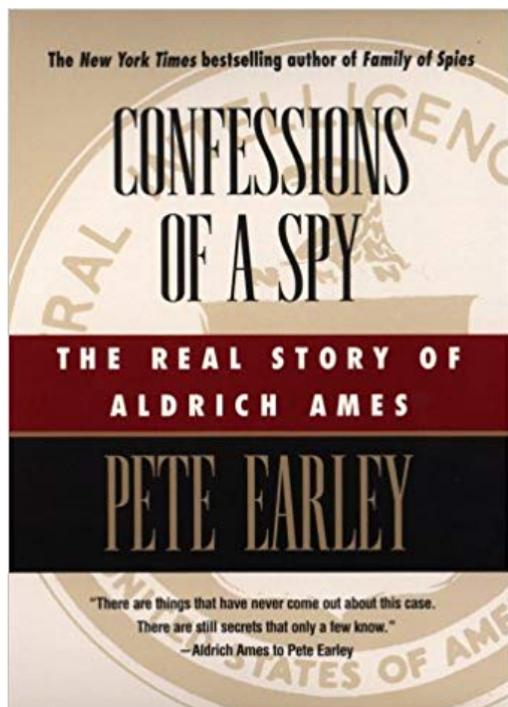


Confessions of a Spy: The Real Story of Aldrich Ames *by* Pete Earley



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Based on exclusive interviews with Aldrich Ames, the author of the best-seller, *Family of Spies*, recounts the double agent's career and capture, and the ineptitude of the CIA that allowed him to elude detection. Reprint.



Reviews of the **Confessions of a Spy: The Real Story of Aldrich Ames** *by* Pete Earley

Zeleence

Author Pete Earley managed to conduct about 50 hours of frank, unsupervised, and uncensored interviews with Aldrich Ames after his arrest and before authorities caught on and curtailed his access to the spy. The information and impressions gleaned from those interviews provide insights that help to round out the story of Ames' perfidy. Ames appears not to have been motivated by political idealism or any particular disaffection for capitalism. Rather, he claims to have betrayed his

country voluntarily and for the basest of reasons; money. Ames is not, to be sure, a sympathetic character but the story of his treasonous activities and the life-and-death consequences of his treachery makes for compelling reading, in spite of the book's somewhat slow pace. Anyone intrigued by the superpowers' cloak-and-dagger machinations during the Cold War era, may wish to consider including Earley's book in their reading list.

Endieyab

Apparently this book by Pete Earley is the best of those written on Aldrich Ames because he had access to Ames while in prison, spoke to Ames' handlers, and the family members of the Russians who were executed due to Ames exposing their working for the United States. Greed is always there to raise its ugly head as Ames admits he betrayed America for the money. Ten Russian individuals were recalled to Russia and executed with a bullet to the back of the head due to their exposure by Aldrich Ames. After divorcing his first wife Ames married a materialistic foreigner from Colombia named Rosario who indulged herself in clothing, expensive dining, and an otherwise extravagant lifestyle. To me Ames' wife Rosario paints herself as a victim while previously enjoying the high-living lifestyle her husband's treachery made possible.

Throughout the book author Earley provides the verbatim words of Ames regarding his treachery along with the views of former colleagues, high school students, and friends of Ames. Ames, himself, counters with the logic by asking how the Russians spying for the United States were any different than him spying for Russia.

After spying for Russia for a period of nine years Ames had to realize his deception couldn't go on much longer. He began to entertain thoughts as to how he could terminate his relationship with the Russians and still maintain the monetary promises previously made to him without upsetting the Russians.

Laxity in security makes it possible for men like Aldrich Ames, Jonathan Pollard, John Walker, and Robert Hanssen to get away with their illicit activities over long periods of time. Hopefully the lessons learned from these individuals can lead to a reduction in spying against the United States.

Kirizius

WOW. Input from the Author, and the Subject. The details are fascinating. I know that it has been 20 years since Ames had been arrested. The book is DEFININATELY A MORE THAN GOOD READ.

Ames may have been truthful in his statements, which made this book so interesting, yet maybe not. Who can tell. I was not there to personally witness his actions. The team that actually CAUGHT him in the act are the ones who reveal the true nature and work of the clandestine services that protect ALL of us.

I find Ames an arrogant, ignorant individual who sold out his own country...for money, FROM THE ENEMY.

Smart, NO. If he were smart, he never would have been caught, just like Robert Hanssen.

There are STILL individuals like them. Perhaps WORSE out there working against our Country.

A DEFINATE PAGE TURNER.

READ THE BOOK. YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.

Mala

I ordered this after the tv show "The Assets" started. I wanted more background to enjoy it. This book didn't get great rating from many but was priced well for me.

I found it an easy read, I had to skim over some of Ames' ramblings. Too nauseating! I was very interested about the remarks made by friends and family. His childhood friend seems to have completely forgiven him for his betrayal and thinks the country doesn't 'understand' Ames. The 4 star rating is because it did drag in places and the ramblings of Ames were given too much space. I understand the author wanted to have Ames' perspective, etc. But Earley felt his book would be read after other books on the subject and seemed to want to 'fill in' existing knowledge. This wasn't my case and was my first venture into the literature surrounding the case.

Why don't we execute traitors anymore?

I am hcv men

At times I got bogged down but I stuck with it. There were a lot of Russian names to digest (as well as CIA, FBI, and others who are more or less familiar to the reader), so a Who's Who cheat-sheet on the side would help keep all the players straight. At first I was not sure I liked the author's chapter postscripts consisting of "In His Words" and "In the words of others" sections because it seemed so redundant. But after I got into the book I came to look forward to the different perspectives, often from the same group of individuals who became more and more familiar. In those sections I found myself reading someone's comment or quote and then trying to back through the chapter to find that person's place in the story. So that slowed me down. Since I had the eBook version, it would have been nice to just click on the name of the person being quoted and be launched back into the chapter where he/she was referenced. Overall I liked the book. Because of it's dense and thorough coverage, I think this book will be an important, if not the most important, reference for any future biographies, screenplays, or essays that might be written about Aldrich Ames and what he did.

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