



An Ordinary Spy: A Novel

By Joseph Weisberg

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An Ordinary Spy: A Novel By Joseph Weisberg

A former CIA case officer's novel about two embattled spies who go to extraordinary lengths to keep their informants out of harm's way, published as vetted by the agency itself.

Mark Ruttenberg may not be fit for the CIA. Early in his tenure with the agency, he learns about a former operative, Bobby Goldstein, and becomes curious about the case that led to his termination. Before he can get to the bottom of what happened, however, he's shipped off to [REDACTED], where he hobnobs with foreign diplomats and informants, who have access to [REDACTED] information and contacts like the powerful General [REDACTED], in the hopes of recruiting them as agents. But, when he falls for the wrong woman, he's quickly sent back to [REDACTED], with nothing to show for his secretive work but a mysterious postcard with an unknown address on it. Who sent the postcard, and where is it supposed to lead him? Could this all be an ops test, with Mark's future hanging in the balance? Soon, he'll have to decide if righting an old wrong is worth taking a terrible and very personal risk. Published with redacted material throughout the novel, *An Ordinary Spy* is a riveting and dramatic portrait of modern espionage, filled with suspense, intrigue, and betrayal.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Mimicking many nonfiction books about the CIA, Weisberg, a former CIA officer, has included a blizzard of redacted (blacked out) words and sentences in his second novel (after *10th Grade*), as if the agency's publications review board had worked the manuscript over with a heavy hand. Did they? Or is it just a clever ploy for verisimilitude? Mark Ruttenberg, a newly minted agent, is on his first foreign assignment trying to persuade citizens of an unknown country (the location has been redacted) to spy for American interests. He's doing well until he starts sleeping with one of his contacts and his superiors eventually fire him. Back in America, Ruttenberg meets another cashiered spy, Bobby Goldstein, and the two men share their experiences. Ruttenberg and Goldstein may be pretty ordinary spies, as the title suggests, but their stories compel, thanks to the author's deft prose and insider expertise. Given the quantity of blacked-out material, some readers may be more annoyed than intrigued as they puzzle over the missing information. (Jan.)

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Review

"Wholly original."—*Los Angeles Times*

"Weisberg, a former C.I.A. agent, skillfully maintains a tension-filled plot and offers a humanistic spin on the typical spy story, sensitively portraying the pain of risking lives for the sake of ambition."—*New Yorker*

"In a spare but beautifully written book, Weisberg captures the paranoia and frustration, if not the futility, of the real world of spying."—*Newsweek*

"The best of new American spy fiction."—*Chicago Tribune*

"Recalls Graham Greene's comic *Our Man in Havana*...An odd, well-written and interesting novel, a low-key corrective to all the razzle-dazzle spy tales we've read."—*Washington Post*

"A superb CIA novel."—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"A well-wrought, beautifully crafted, incisive book...a remarkably honest and revealing picture of those who shouldn't have become spies in the first place."—*Washington Times*

About the Author

Joseph Weisberg is the author of the critically acclaimed *10th Grade*, which was a 2002 *New York Times* Notable Book. A former CIA officer, he grew up in Chicago and currently lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gerardo Whittaker:

As people who live in the modest era should be up-date about what going on or info even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is certainly always change and advance. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which one you should start with. This An Ordinary Spy: A Novel is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Iris Robertson:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also get a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with training books but if you want feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The actual An Ordinary Spy: A Novel is kind of book which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Lanell Sessions:

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Tina Wilson:

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