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# Spies Michael Frayn

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*Spies Michael Frayn*

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## BEARD COLBY

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**The Bastard Brigade** Simon and Schuster

When a long-forgotten scent forces Stephen Wheatley to confront his past, he starts to remember a troubling childhood summer in wartime London where an imaginative child's game of playing spies wreaked havoc upon innocent lives.

Spies Faber & Faber

This amusing satire about audiences by the author of *Noises Off*, *Copenhagen* and other acclaimed plays takes place in the stalls (orchestra) of a West End theatre. The cast includes an usherette, audience members and a playwright in agony over crinkling candy wrappers, talking out loud, and inattention to his play. The characters in Michael Frayn's metatheatrical comedy are actually watching the audience, expecting them to perform, and comedy ensues as Frayn holds a mirror up to the audience and they see their own foibles as audience members.

**Noises Off** Faber & Faber

In the quiet cul-de-sac where Keith and Stephen live the only immediate signs of the Second World War are the blackout at

night and a single random bombsite. But the two boys start to suspect all is not as it seems when one day Keith announces a disconcerting discovery: the Germans have infiltrated his own family. And when the secret underground world they have dreamed up emerges from the shadows they find themselves engulfed in mysteries far deeper and more painful than they had bargained for. Winner of the Whitbread Novel of the Year Award. **Spies** Samuel French, Inc.

Moscow in the 1960s was the other side of the Iron Curtain: mysterious, exotic, even dangerous. In 1966 the historian Sheila Fitzpatrick travelled to Moscow to research in the Soviet archives. This was the era of Brezhnev, of a possible 'thaw' in the Cold War, when the Soviets couldn't decide either to thaw out properly or re-freeze. Moscow, the world capital of socialism, was renowned for its drabness. The buses were overcrowded; there were endemic shortages and endless queues. This was also the age of regular spying scandals and tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions and it was no surprise that visiting students were subject to intense scrutiny by the KGB. Many of Fitzpatrick's friends were involved in espionage activities - and indeed others were accused of being spies or kept under close surveillance. In this book, Sheila

Fitzpatrick provides a unique insight into everyday life in Soviet Moscow.

**A Novel** Metropolitan Books

From the bestselling author of *Headlong*, a mesmerizing novel about secrecy, imagination, and a child's game turned deadly earnest. The sudden trace of a disturbing, forgotten aroma compels Stephen Wheatley to return to the site of a dimly remembered but troubling childhood summer in wartime London. As he pieces together his scattered images, we are brought back to a quiet, suburban street where two boys, Keith and his sidekick-Stephen-are engaged in their own version of the war effort: spying on the neighbors, recording their movements, ferreting out their secrets. But when Keith utters six shocking words, the boys' game of espionage takes a sinister and unintended turn. A wife's simple errands and a family's ordinary rituals-once the focus of childish speculation-become the tragic elements of adult catastrophe. In gripping prose, charged with emotional intensity, *Spies* reaches into the moral confusion of youth to reveal a reality filled with deceptions and betrayals, where the bonds of friendship, marriage, and family are unravelled by cowardice and erotic desire. Master illusionist Michael Frayn powerfully demonstrates, yet again, that what appears to be happening in front of our eyes often turns out to be something we can't see at all.

**Copenhagen** Metropolitan Books

"One of theatre's subtlest, most sophisticated minds" (The Times) Now You Know: "Frayn's light but serious, marvellous play, about official and unofficial secrets, about idle curiosity and investigative purpose" (Observer)

*A Novel* Samuel French, Inc.

In mid-career, Michael Frayn took up his old trade of journalism, and wrote a series of occasional articles for the Observer about some of the places in the world that interested him. He wanted to describe 'not the extraordinary but the ordinary, the typical, the everyday', and his accounts became the starting point for some of the novels and plays he wrote later. From a kibbutz in Israel to summer rains in Japan, bicycles in Cambridge to Notting Hill at the end of the 1950s, they are glimpses of a world that sometimes seems tantalisingly familiar, sometimes vanished forever. Michael Frayn is the celebrated author of fifteen plays including *Noises Off*, *Copenhagen* and *Afterlife*. His bestselling novels include *Headlong*, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, *Spies*, which won the Whitbread Best Novel Award and *Skios*, which was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. "All writers of fiction should be required by law to go out and do a bit of reporting from time to time, just to remind them how different the real world in front of their eyes is from the invented world behind them." Michael Frayn 'Whether he's on a kibbutz or a bicycle, Frayn makes acute observations and the writing is enchanting.' Conde Nast Traveller

**My Father's Fortune** Macmillan

"As finely worked as a Swiss watch and as funny as the human condition permits...the zigzag brilliance of the text as the clunky lines of the farce-within-a-farce rub against the sharp dialogue of reality" Guardian A play-within-a-play following a touring theatre company who are rehearsing and performing a comedy called *Nothing On*, results in a riotous double-bill of comedic craft and dramatic skill. Hurtling along at breakneck speed it shows the backstage antics as they stumble through the dress-rehearsal at Weston-super-Mare, then on to a disastrous matinee at Ashton-under-Lyne, followed by a total meltdown in Stockton-on-Tees. Michael Frayn's irresistible, multi-award-winning backstage farce has been enjoyed by millions of people worldwide since it premiered in 1982 and has been hailed as one of the greatest British comedies ever written. Winner of both Olivier and Evening

Standard Awards for Best Comedy. This edition features a new introduction by Michael Blakemore.

**With IGCSE and A Level study guide** Bloomsbury Publishing

"One of theatre's subtlest, most sophisticated minds" (The Times) One spring morning a quiet, shy man in his sixties sets out from Land's End to walk the length of his native land. He has never walked more than a dozen miles in his life before, his health is uncertain, his boots are new, and he is too diffident to talk to anyone he meets along the way. His slow, solitary progress up the spine of Britain is watched by an unseen audience - his family and friends at home. How far will he get before he is forced to give up? Is he being heroic or merely selfish? As the days of his absence go by the old alliances and quarrels inside the family shift and alter. What emerges is a story about the arbitrariness of human endeavour and about the tenacious complexity of human relationships; about one man's glimpse of the country he lives in; about courage and about love. *First and Last* was directed by Alan Dossor in a production for BBC television, with Joss Ackland as the walker.

**A Play in Two Acts** *Spies*

Michael Frayn's classic novel is set in the crossword and nature notes department of an obscure national newspaper during the declining years of Fleet Street, John Dyson, a mid-level editor, dreams wistfully of fame and the gentlemanly life -- until one day his great chance of glory arrives. But does he have what it takes to succeed in the exciting world of television?

**Our Part in the Creation of a Universe** Macmillan

This varied collection of short sketches and monologues by the author of *NOISES OFF*, *BENEFACTORS* and others is essential to any actor's library. Most pieces are comic and all are perfect for classes and auditions. Contents: At the Sign of the Rupture Belt (2m, 1f) Blots (Monologue) Confession (Monologue) Do You Think You Are? (1m, 1f) Glycerine (1m, 1f) Head to Head (Monologue) Heaven (1m, 1f) Listen to This (1m, 1f) A Little Peace and Quiet (1m, 1f) The Messenger'

**Makeup Mayhem** Wildside Press LLC

"Michael Frayn has the rare ability to construct farcical comedy around philosophical principles and the laughs and the ideas effortlessly intermesh" (Guardian) Four old friends sit down for a quiet evening together. But they are harassed by various bells, sirens, buzzers, warblers, beepers and cheepers, all trying to warn them of something. What are these electronic voices trying to tell them? Can they understand the mysterious disasters before disaster strikes? It's a race against time - because there are seven more plays and twenty more characters still to come before the evening is through, plus a lot more strange noises - and increasingly desperate calls from eleven separate pay phones...

**Focus On** Macmillan

First published in 1974 and republished following the success of Frayn's masterly work of philosophy, *The Human Touch*, *Constructions* is a dazzling, thought-provoking and fascinating book which explores some of the great problems in philosophy and of everyday life.

**Spies** Faber & Faber

The author of *The Trick of It* and *Spies* uses his satiric wit in a comedy featuring two unlikely lovers who have wreaked chaos in the halls of the English congress. Reprint. 10,000 first printing.

"*Spies*", Michael Frayn Macmillan

'Easily the most original thing Frayn has done . . . written with elegant simplicity.' *New Statesman* *Uncumber* lives at a time in the distant future when all humanity is divided in two - the Insiders and the Outsiders. The Insiders are privileged, with their every need catered to by somatic drugs, three-dimensional holovision and a prolonged life. *Uncumber* lives in this luxurious

world and is told that she must never go out into the dust and disease of the real world. Uncumber, however, is haunted by a restless and inquisitive spirit. When she falls in love with an Outsider, she decides to go exploring ... 'A fairy tale of the future.' Guardian

**Notes** Fontana Press

The spies must travel to a Transylvanian beauty convention on Halloween to rescue the kidnapped ambassador.

**A Novel** Bloomsbury Publishing USA

In a novel about the creative process, a series of letters reveals the relationship between a celebrated female novelist and her less-than-humble disciple. Reprint. 10,000 first printing.

A Life Farrar, Straus and Giroux

With his characteristically brilliant wordplay and extraordinary scope, Tom Stoppard has in *Hapgood* devised a play that "spins an end-of-the-Cold-War tale of intrigue and betrayal, interspersed with explanations of the quixotic behavior of the electron and the puzzling properties of light" (New York Times). It falls to Hapgood, an extraordinary British intelligence officer, to try to unravel the mystery of who is passing along top-secret scientific discoveries to the Soviets, but as she does so, the web of personal and professional betrayals—doubles and triples and possibly quadruples—continues to multiply.

The True Story of the Renegade Scientists and Spies Who Sabotaged the Nazi Atomic Bomb Faber & Faber

"This long-running hit starred Sam Waterson on Broadway as an urban architect whose attempts to improve humanity by the environments he creates, only leads to chaos when the high-rise boom goes bust and two close friends are caught in the cross-hairs."--Page 4 of cover.

A Very Private Life Bloomsbury Publishing

From New York Times bestselling author Sam Kean comes the gripping, untold story of a renegade group of scientists and spies

determined to keep Adolf Hitler from obtaining the ultimate prize: a nuclear bomb. Scientists have always kept secrets. But rarely have the secrets been as vital as they were during World War II. In the middle of building an atomic bomb, the leaders of the Manhattan Project were alarmed to learn that Nazi Germany was far outpacing the Allies in nuclear weapons research. Hitler, with just a few pounds of uranium, would have the capability to reverse the entire D-Day operation and conquer Europe. So they assembled a rough and motley crew of geniuses -- dubbed the Alsos Mission -- and sent them careening into Axis territory to spy on, sabotage, and even assassinate members of Nazi Germany's feared Uranium Club. The details of the mission rival the finest spy thriller, but what makes this story sing is the incredible cast of characters -- both heroes and rogues alike -- including: Moe Berg, the major league catcher who abandoned the game for a career as a multilingual international spy; the strangest fellow to ever play professional baseball. Werner Heisenberg, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist credited as the discoverer of quantum mechanics; a key contributor to the Nazi's atomic bomb project and the primary target of the Alsos mission. Colonel Boris Pash, a high school science teacher and veteran of the Russian Revolution who fled the Soviet Union with a deep disdain for Communists and who later led the Alsos mission. Joe Kennedy Jr., the charismatic, thrill-seeking older brother of JFK whose need for adventure led him to volunteer for the most dangerous missions the Navy had to offer. Samuel Goudsmit, a washed-up physics prodigy who spent his life hunting Nazi scientists -- and his parents, who had been swept into a concentration camp -- across the globe. Irène and Frederic Joliot-Curie, a physics Nobel-Prize winning power couple who used their unassuming status as scientists to become active members of the resistance. Thrust into the dark world of international espionage, these scientists and soldiers played a vital and largely untold role in turning back one of the darkest tides in human history.