

olen steinhauer all the old knives

Olen Steinhauer All the Old Knives is a captivating novel that has garnered widespread acclaim for its intricate plot, compelling characters, and masterful storytelling. As a prominent work by Olen Steinhauer, this book exemplifies the author's talent for blending espionage, suspense, and emotional depth into a compelling narrative. Whether you're a seasoned fan of espionage thrillers or new to Steinhauer's work, understanding the nuances of All the Old Knives offers valuable insights into its themes, characters, and significance within the genre.

Overview of Olen Steinhauer's All the Old Knives

Introduction to the Novel

All the Old Knives is a psychological spy thriller that explores themes of betrayal, loyalty, and the complexity of human relationships. Published in 2015, the novel is set against the backdrop of the CIA and the covert world of espionage. Steinhauer, known for his meticulous research and authentic portrayal of intelligence operations, crafts a story that is both intellectually engaging and emotionally resonant.

Plot Summary

The story revolves around a tense reunion between two former CIA officers, Henry Pelham and Celia Harper, who are brought together to discuss a failed operation that resulted in the death of several agents. As they delve into the details, secrets unravel, and the line between friend and foe blurs. The narrative is structured around their conversations, flashbacks, and internal monologues, creating a layered and suspenseful reading experience.

Key Themes and Topics in All the Old Knives

Espionage and Intelligence Operations

Steinhauer's novel offers an authentic portrayal of espionage tactics, intelligence gathering, and the moral ambiguities faced by spies. It delves

into:

- The delicate balance of trust within intelligence agencies
- The psychological toll of covert work
- The ethical dilemmas encountered during spy missions

Trust and Betrayal

At its core, the story examines how trust is built, tested, and sometimes broken in high-stakes environments. The characters' personal histories and motives are intricately woven into the plot, highlighting:

- The impact of past betrayals
- The difficulty of discerning truth in a world of deception
- The emotional consequences of betrayal on relationships

Complex Characters and Relationships

Steinhauer excels at developing multi-dimensional characters whose motives and backgrounds influence their actions. The novel focuses on:

- The nuanced relationship between Pelham and Harper
- The internal conflicts faced by each character
- The interplay of love, duty, and guilt

Character Breakdown in All the Old Knives

Henry Pelham

A seasoned CIA officer haunted by past failures, Pelham is portrayed as introspective and morally conflicted. His quest for truth and redemption drives much of the narrative.

Celia Harper

Celia is a former colleague and lover of Pelham, whose motivations and loyalties are complex. Her perspective provides insight into the inner workings of espionage and personal sacrifice.

Supporting Characters

- Vikram Singh: An operative whose actions influence the plot's direction.
- Michael O'Neill: A CIA superior with vested interests.
- Unnamed agents: Represent the broader CIA network and its clandestine operations.

The Writing Style and Narrative Technique of Olen Steinhauer

Engaging and Tense Prose

Steinhauer's writing is characterized by crisp, precise language that maintains suspense throughout. His descriptions are detailed yet concise, immersing readers in the spy world.

Structured Around Conversations and Flashbacks

The novel's non-linear format provides multiple perspectives and keeps readers guessing. This technique enhances the psychological depth and complexity of the story.

Authenticity and Research

Steinhauer draws from extensive research to depict intelligence procedures accurately, adding credibility and realism to his storytelling.

Critical Reception and Reviews

What Critics Say

All the Old Knives has been praised for its:

- Sharp dialogue and character development
- Authentic depiction of espionage
- Complex moral questions

Some reviews highlight the novel's slow pace at the beginning, but many appreciate the layered storytelling that rewards patient readers.

Reader Feedback

Fans of the genre appreciate the book's psychological depth and realistic portrayal of spy life. The novel's suspenseful build-up and unexpected twists make it a favorite among thriller enthusiasts.

Comparison with Other Works by Olen Steinhauer

Similarities

- Focus on morally ambiguous characters
- Authentic espionage details
- Intricate plotting

Differences

While Steinhauer's The Tourist series emphasizes action and adventure, All the Old Knives leans more toward psychological depth and character study.

Adaptations and Media Presence

Film and Television Adaptations

As of October 2023, All the Old Knives has been adapted into a feature film, starring notable actors, bringing the story to a broader audience. The adaptation captures the tense atmosphere and emotional nuances of the novel, further cementing its popularity.

Availability and Formats

The novel is available in:

- Hardcover and paperback editions
- E-book formats
- Audiobook versions narrated by skilled voice actors

Why Read All the Old Knives?

For Fans of Espionage and Thriller Genres

The novel offers a compelling mix of suspense, psychological insight, and authentic spy craft.

For Those Interested in Human Psychology

The characters' internal struggles and moral dilemmas provide a rich exploration of human nature.

For Readers Who Appreciate Well-Written Fiction

Steinhauer's literary style and intricate plotting make this a rewarding read for discerning readers.

SEO Keywords and Phrases for All the Old Knives

- Olen Steinhauer All the Old Knives review
- Best espionage novels 2023
- Psychological spy thriller books
- Olen Steinhauer books list
- All the Old Knives audiobook
- Spy novel adaptations
- CIA novels and thrillers
- Best books about espionage and betrayal

Conclusion

Olen Steinhauer's All the Old Knives stands out as a masterful addition to modern espionage fiction. With its layered storytelling, authentic depiction of spy life, and deep exploration of trust and betrayal, the novel appeals to a broad audience seeking suspense and psychological depth. Whether you're reading it for its compelling characters, intricate plot, or its realistic portrayal of intelligence operations, All the Old Knives remains a must-read for fans of the genre and literary thrillers alike. Its adaptation into film and continued popularity underscore its significance in contemporary espionage literature, making it a standout work in Olen Steinhauer's impressive bibliography.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'All the Old Knives' by Olen Steinhauer?

'All the Old Knives' follows a CIA operative who reunites with a former lover and colleague to uncover secrets from their past, set against the backdrop of a hostage crisis and espionage intrigue.

Who are the main characters in 'All the Old Knives'?

The novel centers on Henry Pelham, a CIA operative, and Celia, a former lover and colleague, as they navigate their complex relationship amidst espionage and moral dilemmas.

Is 'All the Old Knives' based on a true story or is it fiction?

'All the Old Knives' is a work of fiction, crafted as a spy thriller that delves into espionage, relationships, and moral ambiguities.

Has 'All the Old Knives' been adapted into a film or TV series?

Yes, the novel was adapted into a film released in 2022, starring Chris Pine and Thandiwe Newton, bringing the story to the screen.

What themes are explored in 'All the Old Knives'?

The novel explores themes of trust, betrayal, moral ambiguity, love and loss, and the complexities of espionage work.

How does Olen Steinhauer develop suspense in 'All the Old Knives'?

Steinhauer employs layered storytelling, flashbacks, and tense dialogue to gradually reveal secrets and keep readers engaged with suspense and intrigue.

Where does 'All the Old Knives' stand in Olen Steinhauer's body of work?

'All the Old Knives' is considered one of Steinhauer's notable works, showcasing his mastery in espionage thrillers and character-driven narratives.

What is the significance of the title 'All the Old Knives'?

The title symbolizes past betrayals and secrets that linger, much like old knives that carry history and unresolved tensions, reflecting the novel's themes of trust and betrayal.

Additional Resources

Olen Steinhauer's *All the Old Knives*: A Deep Dive into Espionage, Trust, and the Shadows of the Past

In the realm of espionage fiction, few authors manage to capture the intricate web of deception, moral ambiguity, and personal sacrifice quite like Olen Steinhauer. His novel *All the Old Knives* stands as a compelling exploration of betrayal and redemption, set against the backdrop of Cold War espionage but resonating deeply with contemporary themes. This article delves into the novel's plot intricacies, thematic richness, character development, and its place within the broader espionage genre, providing a comprehensive, reader-friendly analysis rooted in journalistic insight.

An Introduction to Olen Steinhauer and *All the Old Knives*

Olen Steinhauer, an acclaimed American novelist known for his nuanced espionage thrillers, has built a reputation for blending complex character studies with high-stakes spy narratives. *All the Old Knives*, published in 2015, epitomizes this approach. The novel revolves around a tense reunion between two former CIA operatives—Henry Pelham and Celia Harris—who are drawn together by their shared past and a dangerous secret that threatens to unravel everything.

The story unfolds primarily in a single location: a restaurant in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Over the course of a single evening, Steinhauer masterfully unpacks decades of espionage history, personal regrets, and the gray areas of morality that define the spy world. What makes this novel particularly engaging is its focus on psychological depth and dialogue-driven tension, setting it apart from more action-oriented spy thrillers.

The Plot Unfolded: A Night of Revelations

The Setting and Context

All the Old Knives is set against the tense atmosphere of a quiet dinner. The protagonists, Pelham and Harris, are former colleagues who once shared a close professional bond and personal intimacy. Their meeting is fraught with

unspoken history, and the narrative gradually reveals that they are not only revisiting their past but also confronting a crisis that could have devastating consequences.

The Central Conflict

At its core, the novel centers around the betrayal of a CIA asset named Vick, who was compromised, leading to the death of several agents. Pelham and Harris's past involvement in the Vick operation is scrutinized, and the narrative explores whether their own actions contributed to the failure. As the evening progresses, secrets surface, and trust is tested, culminating in revelations that challenge their perceptions of loyalty and duty.

The Narrative Structure

Steinhauer employs a non-linear storytelling approach, weaving flashbacks with present-day conversations. This technique heightens suspense, allowing readers to piece together the characters' histories and motives. The novel's confined setting amplifies the psychological intensity, making every word and gesture carry weight.

Thematic Depth: Trust, Morality, and the Cost of Secrets

Espionage as a Moral Gray Area

Unlike traditional spy stories that often portray clear-cut heroes and villains, *All the Old Knives* delves into the murky moral waters of intelligence work. Characters grapple with difficult choices, often balancing national security against personal loyalty. The novel questions whether espionage is ever truly justified, or if it inevitably leads to moral compromise.

Trust and Betrayal

Trust is a recurring motif, explored through the relationships between characters and their internal conflicts. Pelham and Harris's interactions reveal how trust can be fragile, especially when built on secrets and lies. The novel illustrates that betrayal often stems from a complex web of motivations, sometimes rooted in genuine concern, other times in self-preservation.

The Past's Inescapable Grip

Steinhauer emphasizes that the past is never truly gone; it continues to influence present decisions. The characters' reflections on their previous assignments highlight how memories of betrayal, failure, and loss persist, shaping their current actions and outlooks. The novel suggests that confronting these memories is essential for understanding oneself and moving forward.

Character Analysis: Depths of Complexity

Henry Pelham

Pelham is portrayed as a seasoned, introspective CIA officer haunted by past mistakes. His calm demeanor masks inner turmoil, and his reflections on duty versus personal morality add layers to his character. Pelham's internal struggle revolves around whether to protect his colleagues or confront uncomfortable truths.

Celia Harris

Celia embodies resilience and moral ambiguity. Her interactions with Pelham reveal a shared history filled with intimacy and regret. Her motivations are complex—driven by loyalty, guilt, and a desire for redemption—making her a compelling figure whose decisions resonate with authenticity.

Other Supporting Characters

While the focus remains on Pelham and Harris, the novel also includes peripheral figures like Vick, whose betrayal acts as a catalyst for the story's tension. Their presence serves to underscore themes of sacrifice and the high stakes inherent in espionage.

Literary Style and Narrative Technique

Steinhauer's writing is characterized by crisp dialogue, sharp wit, and meticulous attention to detail. His prose balances technical accuracy with accessibility, making the complex world of espionage understandable without sacrificing depth. The confined setting allows for intense character interactions, and the reliance on dialogue over exposition creates a cinematic feel.

The novel's structure—alternating between past and present—serves not only as a storytelling device but also as a metaphor for the characters' internal conflicts. This layered approach invites readers to actively engage with the narrative, piecing together clues and motives.

Critical Reception and Impact

All the Old Knives received praise for its intelligent plotting, mature themes, and nuanced characterizations. Critics appreciated Steinhauer's departure from typical spy thrillers by emphasizing psychological realism over adrenaline-fueled action. The novel's success also led to a film adaptation, released in 2022, starring Chris Pine and Laurence Fishburne,

which further expanded its reach.

The novel has been lauded for its exploration of the human cost of espionage, challenging the notion of spies as mere agents of national interest and instead portraying them as flawed individuals navigating moral gray areas.

The Broader Context: Espionage Fiction in Modern Literature

All the Old Knives fits within a broader trend of espionage fiction that prioritizes character complexity and moral ambiguity. Unlike Cold War-era spy stories that often depicted clear heroes and villains, Steinhauer's work resonates with contemporary sensibilities, reflecting the complexities of modern intelligence work.

This shift aligns with a general movement in genre fiction toward realism and psychological depth. Steinhauer's background as a former CIA officer lends authenticity to his narratives, and his focus on personal dilemmas elevates the genre beyond mere entertainment.

Final Thoughts: Why All the Old Knives Matters

Olen Steinhauer's All the Old Knives is more than a spy novel; it's a meditation on trust, secrets, and the scars left by the clandestine world. Its layered storytelling, morally complex characters, and thematic richness make it a standout in contemporary espionage literature. For readers interested in stories that probe the human side of espionage—beyond the gadgets and gunfire—this novel offers a compelling, thought-provoking experience.

As the shadows of the past continue to influence the present, Steinhauer reminds us that in the world of spies, nothing is ever as simple as it seems. Trust is fragile, secrets are dangerous, and the line between right and wrong is often blurred. All the Old Knives is a testament to the enduring complexity of human nature beneath the veneer of national security and covert operations.

In conclusion, Olen Steinhauer's All the Old Knives exemplifies the evolution of espionage fiction into a genre that explores not just international intrigue, but the very essence of human morality and psychological resilience. Its enduring relevance and compelling storytelling ensure its place as a modern classic in spy literature.

Olen Steinhauer All The Old Knives

olen steinhauer all the old knives: All the Old Knives Olen Steinhauer, 2015-03-10 From Olen Steinhauer, the author of New York Times bestseller *The Tourist*, comes his intimate, most cerebral, and most shocking novel to date, *All the Old Knives*—now a Major Motion Picture Starring Chris Pine and Thandiwe Newton. Six years ago in Vienna, terrorists took over a hundred hostages, and the rescue attempt went terribly wrong. The CIA's Vienna station was witness to this tragedy, gathering intel from its sources during those tense hours, assimilating facts from the ground and from an agent on the inside. So when it all went wrong, the question had to be asked: Had their agent been compromised, and how? Two of the CIA's case officers in Vienna, Henry Pelham and Celia Harrison, were lovers at the time, and on the night of the hostage crisis Celia decided she'd had enough. She left the agency, married and had children, and is now living an ordinary life in the idyllic town of Carmel-by-the-Sea. Henry is still a case officer in Vienna, and has traveled to California to see her one more time, to relive the past, maybe, or to put it behind him once and for all. But neither of them can forget that long-ago question: Had their agent been compromised? If so, how? Each also wonders what role tonight's dinner companion might have played in the way the tragedy unfolded six years ago.

olen steinhauer all the old knives: All the Old Knives Olen Steinhauer, 2015 Celia used to lie for a living. Henry still does. Can they ever trust each other? Nine years ago, Henry and Celia were lovers and colleagues, both working for the CIA station in Vienna. Until terrorists hijacked a plane at the airport, a rescue attempt, staged from the inside, went terribly wrong and everyone on board was killed. That night has continued to haunt all of those involved; for Henry and Celia, it brought to an end their relationship. Celia decided she'd had enough; she left the agency, married and had children, and is now living an ordinary life in the Californian suburbs. Henry is still a CIA analyst, and has travelled to the US to see her one more time, to relive the past, maybe, or to put it behind him once and for all. But neither of them can forget that question: had their agent been compromised, and how? And each of them also wonders what role their lunch companion might have played in the way things unfolded ...

olen steinhauer all the old knives: Shapes, Scenes and Strokes: Book Reviews 2015 Manuel Augusto Antão, 2016-01-13 The experience of thinking about, preparing, or writing a text, be it a book review, or about an art exhibition, cannot be limited solely to the artistic experience. There must always be another kind of challenge. I want that elusive thing that I found, together with the encounter that I had with the object and the experience we lived together. Every day when I wake up, I don't think about writing, but I wonder whether I'll be able to rise to the calling of that particular object (a book, a painting, a play, opera, etc.). The characters in them are never marginal figures. I know that they exist but I do not know them, I do not confront myself with them, or I only do so in highly stereotypical situations where they almost become invisible. When I write about something, this is my attempt at turning the invisible into the visible.

olen steinhauer all the old knives: The Middleman Olen Steinhauer, 2018-08-07 One of the Boston Globe's Best Mysteries of the Year: "A thought-provoking political thriller, a dark story for dark times" from the bestselling author (Washington Post). With *The Middleman*, Olen Steinhauer, the New York Times bestselling author of *All the Old Knives*, delivers a compelling portrait of a nation on the edge of revolution, and the deepest motives of the men and women on the opposite sides of the divide. One day in the early summer of 2017, about four hundred people disappear from their lives. They leave behind cell phones, credit cards, jobs, houses, families—everything—all on the same day. Where have they gone? Why? The only answer, for weeks, is silence. Kevin Moore is one of them. Former military, disaffected, restless, Kevin leaves behind his retail job in San Francisco, sends a good-bye text to his mother, dumps his phone and wallet into a trash can, and disappears. The movement calls itself the Massive Brigade, and they believe change isn't coming fast enough to America. But are they a protest organization, a political movement, or a terrorist group? What do

they want? The FBI isn't taking any chances. Special Agent Rachel Proulx has been following the growth of left-wing political groups in the US since the fall of 2016, and is very familiar with Martin Bishop, the charismatic leader of the Massive Brigade. But she needs her colleagues to take her seriously in order to find these people before they put their plan—whatever it is—into action. What Rachel uncovers will shock the entire nation, and the aftermath of her investigation will reverberate through the FBI to the highest levels of government.

olen steinhauer all the old knives: *The Yalta Boulevard Thrillers, Books 1-3* Olen Steinhauer, 2015-02-10 New York Times bestselling author of *The Tourist*, Olen Steinhauer, lauded as one of the hottest names in spy fiction today, by USA Today, has consistently shown an unmatched talent for writing suspense and intrigue. Now, here together for the first time in a terrific eBook bundle are the first three works in Steinhauer's Yalta Boulevard series, which centers on the homicide department in an unnamed Eastern European capital city. *The Bridge of Sighs* In Olen Steinhauer's Edgar-nominated debut, young and inexperienced homicide detective Emil Brod struggles to solve the murder of a state songwriter amid the lawlessness of a politically volatile, post-WWII Eastern Europe. *The Confession* Moving into the 1950s, Comrade Inspector Ferenc Kolyesar, another detective in the state militia's homicide department, is asked to look into the disappearance of a party member's wife, but when he discovers that she might have run away from her abusive husband, he wishes he could do anything but return her to him. *36 Yalta Boulevard* Now in the 1960s, secretive State Security Officer Brano Sev is asked to travel to his hometown for an interrogation, but when he arrives he finds himself framed for murder.

olen steinhauer all the old knives: Clues: A Journal of Detection, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Spring 2020) Elizabeth Foxwell, 2020-04-08 For over two decades, *Clues* has included the best scholarship on mystery and detective fiction. With a combination of academic essays and nonfiction book reviews, it covers all aspects of mystery and detective fiction material in print, television and movies. As the only American scholarly journal on mystery fiction, *Clues* is essential reading for literature and film students and researchers; popular culture aficionados; librarians; and mystery authors, fans and critics around the globe.

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olen steinhauer all the old knives: *Vandals* Olen Steinhauer, 2018-06-12 Meet Rachel Proulx, an FBI agent with a tough mission in a thrilling short story from Olen Steinhauer, leading up to his novel, *The Middleman* (August 2018). Rachel has been researching underground leftwing movements on the West Coast, but she knows she won't get any real info unless she goes undercover. So she heads out to San Francisco, moving into a tiny studio, and puts her ear to the ground. But what happens when she joins a group of them for a night party in Sonoma gets her more than she bargained for - and may even get her killed.

olen steinhauer all the old knives: *The Paris Diversion* Chris Pavone, 2020-02-04 In this "deliciously twisty" (The Wall Street Journal) thriller with "the most clever plot twist of the year" (The Washington Post), expat Kate Moore discovers that a massive terror attack on Paris is not what it seems—from the New York Times bestselling author of *The Doorman*. "[The Paris Diversion is] thriller writing at its absolute best . . . with echoes of Graham Greene and John le Carré."—Jeffery

Deaver American expat Kate Moore drops her kids at the international school, makes her rounds of chores, and meets her husband Dexter at their regular café: a leisurely start to a normal day. Across the Siene, tech CEO Hunter Forsyth stands on his balcony, wondering why his police escort just departed, and frustrated that his cell service has cut out. And on the nearby rue de Rivoli, Mahmoud Khalid climbs out of an electrician's van, elbows his way into the crowded courtyard of the world's largest museum, and removes his windbreaker. That's when people start to scream.

olen steinhauer all the old knives: The Big Book of Espionage Otto Penzler, 2020-11-17 Edgar Award-winning editor Otto Penzler is back with a new anthology that has gathered the intel on the world's greatest secret agents, declassified in these pages for the first time. Statesecrets. Double agents. Leaks. Otto Penzler brings you all this and more with his latest title in the Big Book series. No need to wait for the government to release redacted information, Otto is ready to declassify confidential matters. Great stories from Lee Child and Charles McCarry are pulled from the shadows and into the light. So pull your fedora down, adjust your fake moustache, and get ready to settle in with some of the greats.

olen steinhauer all the old knives: The Cairo Affair Olen Steinhauer, 2014-03-18 From the author of New York Times bestseller *The Tourist*... Sophie Kohl is living her worst nightmare. Minutes after she confesses to her husband, a mid-level diplomat at the American embassy in Hungary, that she had an affair while they were in Cairo, he is shot in the head and killed. Stan Bertolli, a Cairo-based CIA agent, has fielded his share of midnight calls. But his heart skips a beat when he hears the voice of the only woman he ever truly loved, calling to ask why her husband has been assassinated. Omar Halawi has worked in Egyptian intelligence for years, and he knows how to play the game. Foreign agents pass him occasional information, he returns the favor, and everyone's happy. But the murder of a diplomat in Hungary has ripples all the way to Cairo, and Omar must follow the fall-out wherever it leads. American analyst Jibril Aziz knows more about Stumbler, a covert operation rejected by the CIA, than anyone. So when it appears someone else has obtained a copy of the blueprints, Jibril alone knows the danger it represents. As these players converge in Cairo in the New York Times bestseller, *The Cairo Affair*, Olen Steinhauer's masterful manipulations slowly unveil a portrait of a marriage, a jigsaw puzzle of loyalty and betrayal, against a dangerous world of political games where allegiances are never clear and outcomes are never guaranteed.

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olen steinhauer all the old knives: Start-Up Olen Steinhauer, 2016-04-19 A young man struggles to find his identity in this short story by the bestselling author of *The Tourist*. Olen Steinhauer's crafty story begins as an affectionate recounting by Tom, a down-on-his-luck graduate caring for his sick mother and reconnecting with his awkward friend, Jerry McLaughlin. Jerry lives in a relative's basement in Chicago, and over the intervening months the two young men strategize Jerry's seemingly innocuous plan to become a super-villain in the spirit of Bond greats like Blofeld. Things turn dark, however, when Jerry's plans find success, and he enlists the wayward Tom to help him expand his little start-up to the next level. At turns witty and diabolical, *The Start-Up* is a fiendish take on the spy genre, as well as the dangerous friendships of Highsmith, le Carré, and others. *Start-Up* by Olen Steinhauer is one of 20 short stories within Mulholland Books's Strand Originals series, featuring thrilling stories by the most legendary authors in the Strand Magazine archives. View the full series list at mulhollandbooks.com and read them all!

olen steinhauer all the old knives: The Tourist Olen Steinhauer, 2009 Milo Weaver has retired from his days as an undercover agent for the CIA, but new details arise from his old cases that bring him back to his investigations.

olen steinhauer all the old knives: Confession Proof Olen Steinhauer, 2004-07

olen steinhauer all the old knives: Victory Square Olen Steinhauer, 2007 'Victory Square' is the finale of Olen Steinhauer's award-winning cycle of Cold War novels. The story takes the reader

to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dramatic public executions of the Ceausescus on Christmas Day.

olen steinhauer all the old knives: The Vienna Assignment Olen Steinhauer, 2005 A powerfully atmospheric thriller set during the Cold War from the internationally acclaimed author of THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS. Eastern Europe, 1965, and Security Officer Brano Sev, a secretive member of his country's homicide department, has returned home in disgrace from a posting to Austria. As a punishment he is sent to the backwoods village of his birth to interrogate a potential defector - only to find himself framed for murder. Assuming this is part of a covert plan devised by his bosses, he allows himself to be pushed into a dramatic flight to the west and the life of an exile in Vienna, a city teeming with scheming expatriates, spies and old enemies. But Brano soon finds himself lost in a maze of conflicting interests where love and friendship conceal teachery, and where the Cold War game of bluff and double-bluff leaves him manoeuvring in the dark. And, in the end, he learns that loyalty to the cause might be the biggest crime of all. THE VIENNA ASSIGNMENT is a powerful, atmospheric thriller which perfectly captures the paranoia of Cold War Europe and the terrible dangers facing a man caught up in a game whose rules are constantly changing - with deadly consequences.

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