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Von Paul Willetts

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Von Paul Willetts : Rendezvous at the Russian Tea Rooms: The Spyhunter, the Fashion Designer the Man From Moscow (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rendezvous at the Russian Tea Rooms: The Spyhunter, the Fashion Designer the Man From Moscow (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Spies...and catchers.Von Jill MeyerAbout midway through British author Paul Willetts' "Rendezvous at the Russian Tea Rooms", I felt like throwing the book against a wall and asking "Why didn't the American Foreign Service vet their employees? Why were ideologically suspicious employees allowed to basically leave the various embassies with 'secret documents' hidden on their bodies? Why weren't the outside activities of the employees at least somewhat checked on for suspicious relationships?" Willetts' excellent book is the second one I've read lately where both American and British embassy security was so lax.Paul Willetts' book is set a bit in Moscow, but mostly in London in the last few pre-war years and the first year or so of the war. The three main characters are Max Knight from MI5 who "ran" agents in London; Anna Wolkoff a Russian-born dress designer who emigrated to London in the 1920's to escape the communists; and Tyler Kent, a young American embassy worker in Moscow and London, who was trying to make a buck to support a life-style he wanted to become accustomed to. Wolkoff and Kent were both Nazi sympathisers and both gave secrets to Berlin-based spy agencies. Max Knight was trying to track Wolkoff, Kent, and other British citizens and immigrants active in spying for Germany and promoting anti-Semitic actions in London.Willetts' book is full of unpleasant people - both in thought and deed. Almost everyone was "on the make", for one reason or another. Money or ideological purity gave people near power reasons to betray Britain and/or the US to Germany. London's Russian Tea Rooms - not to be confused with the restaurant in New York City - in South Kensington was owned by Anna Wolkoff's exiled parents. The Russian ex-pat community gathered in the area, which was a hot-spot for anti-Communist activities. Willetts' follows the three main characters as they eventually merge into a spy case in the first years of the war. He's a careful writer - some readers might find the book slow going - but he brings the reader along to a case that fully boils by the end. For armchair historians, this book is a great read.

KurzbeschreibungRendezvous at the Russian Tea Rooms provides the first comprehensive account of what was once hailed by a leading American newspaper as the greatest spy story of World War II. This dramatic yet little-known saga, replete with telephone taps, kidnappings, and police surveillance, centres on the furtive escapades of Tyler Kent, a handsome, womanising 28-year-old Ivy League graduate, who doubles as a US Embassy code clerk and Soviet agent. Against the backdrop of London high society during the so-called Phoney War, Kent's life intersects with the lives of the book's two other memorably flamboyant protagonists. One of those is Maxwell Knight, an urbane, endearingly eccentric MI5 spyhunter. The other is Anna Wolkoff, a White Russian fashion designer and Nazi spy whose outfits are worn by the Duchess of Windsor and whose parents are friends of the British royal family. Wolkoff belongs to a fascist secret society called the Right Club, which aims to overthrow the British government. Her romantic entanglement with Tyler Kent gives her access to a secret correspondence between President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, a correspondence that has the potential to transform the outcome of the war.PressestimmenResearched with almost breathtaking depth and ingenuity, this is a compelling story of swirling political and personal cross-currents at the time of our gravest national danger. (David Kynaston)Rich in period detail, and wonderfully evocative of the strange early months of the Second World War. . . Rendezvous at the Russian Tea Rooms is as engrossing as a John le Carr thriller. (Simon Evans Choice magazine)Rendezvous at the Russian Tea Rooms is entertaining non-fiction at its best. . . The writing is engaging, pulling the narrative from character to character. Willetts manages to form a sense of suspense more rigid tellings lack. . . Willetts has utilised a wonderful way of digesting history. . . a compelling story equal to some of the best crime fiction. (We Love This Book)Rendezvous at the Russian Tea Rooms is a fascinating and vivid slice of espionage history. . . a welcome addition to a neglected aspect of World War Two non-fiction. The book is a beautifully written example of a classic covert operation conducted by MI5's eccentric and charismatic Maxwell Knight to outwit a nest of Nazi sympathisers in the twilight world of wartime London. The protagonists leap off the page. . . Willetts really brings the shadow world of the London blackout alive in a haze of cocktail parties, nightclubs, secret meetings and old-fashioned tradecraft. . . it reads like a spy novel, and - even though the outcome is obvious - I couldn't put it down and read it in a weekend. Willetts wears his learning lightly and leaves us with a vivid account of two repellent and deluded individuals. (Catherine Arnold)A tale of Nazi spies among London's elite has all the colour of a first-class thriller (The Observer)A gripping tale (Financial Times)A gripping account of what was once hailed as the greatest spy story of the Second World War (Tatler)Entertaining non-fiction at its best (The Bookseller)A book that is a valuable addition to Intelligence history as well as an exciting tale itself (The Tablet)A postwar real-life Second World War spy sage by Herald Magazine favourite Paul Willetts (The Herald)Powerful and hugely entertaining read (Press Association)WerbetextAn engrossing real-life WW2 espionage thriller, perfect for fans of Ben Macintyre.