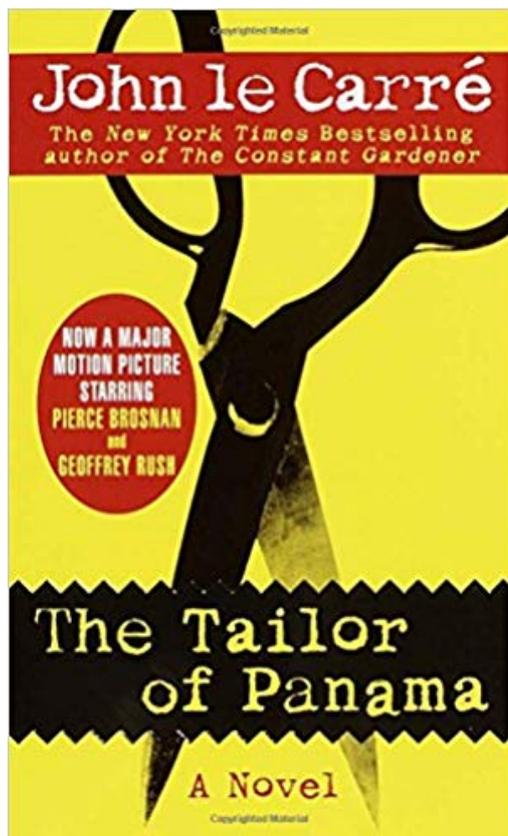


The Tailor of Panama by John le Carré



DOWNLOAD LINKS (Clickable)



ISBN: 0345420438

ISBN13: 978-0345420435

Author: John le Carré

Book title: The Tailor of Panama

Publisher: Ballantine Books (July 30, 1997)

Language: English

Category: Thrillers & Suspense

Size PDF version: 1256 kb

Size ePUB version: 1218 kb

Size FB2 version: 1973 kb

Other formats: rtf azw rtf txt

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of A Legacy of Spies and The Night Manager, now an AMC miniseries He is Harry Pendel: Exclusive tailor to Panama's most powerful men. Informant to British Intelligence. The perfect spy in a country rife with corruption and revolution. What his "handlers" don't realize is that Harry has a hidden agenda of his own. Deceiving his friends, his wife, and practically himself, he'll weave a plot so fabulous it exceeds his own vivid imagination. But when events start to spin out of control, Harry is suddenly in over his head—thrown into a lethal maze of politics and espionage, with unthinkable consequences. . . . **Praise for *The Tailor of Panama*** "Entertaining . . . a riotous, readable novel . . . A worthy successor to Graham Greene's most wicked entertainments."—*The New York Times* "Riveting . . . Le Carré has cut another masterpiece."—*Los Angeles Times* "What makes le Carré the reigning grand master of espionage fiction? . . . Craft, certainly; he maintains an almost magnificent control of material, pace, dialogue, characterization."—*The Baltimore Sun* "Brilliant . . . Le Carré remains fair in front of his field, a startlingly up-to-date storyteller who writes as well about the shadows around the power elite as anyone alive."—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)



Reviews of the **The Tailor of Panama** by John le Carré

Avarm

This was one of the last of the many John Le Carre novels I have read. Inspired in part by Graham Greene's "Our Man in Havana." As in Greene's novel, this one ridicules the tendency of British intelligence services to accept questionable local Panamanian sources provided by Harry Pendel, an ex-convict British expatriate tailor who invents a Saville Row connection and a nonexistent mentor and former partner. He proceeds to invent a conspiracy involving students and fishermen trying to stop corrupt sale of the canal on the eve of the turnover of the canal to Panama around the time of its transfer from US control. A mysterious British intelligence service controlled by a Fleet Street press baron passes the information on to the US which mounts a second invasion of Panama. Le Carre has said he was inspired by his own constant reinventing and reimagining himself.

GYBYXOH

I've only read a few Le Carre novels in my life, and it's been years, if not decades, since the last. What I distinctly remember about the earlier reads was the appalling sadness of it all, how spying's general nature is the ruination of all good people involved.

You get that here, too, but the tone is somewhat different, with the post Cold War confusion of targets and allies and enemies creating as much farce as tragedy. I did laugh; people were destroyed; I got what I paid for.

I decided to try this novel because I was traveling to Panama, a country whose list of fiction, about or from, is so sparse as to contain arguably just the Tailor of Panama and not much else. It did help set the mood for me while I was there, but the lives of these people - the elite and expats and governors and the powerful - is so distant from a tourist like me that I might have been in a different country than the one in the book. Nevertheless, I did it. I went to the odd little country called Panama, read that one book, and enjoyed the experience overall.

Liarienen

Just magic - there are scenes so rich that you'll never forget them. Le Carre wraps us in another masterpiece and the production and acting are so right! I don't buy movies but I had to have this at hand. You won't be sorry!

Grarana

I am a fan of John Le Carre but I can't say I like all of his books. He seems to have peaked somewhere between A Perfect Spy and The Little Drummer Girl. The Tailor of Panama, published in 1996, is one of his post-Cold War era books and contains his usual themes of betrayal and human weakness in the murky world of espionage. In his acknowledgements he admits to a desire to write a satire along the lines of Graham Greene's brilliant Our Man in Havana, a farcical look at the consequences of fabricated intelligence. Le Carre looked around for a 1990s equivalent of Batista's Cuba and settled on Panama in the years just after the 1989 US invasion (Operation Just Cause). Le Carre did significant on-site research in Panama to prepare for this book. As a result, his insights into Panamanian culture, history and politics ring very true. The story involves a British ex-pat named Harry Pendel who runs a men's store right out of London's garment district called Pendel and Braithwaite Ltd ("Formerly of Savile Row"). As such he is tailor to the movers and shakers of Panamanian society; its politicians, its gangsters, its American occupiers, et al. But Pendel is living a fabricated life, with a fabricated past even his wife is unaware of. He is really a British ex-con who learned to make suits in prison and came to Panama to start all over again. Because of his secret past and mounting financial debts, the vulnerable Pendel is easily exploited by fledgling MI-6 agent and "Panama Canal expert" Andy Oxnard to serve as a British spy. The obnoxious Oxnard cultivates Pendel both as an agent and head of an agent network, using his substantial operational funding to pay for their secret double-life (and Oxnard's own out-of-control appetites), never realizing that Pendel's intelligence is fiction, based on innuendo, gossip and imagination; and his agent network

nothing more than Pendel's unwitting friends and wife. The result is a tragic comedy of errors as the scam unravels, people die or are betrayed and the entire scheme is wiped away by another American invasion -- the result of Oxnard's bogus intelligence products.

This is not an easy book to read, a dark comedy at best. Le Carre's brilliant prose carries the day, but its high brow English prose, tough on an American ear. The post-Cold War liberal preachiness characterizing Le Carre's later books sometimes ruins the joke. The Americans are almost uniformly bad, card-board cut-out military types from Dr. Strangelove; the Brits are all cynical and inept (the most inept intelligence schemers since The Looking Glass War); the socialists and leftists are all wonderful and idealistic; and everyone is oversexed and cheating on their spouses -- a reflection of Le Carre's own lurid personal life. Le Carre's sense of comic timing starts out well -- this is high-end farce -- but as it moves towards its tragic conclusion it feels more and more forced. The idea that America is itching to re-invade Panama at the drop of a hat is a mean-spirited angle. But Le Carre has become crankier and more cynical with every outing (At least the liberal sermonizing isn't as bad as The Constant Gardener or The Mission Song). And his sense of humor, despite the cynicism, gives you a sense that he can still laugh at it all. But you won't feel better for having read this book. And time has left the book's rather obscure geo-political angle (an economic-expansionist Japan conspiring with a fragile Panamanian democracy against the West) far behind. For serious Le Carre fans only. The rest of you should move on to something more relevant... like an Andy McNab novel. Cheers!

Yainai

Now I understand a little better how we ended up in Iraq. Pierce Bronson exquisitely plays the perfect S.O.B. and Geoffrey Rush, as always, very successfully captures his character fearing the loss of the things he holds dear and how deep a person will go to keep their secrets, when backed in a corner.

Related PDF to [The Tailor of Panama](#) by John le Carré

Humor & Entertainment

[Pale Kings and Princes \(Spenser, No 14\) by Robert B. Parker](#)

Biographies & Memoris

[Trump: The Art of the Deal by Tony Schwartz,Donald J. Trump](#)

Literature & Fiction

[Outlander \(Starz Tie-in Edition\): A Novel by Diana Gabaldon](#)

Literature & Fiction

[Bad Luck and Trouble: A Jack Reacher Novel by Lee Child](#)

Literature & Fiction

[The Novel by James A. Michener](#)

Mystery, Thriller & Suspense

[Smiley's People: A George Smiley Novel by John le Carré](#)

Travel

[Acquired Tastes by Peter Mayle](#)

Literature & Fiction

[Every Man Dies Alone: A Novel by Michael Hofmann,Hans Fallada](#)

Literature & Fiction

[It Looked Different on the Model: Epic Tales of Impending Shame and Infamy by Laurie Notaro](#)

Mystery, Thriller & Suspense

[The Aquitaine Progression: A Novel by Robert Ludlum](#)