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Helen MacInnes

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Helen MacInnes : Double Image before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Double Image:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Spooks" in the AegeanBy SuncoastThis is a fascinating Cold War espionage thriller by the late Helen MacInnes set in Paris, Athens and Mykonos. MacInnes was well known for the many best-selling espionage thrillers that she wrote from 1941 to 1984 covering WWII and the Cold War. John Craig, a historian, is on a working holiday in Paris when he encounters Professor Sussman, one of his old teachers. Sussman tells Craig that he has just been a witness at war trials and tells him about his experiences in Auschwitz, especially with one of the worst of the Nazis, Heinrich Berg. While Berg is known to be buried in Berlin, when a stranger approaches Grossman he is sure that it is Berg. The next day Grossman is found dead in an apparent suicide from his hotel balcony. Through his sister, who has been working at the US Embassy in Moscow, Craig meets a strange mixture of people from various nations, many of whom eventually turn out to be in the espionage business and are seeking Berg who may be Russian Colonel Insarov. As Craig is the only person who has seen Berg he is persuaded to go to Mykanos where a major Russian espionage group is planning an exchange or a coup. Craig gets drawn into the web of intrigue and proves to be as good if not better than many of the professionals. This is a complex and compelling espionage tale with all the hallmarks of knowledge of fieldcraft of the day. Microfilm is the preferred data form for transfer of information as data storage and cell phones were still in the future. While I was absorbed and involved by the plot I had some difficulty in keeping up with who's who, from what country and who were working together. In the end a fair proportion of the tourists on the small island of Mykonos seemed to be spooks trying to outdo one another in their secret trades. This was a thoroughly enjoyable and well crafted espionage thriller that took me back to the days of

the Cold War - 4.5 stars. I certainly plan to read some more of MacInnes's books which are now being re-released in e-book format. Next time I plan to visit one of her WWII thrillers.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Find a score card for the charactersBy Linda W.This novel definitely emits a tone of suspense throughout. The questions of who is really who and what team do they play on abound.The locations are exotic - Paris, Athens, Mykonos. And the descriptions, particularly of Mykonos, have a tangible reality.I can't decide if the plot is basic or complex but is definitely suspenseful. The plot centers on information. Who has it? Who wants it? How will they get it?The real complexity comes with the characters. A score card of who is who would be helpful. Characters are numerous and some have multiple identities with multiple names. In some cases the author's use of pronouns - he, she, they - requires a high level of attention and awareness to maintain consistency of the action.The last fifty pages of the novel evoke real action, not just the intrigue presented by numerous prior conversations detailing events.A worthwhile, enjoyable read is a rewarding experience if you choose this novel.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is another outstanding book from Helen MacInnes.By Donna K.This is another Helen Mac Innes outstanding book, although it is not one of my favorites. I have read all of them except one. Setting and scene descriptions are very vivid ...the reader can instantly be where the characters are located...world wide. The mountain scenes and action are the best that anyone could ever write in spy stories. The reader can learn some geography and visit foreign cities at the same time and travel through the novel along with realistic characters. Vocabulary and action is, according to one critic, 'literate and top notch suspense tale'...

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