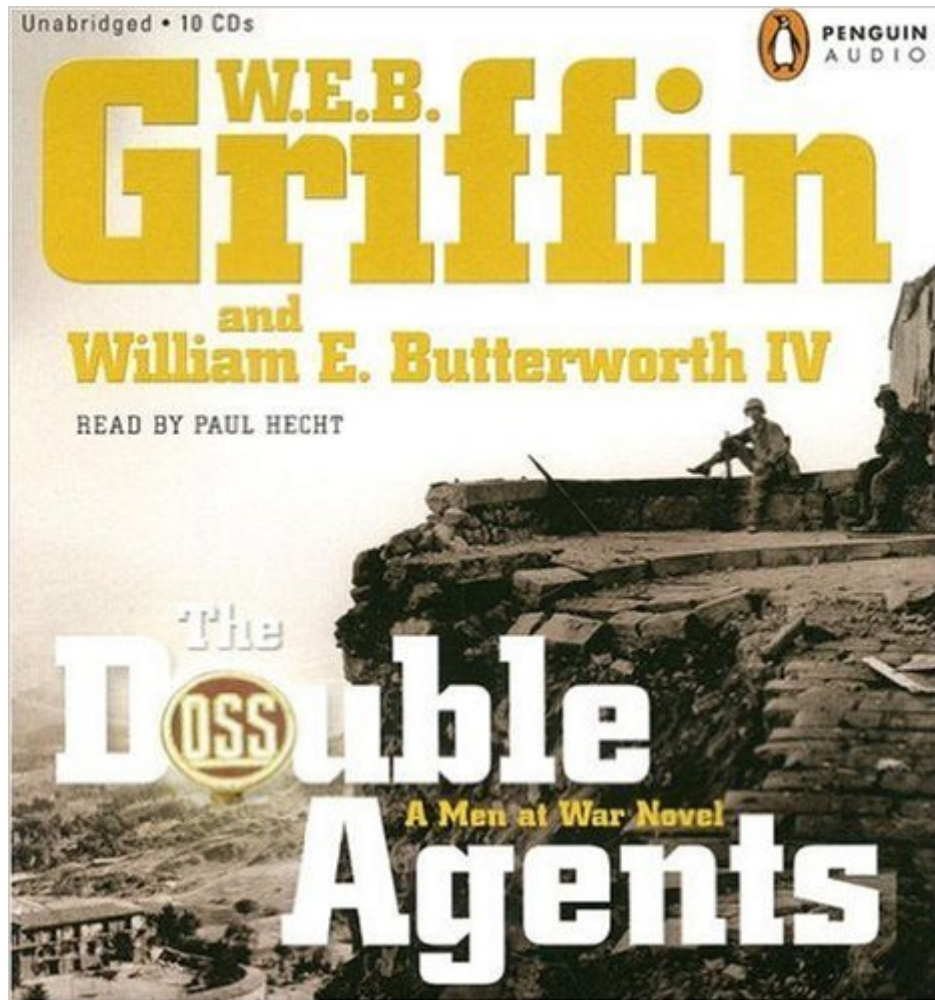


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The Double Agents (Men At War)



Synopsis

W. E. B. Griffin's iconoclastic OSS heroes face a historic challenge in the brand-new volume of the New York Times-bestselling series.

Book Information

Series: Men at War

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (167 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,501,439 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (G) > Griffin, W. E. B. #10335 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General #10466 inÂ Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Espionage

Customer Reviews

"The Saboteurs", the first acknowledged collaboration of W.E.B. Griffin and son William E.

Butterworth IV was awful. It wasn't a story, as much as it was a mess. "The Double Agents" isn't much of an improvement. At least the endless need of Major Richard Canidy to empty his bladder is almost gone, reduced to a single entirely gratuitous episode. Canidy is supposedly a hotshot fighter pilot recruited into the Office of Strategic Services. To make the character work, the authors have to cast Canidy as a "loose cannon," someone willing to make life or death decisions on the spot, regardless of the consequences. The characterization doesn't work. Canidy is a shallow character and the plot supports him with one transparent device after another. Everything Canidy needs is always close at hand, unbelievable in war time. When Canidy scopes out an enemy installation, just by chance a high ranking German officer is there waiting to be assassinated. Unlike Griffin the elder's many solo offerings, there is no suspense here. No cleverness either. Dad Griffin built his reputation on mixing historical fact with inventive fiction. Here, fiction overwhelms fact, though the Griffins apparently hope you won't catch on. For example, one of the many (implausible) backstories is about The Man Who Never Was: World War II's Boldest Counter-Intelligence Operation, a

deception operation mounted by British intelligence.

Tedious, stilted and misleading are some of the words that can be used to describe this book. The authors, presumably, assume that the reader is not familiar with one of the most often told deception stories of WWII, "The Man Who Never Was." They tell it again, practically without change. It must be fairly true or someone is violating a copyright. Major Martin is packed in ice, readied and launched from a sub off the coast of Spain carrying messages indicating that the next move is against Greece, not Sicily. The retelling is nothing more than an attempt to drop the names of Ian Fleming, David Niven and Peter Ustinov, who had nothing to do with it. To have phony intimate love letters from an English girl to the good Major written by an American woman just arrived in London to work for the OSS and edited by a ditsy Duchess is ridiculous. In addition, the first rule of keeping secrets, restricting knowledge to those who have a real need to know, is not only violated in this tale, it is consigned to the dust bin of espionage. Discussion of what would have been a very tightly held plan is conducted as if one of the royals was getting married and wanted everyone to know it. That might not be too bad, if one is considering giving a novelist a little slack in order to enjoy the story, but here the dialog is so sophomoric and often irrelevant that it is truly hard to keep slogging away hoping to find a kernel of insight into what the title promises, the OSS. If the authors were to say that this book is a spoof on some of the more stupefying WWII novels they might be accused of being advocates of truth in labeling.

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