



# The Spymasters

*W.E.B. Griffin , William E. Butterworth IV*

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## **The Spymasters** W.E.B. Griffin , William E. Butterworth IV

W. E. B. Griffin's OSS heroes face two extraordinary challenges in the latest addition to the "New York Times"-bestselling series.

Summer 1943. Two of the Allies' most important plans for winning World War II are at grave risk-Operation Overlord for the invasion of France, and the Manhattan Project in the race to build the atomic bomb. A furious FDR turns to OSS spy chief "Wild Bill" Donovan-and Donovan turns to his top agent, Dick Canidy, and his team.

They've certainly got their work cut out for them. In the weeks to come, they must fight not just the enemy in the field-and figure out how to sabotage Germany's new "aerial torpedo" rockets-but also the enemy within: someone is feeding the Manhattan Project secrets to the Soviets. Moles are bad enough. Yet if the Soviets build their own atomic bomb . . . who knows where that might lead?

## **The Spymasters Details**

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Author : W.E.B. Griffin , William E. Butterworth IV

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# From Reader Review The Spymasters for online ebook

## Andy says

It's been a while since I've read from the Man at War series by Griffin. Luckily a good portion of the book is spent reminding the reader of who's who and where the story was left off. This is the story of the OSS in Europe/North Africa. At this point, Sicily is about to be invaded but Canidy and his crew need to do a little work there beforehand. A typical Griffin novel in that the work goes into presenting the problem and then the end is rushed through since the build up was so detailed.

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## JBradford says

This is the latest (Volume 7) in the Men At War Series, which W.E.B. Griffin started back in 1984 and which his son is continuing. A good read--but I often wonder, when I read these accounts of frictional heroes who did things at pivotal points that changed history why some of the actual survivors of those times and battles do not rise up and cry havoc. I have to admit that realization that this is fiction and that therefore the reality of the events did not happen quite this way has a tendency to spoil the story for me, but it was an engrossing read, truly representative of the Griffin style ... from frequent tumbles in bed with willing women to the high consideration of fine liquor (in this case Haig & Haig Pinch Scotch Whiskey).

The plot is that Dick Canidy, still ready for derring-do as he and Wild Bill Donovan create the OSS (Office of Strategic Services), the forerunner to the CIA, discovers that the radio man he left behind in Palermo to provide information on Axis movements (and who was quite willing to be left behind after seeing the beautiful Andrea, sister to some boatmen who have ties all the way to Lucky Luciano) has been replaced by someone who does not transmit code as well. Despite orders from Eisenhower to the contrary, therefore, Canidy decides to go find out what's happening, and takes along with him a young radio man who suffers from claustrophobia and therefore cannot go by submarine, so they parachute in. Meanwhile, von Braun is building the V-1 rockets that Hitler expects to defeat the British, and it turns out one of the Nazi's plans is to stuff them full of poison gas instead of explosives. The plot gets involved and becomes pretty much of a page-turner, despite the plodding Griffin style.

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## Ginney Etherton says

I'm usually not a fan of war stories, but this was good to listen to on boring drives. It refreshed my memories of WW2 history that I'd learned in school and old movies. The dramatization was a lot like old war movies, and may not be taken seriously by history buffs. I imagine this series is popular with Tom Clancy readers. Only those who were there can verify the accuracy.

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## Skye Taylor says

I love W.E.B. Griffin books and can't wait for new ones to come out, but his last few have begun to drag. He repeats far too much information I already knew from the last book that doesn't really impact the current book and could be left out. I think the repetitiveness and minutiae is beginning to pall and I probably won't bother with new additions to any of his established series unless I can borrow them from the library on CD to listen to in the car. I wish he'd start a new series with totally new characters and leave off repeating himself.

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### **P.j. says**

As always, Griffin/Butterworth are a good read. Throughout all of the different series, he's written, I've always come back for more to find out the latest happenings with the characters in the different novels. Able to keep me riveted each time with the fast paced action and well researched background.

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### **Jim A says**

I've read enough of the W.E.B. Griffin books that were actually written by his son, W.E.B. IV, to know better than to expect too much. The Spymasters was not any different. Too much dialogue between characters and no action. It's not that WEB IV can't write, he just doesn't write with the same intensity as his father. To put a point on it, his books are just plain boring when compared to his father's style with the same characters and plot lines.

I've been reading W.E.B. Griffin's Men At War series since Griffin, writing under the name Alex Baldwin, first started in in the mid 80's. It's been five years since there was a book in this series. That's the only reason I bothered with this.

I'm not going to tell anyone who is a fan of this series to not bother. That wouldn't be fair. I will tell anyone who has not read any of the earlier books to go to the beginning and start the series there. Enjoy what Alex Baldwin (W.E.B. Griffin) had in mind when he started this so many years ago.

On the plus side, W.E.B. IV is pretty good at research. There were several items of interest to me in all of the fluff that IV puts in the books to expand the page count.

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### **Fredrick Danysh says**

The Spymasters contains three interlocking track about intelligence operations and guerrilla warfare leading up to the invasion of Sicily. It is believed that an American OSS team in Sicily has been compromised. In Poland resistance fighters are trying to rescue Jews destined for slave labor camps. And in Switzerland, Allen Dulles is trying to compromise a German industrialist. While a good read, the story does not have the intensity of earlier books by Griffin and his son.

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### **Russ Cross says**

A very exciting read! I'd like to get my hands on another from this series!

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### **Ron Wade says**

A truly bad book. Hard to see any influence of the great Griffin in the work. Much of the writing is pedantic. The "top secret" dispatches readv like seventh grade English compositions. Sorry.....

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### **Andrea says**

This is the latest installment in the Men at War series. I have read all of Griffin's books. My very favorites are the Brotherhood of War, The Corps and Badge of Honor series.

Griffin always incorporates real people and events with fictional characters. In the spymasters - which takes place in the European theater in 1943, there are Bill Donovan, Allan Dulles, FDR, Eisenhower and all of the German bad guys as well as some traitors to the Allies.

The OSS is the forerunner to the CIA. There is a covert operation to prevent Von Braun's nerve gas torpedo from being launched.

Much of the action takes place in occupied Palermo, Sicily during June 1943 with the assistance of Local women and some of the mob.

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### **Thomas Ryan says**

Pretty fun read, quick and easy, scenes with FDR and Wild Bill Donovan, Werner von Braun and others were interesting.

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### **George Siehl says**

This is the 7th book in Griffin's Men at War series, stories of the WWII Office of Strategic Services. This book continues the story of agent Dick Canidy's infiltration of Sicily prior to the Allied invasion of the island in 1943. The end of book six saw two of Canidy's team, an OSS radio operator, Tubes, and a Sicilian cooperator working on the island. Then, it appeared that the team was in trouble and the radio man perhaps forced to act as a double agent for the Nazis, or worse.

Here, Canidy and a new radio operator who determined that Tubes was no longer the person transmitting.

The reentry by air is exciting and unexpectedly heroic, but followed by difficulties in contacting the missing original team in Palermo.

The book shifts between views of the action in Algiers where Canidy is operating from for this story, Sicily, and Germany where the Nazi side of the story is unfolding. The latter involves Nazis who are looking to subvert Hitler and end the war. One of these is an SS officer whom is to be killed or brought out alive, in part to influence his industrialist father in his efforts to sabotage von Braun's rocket program. Lots of moving parts in which coincidence, a favorite plot strategy of Griffin's, makes numerous appearances.

While the book provides a tale well told, the book lets lapse a number of plot lines in the series. There is no mention of the operative in the Philippines behind Japanese lines, or the plan to rig explosive laden B-17s for remote control operation to take out submarine pens (a story line incorporating young Joe Kennedy), or what another key character, Eric Fulmar is doing. It is now over five years since this book was published, but the author's website gives no indication of a new book in the series. I hope the various unfinished stories are not being left to die.

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### **Mel Becerra says**

I just have a moment to write this review. Essentially, I had fun. Not the best I've read, but I had a good time. The lead character is likeable and the story moves through well. I haven't read other stories by this author(s), but I understand the earlier novels are better. I am willing and wanting to find out more about them.

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### **Howard Anders says**

"The Spymasters" is an improvement over the last two books in this series, but still lacking the "oomph" of the first four books. Perhaps I'm a bit jaded on the W.E.B. Griffin formula? Given the scope of OSS activities during WWII, there is plenty of potential fuel out there for future books. Hope this series gets some of its "bang" back, and doesn't fizzle to conclusion like Griffin's Marine Corps series did.

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### **Jack says**

Really good book, but it seemed like they got tired of writing and just wrapped it up. A great story up till the last 20 pages or so, when all of a sudden, it's over. This seems to characterize many of Griffin and son's latest works, which I don't understand in light of the earlier, almost exhaustive works. Worth a read, but I'm a little disappointed.

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