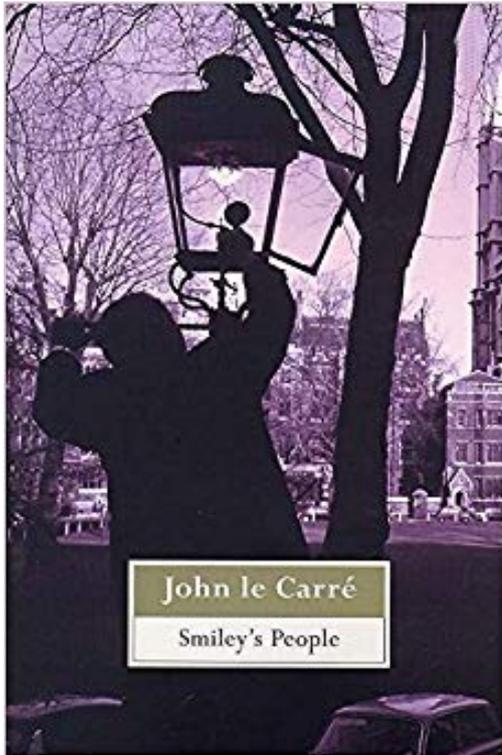


## Smiley's People *by* John Le Carre



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**Author:** John Le Carre

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"Smiley's People".



## Reviews of the *Smiley's People* *by* John Le Carre

### Qusicam

This book completes the so-called "Karla Trilogy": Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy; The Honorable School Boy; and Smiley's People. Other reviewers insist all 3 books should be read in the trilogy order. In my opinion read Tinker, Tailor first then read Smiley's People as there are some strong connections. The Honorable School Boy has little to no connection to Smiley's People and I thought that book was perhaps the most boring spy novel I have read thus far. I confess the only other spy novels I have read are 11 of Len Deighton books, having read all this stuff within the last few years. Smiley's People in my opinion is a real gem. It combines the highly detailed writing style of Tinker, Tailor and the fast moving pace of Len Deighton's novels. So far it is the most enjoyable of all the spy novels I have read recently. FYI the excellent 6-episode mini-series based on this book with this same title can be watched on YouTube and follows the book almost perfectly. I had the pleasure of bouncing back and forth reading 3-4 chapters and watching ½ of an episode until it caught up to my last read

page. Totally enjoyed combining the 2 story modes.

### **Khiceog**

I have read this book several times and each and every time, I discover something new. Le Carre's style is simply outstanding, truly a master of the English language, painting vivid characters, scenes, and sceneries with words. I recommend reading the three books in the Smiley series, to fully appreciate the man's journey through life, fighting his personal demons by discharging his duty towards his country, with the truth as his guide.

### **MarF**

I used to own "The Quest for Karla" omnibus of which this work is the last book. It was destroyed by too many readings. So I purchased the kindle edition since I find it uncomfortable now that an older to hold a book opened.

I have all John Le Carré's books either on the shelf or in my Kindle. I could say that "Smiley's People" is one of the 7 or 8 top preferred although I also re-read with similar anticipation and pleasure such titles as "The Night Manager", "Single and Single" or "The Tailor of Panama". It is perhaps the atmosphere that touches me more closely in "A Small Town in Germany" or in "Smiley's people".

This particular book is a thoroughly satisfying end of the trilogy. As different from the "Tinker, Taylor, Soldier, Spy" as from "The Honourable Schoolboy" (which, IMHO is a superb, complex work which might require multiple readings) it is also a "Spy novel" but as usual with Le Carré, it is so much more than that. Many of the protagonists of the 2 previous tomes re-appear and, for the curtain call, even Anne's lighter.

In typical Le Carré style, the story progresses through a succession of scenes tour à tour macabre, frightening, sad, suspenseful, humorous or rejoicing, observed through the humane vision of a master. True to the genre Le Carré also gives us some good spy tradecraft.

He is my favorite author by far although my compatriots - their government rather- are sometimes in his sight. (with good reason probably) Everybody gets the same treatment anyway. Certainly his hero has no illusion about himself no matter what his nemesis Karla thinks about "the last illusion of the illusionless man".

Although Le Carré describes terrible situations, life goes on (for most of the participants anyway) with its little habits and comforts and funny moments that he presents with much humor and compassion.

### **Flathan**

This set is in like-new condition. There seems to be a recording flaw in all productions of Disk 3 of this set. The sound level on Disk 3 is lower and muddled compared with the other disks in this set. I noticed the issue with a public library copy of this set. I bought this set in the hope that sound on Disk 3 would be better, but it is not. The problem must be in the original master used to make the disk since the disk itself has no physical flaws. Since it is almost impossible to find copies of this Frank Muller narrated set, the flaw is an acceptable nuisance. Muller's narration is just superlative. I am happy to now have the set in my own collection.

### **Goltizuru**

Smiley's People has a great turn-by-turn plot and is a very satisfying coda to the saga of George Smiley. Also one of the few Le Carre stories with an upbeat ending.

With the level of readership this novel was bound to have, and for the price tag, it's extremely cheesy to make mistakes in formatting. There are two very obvious ones in an early chapter. A spelling error (of Smiley's work name) and a mistake in a sentence explaining the Bill Hayden episode which irritatingly conveys the exact opposite meaning of the original text. For any well-known work not to get the format right is depressing, and insensitivity is a villain in any spy story.

## **FRAY**

Perhaps the best of the series. Introspective and sadly brilliant. This novel should remove all doubt about the true emptiness of the life in the Intelligence Service.

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