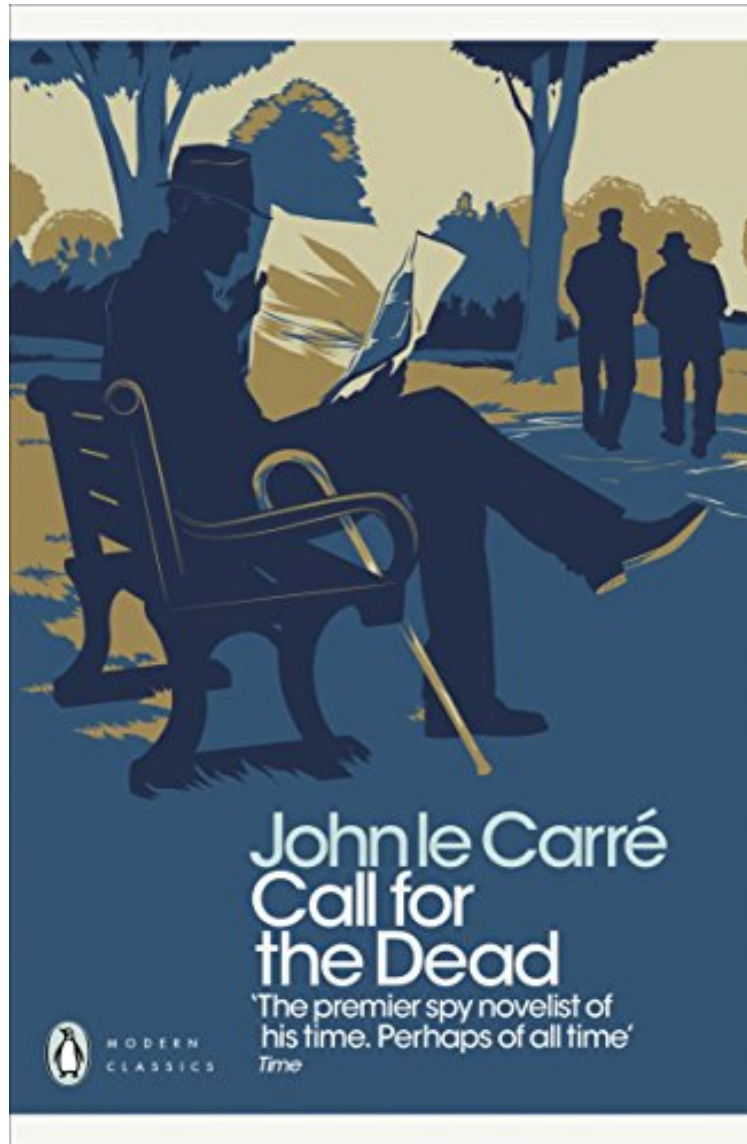


(Mobile library) Call for the Dead (George Smiley Series)

Call for the Dead (George Smiley Series)

Von John le Carré

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Von John le Carré : Call for the Dead (George Smiley Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Call for the Dead (George Smiley Series):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Introducing George Smiley Von Llonya John le Carré's *Call for the Dead* is the book that introduced the brooding, conflicted British secret agent, George Smiley. *Call for the Dead* was first published in 1961. It is one of le Carré's shorter books but it is packed with all the elements that have made le Carré's subsequent Smiley novels so special: the

ability to portray exquisitely the external and internal life of his characters; the ability to make the reader feel he/she is walking the dark and dangerous streets of London, Paris, Berlin, and points east; all the while writing a suspenseful novel. The book begins with a chapter entitled "A Brief History of George Smiley". In one brief chapter we are presented with an almost fully-formed Smiley. In short order Smiley's university career, his discreet introduction into British Intelligence and his years in Germany in the 1930s and the early stages of World War II are set out. So too is his tortured marriage to the breathtakingly beautiful yet famously unfaithful Lady Ann. The first chapter ends as Smiley arrives by taxi to his office at 2:00 a.m. The plot is straightforward. Agent Samuel Fennan has been found dead, the product of a suicide if one is to believe the signed suicide note found by his widow, Elsa Fennan. Fennan had been interviewed by the service after a typed note denouncing him for being a communist at University was sent in. Although he was assured at the end of the interview that his name would soon be cleared, Fennan's suicide note claims that his life and career were ruined by the investigation. Because Smiley was the agent that conducted the interview, and because of the internal politics of the agency (one of le Carre's specialties), Smiley was chosen to conduct the post-suicide investigation and file a report. It quickly becomes apparent to Smiley that the suicide is not quite as clear cut as it appears. Smiley is embroiled quickly in intrigue, death, and the world of spy and counter-spy. He is presented with a jig-saw puzzle of characters including Ella Fennan, a German named Dieter (who worked for Smiley in the War), and a shifty London petty criminal. The story races to a conclusion. As with most of le Carre's work the resolution of the story is not what one would call a Hollywood ending. The value of the book lies as much, if not more, in the introduction of Smiley and other recurring characters such as Mundt, the East German intelligence operative, and Peter Guillam. Call for the Dead is a small book in the sense that it comes in at about 150 pages. But it sets the stage for virtually all of the rest of le Carre's body of work starting with the Spy Who Came in from the Cold and through the entire Smiley series. Call for the Dead is a great place to start for someone coming to le Carre for the first time or for anyone wishing to dip their toes into le Carre again. He is one of the few writers of this or any other genre worth going back for seconds, or thirds. This edition contains a brief but valuable introduction by the marvelous P.D. James.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Hervorragender Einstieg ins Werk Le Carrs Von Kundenrezensionen In diesem Roman werden Smiley und andere wichtige Figuren in Le Carrs spätem Werk erstmals vorgestellt wie zum Beispiel der ehemalige Polizist Mendel. Außerdem sehen wir hier einige der Probleme und Kritikpunkte, die auch Le Carrs späteres Werk durchziehen werden Probleme mit politisierenden Verantwortlichen in leitenden Positionen, Smileys Ehefrau, das Amateurhafte des britischen modernen Geheimdiensts in seiner Anfangszeit nach dem 2. Weltkrieg und die fehlende Zusammenarbeit der Dienste untereinander. Die Sprache Le Carrs ist in diesen Werken um Smiley immer sehr trocken und das Bürokratische der Geheimdienstarbeit wird einem dabei nur allzu deutlich. Dabei lässt er in diesem Erstlingswerk eine Menge des Humors vermissen, der solche Werke wie Der Schneider von Panama, Der Nachtmanager und auch Absolute Freunde durchzieht. Hier zeigt sich eine deutliche Entwicklung, wobei aber gerade dieser Roman und Absolute Freunde sehr deutlich die emotionale und professionelle Entwicklung des Autors und eventuell auch der Geheimdienstarbeit beschreiben, so dass diese beiden Romane auf jeden Fall zusammen zu rezipieren sind, wenn man Le Carrs Gesamtwerk beurteilen möchte.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Introducing George Smiley Von Alfred J. Kwak Today, John Le Carr is very much a living writer: at the age of 79, all his twenty or more books are still in print and he is still producing more. His success is due to a large extent to a series of spy novels starring an anti-hero, George Smiley (GS), who is short and pudgy, bespectacled, wearing expensive, but badly-cut suits and coats ("His tailor is robbing him!"). He has two loves: Ann, his aristocratic but wayward wife, and neglected German romantic poetry from the 17th and 18th century. The book conveniently starts with a chapter about the history of GS. This slim volume is Le Carr's debut, written, along with his next two novels, while working for the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Germany, Switzerland, and perhaps elsewhere, in a more mobile mode. It is situated in London around 1960, when the German Democratic Republic's foothold in GB was not an embassy (no Western country recognized it then), but the East German Steel Mission. GS is asked to vet a Foreign Office staffer against whom anonymous accusations have been made. The pair spend hours together talking, mostly outdoors in a park, in a good-natured way. The next morning, before dawn, Smiley is called to rush to the diplomat's home. He has shot himself. His suicide note claims that the interview went badly and he cannot live with the pressure anymore... For older readers the availability of this debut and all other Smiley-books is an opportunity to re-read the saga from start to finish, in the right order. Younger generations will miss lots of gadgets (mobile phones, PCs and laptops, even central heating), but may like Le Carr's lifelong emphasis on human intelligence. Every word in the right place. Great book.

Kurzbeschreibung After a routine security check by George Smiley, civil servant Samuel Fennan apparently kills himself. When Smiley finds Circus head Maston is trying to blame him for the man's death, he begins his own investigation, meeting with Fennan's widow to find out what could have led him to such desperation. But on the very day that Smiley is ordered off the enquiry he receives an urgent letter from the dead man. Do the East Germans - and

their agents - know more about this man's death than the Circus previously imagined? Le Carré's debut novel, *Call for the Dead*, introduced the tenacious and retiring George Smiley in a gripping tale of espionage and deceit. *Pressestimmen* 'Brilliant. Realistic. Constant suspense ... excellent writing' *Observer* 'Intelligent, thrilling, surprising ... makes most cloak-and-dagger stuff taste of cardboard' *Sunday Telegraph* Werbetext Simon Russell Beale stars in this BBC Radio 4 dramatisation of John le Carré's first novel, which introduced his most famous character, George Smiley.