

[Mobile book] Circle of Treason: A CIA Account of Traitor Aldrich Ames and the Men He Betrayed (Hardback) - Common

Circle of Treason: A CIA Account of Traitor Aldrich Ames and the Men He Betrayed (Hardback) - Common

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(author) Jeanne Vertefeuille (author) Sandra Grimes : Circle of Treason: A CIA Account of Traitor Aldrich Ames and the Men He Betrayed (Hardback) - Common before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Circle of Treason: A CIA Account of Traitor Aldrich Ames and the Men He Betrayed (Hardback) - Common:

48 of 49 people found the following review helpful. Authoritative and richly detailed study By F. Carol Sabin One of the most revealing, authentic and long-awaited books yet published about Ames case written by two CIA veterans with direct knowledge of many dramatic episodes of the Cold War. The authors - Vertefeuille Grimes - two tenacious and experienced CIA officers made a superb team (supported by many other colleagues) and wrote, with authority and conviction, a book with many priceless stories. What makes this book so compelling is that almost every word is true, but, by no means, a complete picture of many Cold War episodes, as you can see below. The book starts in the first two chapters with a personal description of authors' careers, a fine team as I said, after a short, but explanatory, preface. In chapter three we were provided with an insightful look and general overview of SE (Soviet and East European) division operations. Starting with chapter 4 and continuing with the next two, we're providing with the best account about Polyakov case, the GRU general receiving a special attention from the authors and a special dedication at the beginning of the book. The facts are as detailed as possible, but omitted one important factor - the death of one of

Polyakov sons in US, because he was not allowed, by his superiors, to carry out a life-saving surgical operation in a US hospital (CherkashinFeifer/Spy Handler) a fact emerging in revenge on the Soviet system, a key element in supporting his double life. I liked the story of Walt Lomac, an example of personal integrity, in the clash with his CIA superiors about Polyakov bona fide (page 33-34). Major spy cases are presented in a genuine manner in the next two chapters (40 pages) summarizing the activities of Kulak, Chernov, Poleshuk Piguzov, Yuzhin among others, actually the most valuable CIA network in history. Speaking about B. Yuzhin I noticed, for the first time in the public domain, "the contribution" of FBI's Pitts in this case. VertefeuilleGrimes related with accuracy and in fascinating detail each case and I believe that no one knows as much background on these cases as they. Chapters 9-16 are dedicated to the first reactions to the losses of 1985, gradually focusing on Ames investigation specifically. The last chapters are more analytical describing Ames (as person and as spy), a comparison between Ames and Hanssen- a fascinating look into the minds of these two characters and concluding with "Final thoughts", a chapter filled with substantial evidence of a somehow troubled US intel community. The book did not spare criticizing some key figures of SE division- for example, M. Bearden activity receiving a particular "scrutiny" (page 19, 100, 133, 211 etc). The interval between pages 194-207 is filled with an extremely valuable Chronology, a true intelligence history of events and main characters. The book is well supported by 18 BW photos showing the main characters of the book (5 are with Polyakov). There is a useful and short notes section and bibliography to indicate the sources of various statements, so the readers can verify their accuracy, consider the context, or follow them further. There is also a comprehensive index. In searching for a title to my review I was about to write "a complete study", but few "anomalies" convinced me to change my mind. Occasionally, I also did not like the switching between first and third person, often in a very confusing manner. (sometimes a third "person" is speaking about the authors!) Firstly, there are no accounts about the help of a Russian defector in capturing Ames, a deliberately omission, in my opinion. The authors gave no details about the defector's support - providing no name, but dates, places and times that meshed with the background of Ames - a fact mentioned in two books (BeardenRisen/The Main Enemy and CherkashinFeifer/Spy Handler) and named by R.Kessler (The secrets of the FBI) as being Alexander Zaporozhsky, one of the four Western spies involved in the July 2010 spy swap. This man truly deserves a book for the story of his life. Another intriguing account referred to the fate of V. Vetrov, the famous "Farewell". It is hard to believe-after reading several books and professional opinions- that Vetrov, as KGB veteran, made the stupid mistake to confess his spying to an unknown person (in prison!), the story so frequently stated in earlier books about this case. Much close to the truth, I believe, is that he was betrayed by someone in the CIA (Bearden) or DST/DGSE (Kalugin). Thirdly, the fact that both traitors were discovered with the help of ex-KGB/SVR agents was not included in chapter 18 - A comparison between Ames and Hanssen, obviously also a deliberate omission. Eventually, throughout the book, the authors are not addressing rumors of an undiscovered KGB spy- another Ames or Hanssen- still at large in the US intel community, the so-called "the fourth mole", an interesting episode confirmed by both Bearden (as one involved in the investigations) and Cherkashin (who, as KR line chief, should have direct knowledge or could be the handler of this spy). However, inside the book (page 72) there are a few tidbits about some anomalies represented by O. Gordievsky and S. Bokhan cases. In later case, it is not clear when he was recruited (1975/page 97 or 1976/page 72 and 196); also, in some studies, Gordievsky is suspected that he was recruited as back as 1966, SIS taking over in 1974. Written by two fine and skilled storytellers as a lesson in the murky world of intelligence during Cold War, this book is a remarkable and major contribution to the literature of espionage that treats spy wars between KGB/SVR and CIA. For every serious student who likes dead-serious nonfiction books it should be a required and indispensable reading. Five stars and recommended! 56 of 60 people found the following review helpful. Much more than the Ames investigation. By Chris Lynch This is a remarkable book. Although the investigation that led to the arrest of Rick Ames is its centerpiece, the authors are able to illuminate the intelligence battles of the Cold War from the perspective of counterintelligence experts who witnessed many of them. The book begins with the stories of Sandy's and Jeanne's CIA careers, and moves on to an overview of CIA operations targeting Soviet intelligence during the Cold War. From there, they present a series of case studies of CIA assets from the Soviet KGB and GRU. The common theme is that nearly every case ended badly by 1985, with arrest and sometimes execution, although some of the agents were fortunate enough to escape to the West. Once these stories are told, Sandy and Jeanne begin to describe the investigation that eventually led to the traitor Rick Ames. Nearly every sentence is rich with detail, yet the descriptions remain vivid and readable. As I noted in my book, *The C.I. Desk: FBI and CIA Counterintelligence As Seen From My Cubicle* (Dog Ear Publishing, 2010), I worked closely with Sandy and her frequent partner Diana Worthen in the Moscow Task Force, which Sandy refers to as "the worst assignment of her career." I wasn't crazy about it, either, but it was extremely rewarding to have the benefit of their guidance and experience while cooped up in our tiny office. I was also able to learn from Jeanne, Sandy, and Diana in other assignments, both while I was in the CIA and in the FBI before that, and I am very grateful for knowing them. In the preface to *Circle of Treason*, Sandy and Jeanne note their frustration with prepublication review. The *C.I. Desk* was also subjected to lengthy review. Several times, *Circle of Treason* contains details that were removed from my manuscript, including not only names and cryptonyms, but descriptions of operations, programs, and both CIA and KGB tradecraft. Although I was also successful in appealing many cuts, I made the decision to let others go, and to an

extent, I reoriented my book towards being more of a personal FBI and CIA journal than a detailed account of operations. Sandy and Jeanne are to be congratulated for their persistence in the prepublication review process; the book is much richer and more informative as a result. The book concludes with lessons learned, and address criticisms of the length of the investigation, a point also raised in other books, including mine, where I relay the comments of security investigators I was working with at the time. The wealth of information provided in this book makes their case for how they conducted this vital, and ultimately successful, counterintelligence investigation. When people want to learn about U.S. and Soviet intelligence operations during this turbulent period, Circle of Treason is one of the first books they should reach for. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Treachery and death By Toe Tag This is a fascinating book written by one of the CIA officers who managed to figure out there was a mole within the CIA and track that suspect down among her pears. It is well written and easy to follow but at the same time hard to read as you can see the destruction one traitor can leave behind. In this way the book remains a monument to dozens of Russians who thought it was in their best interest to help the United States during the cold war. Some of them did it for money, others for ideology, creed or ego. Whatever their motivations we were better with them alive than dead because a rat turned them over for money, fast cards, and his massive ego. One has to feel saddened by the idea that some of these men were shot in the back of the head and dumped in an unmarked grave. I no expert, but clearly Ammes must have been an ill man to think he could pull this off for long. Im not sure how he didnt see this all coming down around his head. When they sectioned of human intelligence to a very limited number of people that should have been a clue they were looking for him. But either he felt they were stupid and would never find him or he was fatalistic. In reading this book I couldnt help but think about so many of the other books on intelligence gathering Ive read of the years. A lot of people were put in danger because of this man. It is astonishing to think that that even today some people wonder if there was one more mole in the CIA/FBI system. One other than the rat Robert Hanssen. One other element of the book I found fascinating was the review of traitors in our midst from the 1980s and early 90s. Men such as John Walker, who recently passed away, and his family of spies. I was also reminded of the Marine scandal at the American embassy in Russia. It made for an interesting trip down memory lane. If you enjoyed this book then I would suggest reading Spy Handler: Memoir of a KGB Officer - The True Story of the Man Who Recruited Robert Hanssen and Aldrich Ames by communist spy Victor Cherkashin.

Circle of Treason details the authors' personal involvement in the hunt for and eventual identification of a Soviet mole in the CIA during the 1980s and 1990s. The search for the presumed traitor was necessitated by the loss of almost all of the CIA's large stable of Soviet intelligence officers working for the United States against their homeland. Aldrich Ames, a long-time acquaintance and co-wor...