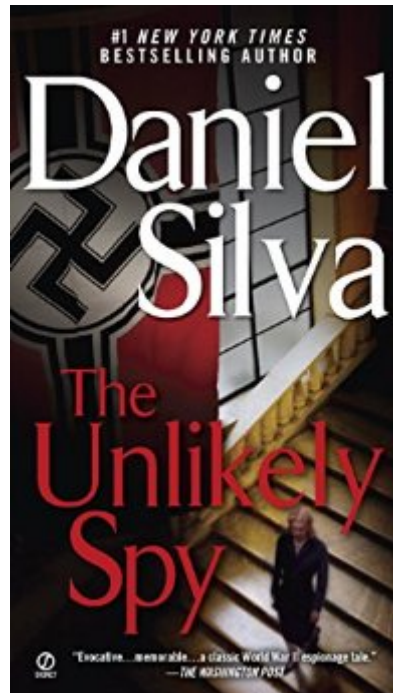




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The Unlikely Spy



Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author Daniel Silva's celebrated debut novel, *The Unlikely Spy*, is a ROLLER-COASTER WORLD WAR II ADVENTURE that conjures up memories of the best of Ken Follett and Frederick Forsyth. (The Orlando Sentinel). In wartime, Winston Churchill wrote, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies. For Britain's counterintelligence operations, this meant finding the unlikely agent imaginable—a history professor named Alfred Vicary, handpicked by Churchill himself to expose a highly dangerous, but unknown, traitor. The Nazis, however, have also chosen an unlikely agent. Catherine Blake is the beautiful widow of a war hero, a hospital volunteer and a Nazi spy under direct orders from Hitler: uncover the Allied plans for D-Day...From the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

I have read all of Silva's Gabriel Allon series but this is the first time I have read his debut novel about espionage and deception during the latter stages of WWII. Ken Follett covered a similar theme in "Eye of the Needle" and Jack Higgins in "Night of the Fox". Both of those books were brilliant but on balance, I think that "The Unlikely Spy" is the best. We all know now that the Allied Forces were able to successfully confuse the D-Day landing location from Hitler. Thousands of deaths were possibly saved because Hitler concentrated his defensive forces around Calais and left the Normandy coast comparatively lightly defended. There are many stories of how British intelligence helped Hitler to choose the wrong invasion point - this is a brilliant fictional story of how this happened. The main character is Alfred Vicary, a Professor of History who is drafted by an old friend, Winston Churchill to join MI5. Vicary takes to espionage like a duck to water following Churchill's adage that in war "truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies." Vicary has tracked down most German spies, imprisoned them and continues to send deceptive messages back to Germany. But he hasn't tracked down a handful of "sleeper" operatives sent over before the war by Kurt Vogel, one of Admiral Canaris's top spymasters. One of these operatives is Catherine Blake, a beautiful ruthless psychopathic assassin, and spy, who remains inactive in London until a key part of the war - the preparations for the D-Day landings. Her assignment is to become romantically involved with Peter Jordan, an American engineer working on a top-secret D-Day project and report back on where the landings will take place. There follows a tale of deception on a grand scale both with the spies and within MI5. Silva writes a masterly plot with fascinating characters on both sides of the action-packed battle. While some of the deceptions fail, the ultimate deception is not known until the very last pages. This is definitely a 5-star espionage story. This is a wonderful debut novel written in 1996 by an author who has gone on to become a world-renowned best-selling author with his Gabriel Allon series about an Israeli art restorer, spy, and assassin. I look forward to reading the next book in this brilliant series, "The Black Widow", in the next few days.

I thought the story was very suspenseful. The characters were extremely distinct and the hero, Alfred Vacary, was totally unconventional. I was so sorry for him during the final hunt for the spies. I felt his extreme frustration. I despised his nemesis, Boothby almost as much as I despised Catherine. I didn't believe all that nonsense that she was an unwilling spy. But I believe the writer intended to make her unsympathetic. I found it irritating when the author interrupted the flow of the story by introducing a new character. Some of these characters had a role to play, but I usually skipped the pages describing them. One more thing, the only thing more boring than hearing a

person describe a dream they had is reading an account of someone's dream. A writer should never do that. On the whole it was a riveting story, that I couldn't put it down towards the end.

Start with I am a Daniel Silva diehard fan. I believe this is Daniel Silva's first novel. Not part of the Gabriel Allon series, it still shares the same key traits of historical foundation, the taut writing, the flawed but compelling characters that we will come to expect and crave in his later books. And while we know the actual outcome of history before we start to read, we are nevertheless drawn in to the fictional story that Daniel Silva crafts, and we are held captive until the very end. This is a smart read. Yes, I recommend this book.

Okay, I'm a sucker for Daniel Silva's books. I've read all the Gabriel Allon series spy novels. This is historical fiction very finely done. Taking place during the lead up to the D-day invasion, it's suspenseful and thrilling. Although most of the characters are fictitious, many of them you will recognize. At my age, I know much of the history being portrayed here. Still, this is a page turning, nail-biting novel. It is over 700 pages in length, but I was sorry to see it end.

I have read all of Silva's "Gabriel Allon" books, and other than bits of the first one, I really like those. But this book is so full of inappropriate portions, I could barely finish it. If I wanted to read trashy books, this isn't the genre I would be reading. Sadly, other than additional Gabriel Allon books (and those only if they stay more like the recent ones), I don't see myself reading any more books by Daniel Silva. A disappointed reader.

Meh, the story line held quite a bit of promise, and Daniel Silva is one of my favorite authors. I've read many of his books. but this is my least favorite read of his books. I felt it dragged in many places, and I kept wanting to skip ahead and get to "the good parts", but even the ending left me cold. Interesting premise about fighting the covert war in WWII, but the book left me feeling very disappointed. I wouldn't recommend it.

Daniel Silva has become one of my favorite authors. The Unlikely Spy is not the first book I've read by him. I decided to start at the beginning and work my way through the entire career of Eli Gabriel. While you can tell his writing ability has improved over time, Daniel starts at a very high level of writing ability. The Unlikely Spy was a great read and sometimes difficult to put down. If you enjoy WWII based spy novels it will be a great read!

Very believable, particularly when such historical figures as Churchill, Hitler and Rommel appear in historical context . The events leading up to D Day as depicted by the author certainly appear plausible and hold the reader's attention!! Only difficulty was in following the complexities of the plot which sometimes encompassed too many twists and turns for the reader to follow easily!! But definitely a page turner and worth reading!!!

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