerous task of coordinating subversion and sabotage against the enemy by all means necessary—using disguise, deception, bribery, explosives (sometimes disguised inside objects such as a dead rat or a chianti bottle), guerrilla warfare—and even assassination.

The intriguing details of the men and women—many of them civilians with no qualifications or experience—who risked their lives to fight this secret war are recounted here. Through the personal reminiscences of these courageous individuals, *Secret Agent* reveals the covert world of the SOE: how the operatives were recruited; the daring operations they carried out; the radio and coding systems that kept them in touch with London; and the James Bond-style gadgets designed to help them carry out their missions. Breaking their long silence, these brave survivors finally tell their own stories in their own words. More than just a war-time thriller, *Secret Agent* narrates the true story of this remarkable group of people and the secret war they waged behind enemy lines.

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