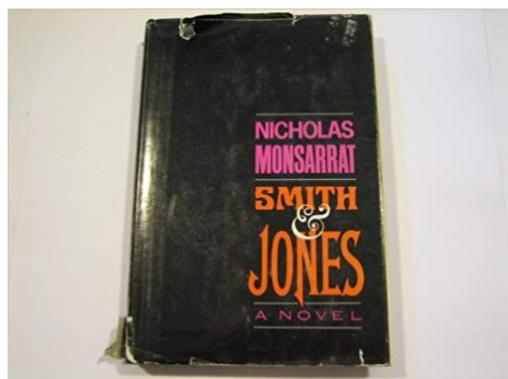


## Smith and Jones *by* Nicholas Monsarrat



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**Author:** Nicholas Monsarrat

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## Reviews of the *Smith and Jones* *by* Nicholas Monsarrat

Iaran

Many years ago I found a tattered old DTB copy of Smith & Jones in my mother's bookcase. I read it, returned it and subsequently it disappeared. Despite the thousands of books I have devoured since that time, I had never forgotten the story of the two impossibly unlikely diplomats who found themselves thrown together in an alien clime. Nicholas Monsarrat's Smith & Jones had held me totally absorbed until the very last page.

The ending left me mentally flailing.

From time to time over the years I have half heartedly attempted to track down a copy, my last forlorn attempt on Amazon in a fit of whimsy. Lo and behold.....here it was...and available for Kindle. A long time fan of Monsarrat, this is the story that prodded me so vividly over the years and refused to go away.

I couldn't recommend it more highly.

Onnell

It is the height of the Cold War. You are a security officer responsible for diplomats, two of whom are known troublemakers who choose to defect to the other side. For your sins, you are sent after them. Such is the premise of Nicholas Monsarrat's clever 1963 espionage thriller "Smith and Jones." The plot borrows liberally from the notorious case of the British diplomats and intelligence officers Burgess and MacLean, who defected to the Soviet Union in 1956. In fact, Monsarrat relies on the reader to see the parallels, as they are crucial to a key twist in the plot...

The narrator of the story is a security officer in the diplomatic service, nicknamed "the drill-pig", who is held responsible for the security lapses that failed to identify Smith and Jones as potential defectors, and who is posted into a menial billet overseas as punishment. He monitors the reception of Smith and Jones in the country in which they receive asylum. He is told by his superiors to get them back, by any means necessary. Things don't go according to plan, and the ending will be rather shocking to those who haven't been paying close attention. To say more is give away a subtle twist in the conclusion, one that may be visible only to a sharp-eyed reader old enough to remember the Cold War. Recommended. Monsarrat was an accomplished writer and former Naval Officer whose best-remembered work may be "The Cruel Sea", a bluntly told and thinly fictionalized account of the war at sea in the Second World War.

FreandlyMan

This story in the hands of any other author might not have been as entertaining. Mr. Monsarrat leads you through these pages with graceful pacing, allowing you to get well acquainted with Mr. Ivan Smith and Mr. Peter Jones. The story is about the politics of loyalty and disloyalty to one's country, companions and self. The security officer who narrates the story about the two U.S. embassy officials defecting gives you everything, including his own pressured circumstance of remaining loyal. Here is proof that the post WWII cold war left many in government frozen in fear; frozen in duty.

Enalonasa

Excellent book about defecting diplomats during the Cold War. In my opinion, Mr. Monsarrat is one of the two best writers I've ever had the pleasure of reading. The other? Neville Shute.

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