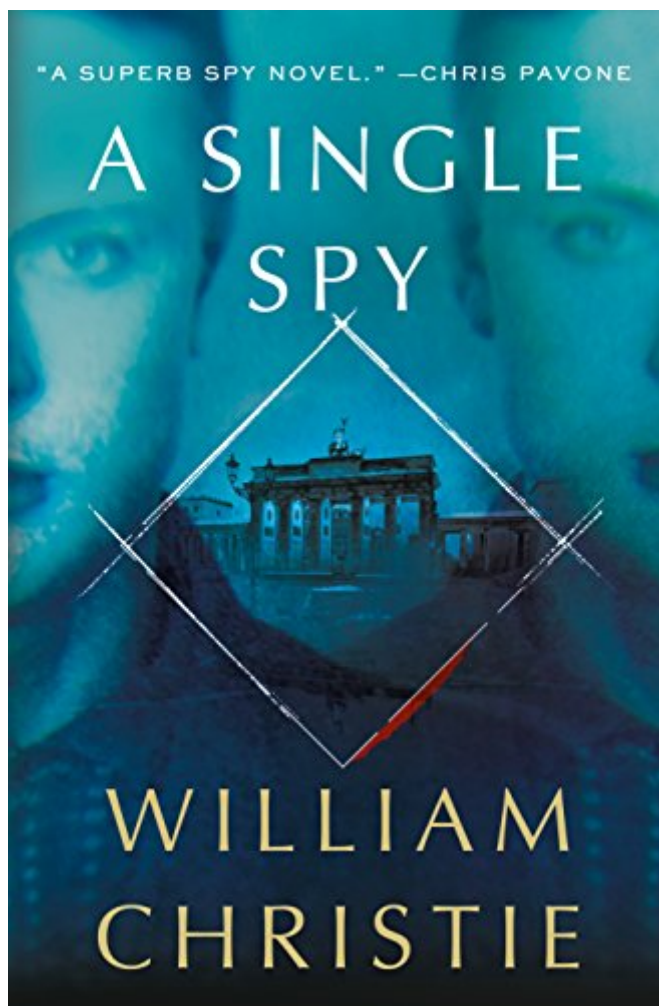


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# A Single Spy



## Synopsis

"[A] panoramic, smart, hugely enjoyable thriller" – The New York Times Book Review  
"A single spy in the right place and at the right moment may change the course of history." – Alexsi Ivanovich Smirnov, an orphan and a thief, has been living by his wits and surviving below the ever-watchful eye of the Soviet system until his luck finally runs out. In 1936, at the age of 16, Alexsi is caught by the NKVD and transported to Moscow. There, in the notorious headquarters of the secret police, he is given a choice: be trained and inserted as a spy into Nazi Germany under the identity of his best friend, the long lost nephew of a high ranking Nazi official, or disappear forever in the basement of the Lubyanka. For Alexsi, it's no choice at all. Over the course of the next seven years, Alexsi has to live his role, that of the devoted nephew of a high Nazi official, and ultimately works for the legendary German spymaster Wilhelm Canaris as an intelligence agent in the Abwehr. All the while, acting as a double agent reporting back to the NKVD and avoiding detection by the Gestapo. Trapped between the implacable forces of two of the most notorious dictatorships in history, and truly loyal to no one but himself, Alexsi's goal remains the same – survival. In 1943, Alexsi is chosen by the Gestapo to spearhead one of the most desperate operations of the war – to infiltrate the site of the upcoming Tehran conference between Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin, and set them up to be assassinated. For Alexsi, it's the moment of truth; for the rest of the world, the future is at stake.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If all of Christie's novels are like this, I will read them all. A Single Spy told the story of a boy being thrown unwillingly into the world of a double agent. The main Alexsi was smart, funny and brave. He could figure his way out of any situation. I enjoyed the story telling from the point of view of a Russian living in Stalin's Soviet Union. Even though this is a fictional story, you got to understand what life was under Stalin. The story telling was easy to understand, suspenseful, and kept your attention the whole time. It's a must read.

Fascinating new and complex spy "hero"! This book also offers a very different plot line than the classic spy fiction model. Well written flashbacks define the spy's slippery capabilities and the reasons for various actions. A particularly entertaining flashback takes place in an orphanage with his first love. I enjoyed this book from start to finish.....a finish that leaves a road to a possible sequel. The only irritation was the excess of daredevil escapes, much like In the Indiana Jones movies. Credibility can get a little frayed.

Not having ever been a spy-story aficionado, I came to William Christie's "A Single Spy" with no preconceived notions about how such a story should go. It took me more than a bit aback to realize that the author considers this a "historical novel", as he says in his little note at the beginning of his narrative. Well, I guess that's what I get for having actually been alive in the WWII time frame in which the story is set; Christie acknowledges that he is a history buff who only writes contemporary thrillers for their market value. In any event, this is a wonderfully fascinating, intricate and fast-moving book. There is really only one character of note, our "single spy" Alexsi, whom we meet first as a street-wise 16-year-old orphan in Soviet Azerbaijan. Alexsi's ability to slither out of toxic situations, as well as his close association with a family of German Communist migrants, brings him to the attention of Soviet Intelligence, which grooms him and sets him up to go to Germany, impersonating the

nephew of a Nazi officer. Alexsi is fast on his feet, multi-lingual, lethal with a pocket knife he often keeps in his underwear, and very conscientious about his espionage training. His survival instinct is impeccable, and he doesn't hesitate to turn the tables when he perceives himself being sold out. He has a MacGyver-like proficiency with improvised explosives. Anyway, accepting the blow to my self-image of realizing my early lifetime is indeed "history", this is a delightful and thoroughly authentic book, and offers a wonderful glimpse into circumstances that are rapidly sinking into the quicksand of time. It deserves all of the five stars I give it.

A very good spy/historical novel. Set in central Russia, Iran, and Berlin during 1936-1943, with great atmosphere and historical detail, the story just pulled me in and wouldn't let go. I normally \*never\* pay \$12.99 for an ebook, but I just couldn't help it with this one.

This exciting thriller revolves around Alexi, a Russian orphan with a gift for languages and for survival. Enlisted by the NKVD, he is sent to Germany before the war, where he joins the army and eventually moves into intelligence. The story is well-plotted and the author creates a feeling of place in Berlin, Moscow and Tehran.

Excellent plot points. Nice way chapters switch back and forth providing detail to background information. enjoyable read cover to cover. Recommend to all spy buffs

The only flaw, not uncommon in these novels, is that the protagonist's character is without one. Plus he has NKVD sex training (better than Viagra).

Reminiscent of Bernie Gunther books with some of the same characters and a protagonist to root for. None of the plot twists were foreseen by me

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