



Sentinel

Matthew Dunn

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The United States and Russia are on the brink of war and only Will Cochrane—the master spy introduced in the critically acclaimed *Spycatcher*—can find and unmask the diabolical double agent responsible for it all in this enthralling espionage thriller, written by a real-life former field officer.

Fourteen days ago, CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, received a cryptic message from an agent operating deep undercover in Russia: "He has betrayed us and wants to go to war." Unable to make contact, the director of operations is forced to turn to one of his most deadly field officers—Will Cochrane. His mission is simple: infiltrate the remote submarine base in eastern Russia's Avacha Bay, locate the MI6 agent operating under the code name Svelte, and decode his message—or die trying.

It's a near-impossible task—even for a man who carries the code name Spartan, a title given to the most effective and deadliest Western intelligence officers. Will successfully locates the base but finds Svelte near death, his last words a final clue: Only Sentinel can stop him.

Meanwhile, political and economic tensions between the United States and Russia are rising by the day, with both sides rounding up known enemy sleeper agents within their borders for interrogation. Now it's up to Will—with the help of the top-secret joint CIA-MI6 Spartan Section—to uncover the true meaning of Svelte's message . . . and discover the identity of the legendary operative known only as Sentinel.

Sentinel Details

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From Reader Review Sentinel for online ebook

Marci says

William Cochrane is a super spy for M16. Sentinel is the code name of one of his colleague's stations in Eastern Europe. When Sentinel's tier 1 agents within the Russian military begin to be murdered, Will is sent to help Sentinel save his more valuable assets and hunt down Razin, a former double-agent who is responsible for the murders. He must use his highly trained skills to track down Razin and stop him before a new war erupts between Russia and America.

Matthew Dunn brings first-hand spy knowledge to this fast-paced spy thriller. The story line is intriguing and Dunn writes the fight scenes with an accuracy that allows the reader to visualize the scenes as if they were being played on a movie screen. Unfortunately, as someone who has little knowledge of weapons, much of the detail was lost on me and even slowed down my reading pace as I felt overwhelmed with information that didn't seem necessary. I haven't read much in this genre of literature and this novel makes me hesitant to read more as the world of Will Cochrane seems so foreign and difficult to understand to the lay reader.

Roger Scherpingle says

According to his bio, Dunn is certainly the most qualified author to write a book like this. But the books are long on action and short on characters. We know next to nothing about Will as he chases around Europe and Asia. His thoughts about what this life has done to him and his future really don't add up to much, and the tears at the end seem like a vain attempt at giving him some personality.

The book does have lots of action, though. I loved the climb up the ice cliff. But sometimes the author is more concerned with details and authenticity than telling a story. The whole chase around Moscow was way too detailed. It could have been edited down considerably and been a better scene.

Amy Lignor says

In the world of 'Spymasters,' this author has no equal. With this offering, number two in the 'Spycatcher' series, Mr. Dunn takes the reader's breath away with more suspense, action, mystery and endless adventure that any one person can handle.

Our main character, MI-6 agent Will Cochrane, is back in action and asked to decode a partial message that was received at CIA headquarters in Virginia. The message is from a deep cover agent located in Russia and reads: He has betrayed us and wants to go to war... The unfinished message is quickly passed up the chain of the MI-6/CIA Spartan Division which is run jointly by Britain and the U.S. and is manned by the professionals who are most wanted to carry out the truly dangerous missions.

When Will finally tracks down the elusive agent who sent the message the man is on his death bed, but manages to tell Will that the 'bad guy' is none other than Russian Colonel Taras Khmelnytsky. Apparently the Colonel wants to start a war between Russia and America and...only Sentinel can stop him.

Barely getting away from the meeting with his life, Will is told by the men in charge that he will have to work with Sentinel - a high-powered spy who always works alone. But when the two get together sparks fly as they find their egos are a little too much for both of them to handle. Managing to work together, this duo goes on the hunt, traveling from Washington to London to Moscow and beyond to find a vicious mastermind who always seems to be one step ahead.

With all the twists and turns that a suspense fan could possibly imagine (and some they couldn't), the skillful writing and fantastic ending make this the most delicious novel of the year thus far. Hold on to your hats for this one-day read, ladies and gents, and have an absolute ball!

Nelson Pahl says

I like Matthew Dunn's series. I really do. But I have two issues with this series, and especially this book: 1.) His action scenes are more tedious, boring, and lacking in suspense than Brad Thor's; it takes him MINUTES to describe what should take seconds in the real world. 2.) I don't, for the life of me, understand why he has Will turn into such a wuss at the end of this book; he's a spy, supposed to be void of emotion and not the "sensitive" type, so why does he wuss out? Just take the shot, sport! Seriously, Take! The! Shot! While I'll certainly continue on with this series, to this book, I must offer an "ugh" of sorts.

Maxim says

Fast paced but even more preposterous than first volume in series. Giving up on it now...
Even though author has an intelligence background, this is all too unbelievable and written with movie in mind. Too far-fetched and on the wrong side of pulp...

Ben says

At points slow, methodical, predictable. Bad guys were bad ass but empty. Good guys are still trying to find out what drives them. Pretty watered down with lots of promise. There was probably too many characters trying to be built and then all sacrificed. I think "Sentinel" could have been a really kickass character and book that could have spanned multiple books.

Irwin says

I just won this book free as a goodreads giveaway! I am waiting to read it. Thanks.

Larry says

This is the second book by Matthew Dunn. It follows his MI6 Spy Will Cochrane as he tried to head off the

destruction of MI6's long term spy's 10 assets within Russia. The long term spy is named "Sentinel." Has an interesting turn of events at the end of the book. Good new writer and series. I recommend to the Vince Flynn, Brad Thor reader. You'll enjoy this series. The first in the series and the debut novel by Dunn is titled "Spycatcher." Suggest you start with that one first.

Scott says

Matthew Dunn's "Spycatcher" series (now, with "Sentinel," into its second book but is clearly destined for a long run) follows America's most lethal agent, Will Cochrane, in a breakneck race against a madman to save the world from a Russian madman and nuclear war.

That general plot description could apply to many of the novels written during the Cold War era. We've trodden this ground before - the question becomes whether Dunn does so in such a way that we don't mind all that much.

On the good side, Cochrane is an intriguing hero. He's a Spartan, a near-unique survivor of the American military/intelligence sector's most brutal training program. Cochrane's job is to do what Green Berets cannot do, to go where Navy Seals fear to tread. Thanks to being the kind of guy who can survive such training Cochrane is one lethal, lonely guy.

While on a mission, there aren't many better than Cochrane. We see this on an early mission to infiltrate a Russian base to confirm a sinister cable about imminent nuclear war. Cochrane in action is nimble, swift and lethal, and Dunn's action scenes can be quite entertaining.

Cochrane eventually comes across his predecessor in the Spartan program, code-named Sentinel. Sentinel was betrayed and tortured for years by the Russians, and who's to say how deep those scars go? Sentinel, to Cochrane, is one sad reminder of the price Cochrane has paid for his choices.

Still, Cochrane must act, for a Russian madman is murdering Sentinel's secret agents, still working in the Russian military, and he wants to bring Russia back by starting a nuclear war. Sure, the Russians will lose to America, but the madman is in Stalin's camp in terms of leveraging the benefits of having millions of Russians die to advance your own personal cause.

Dunn leads the reader on a pell-mell race across Russia as Cochrane and Sentinel try to catch the mad Russian. These scenes are fine, and I'll leave it to you to evaluate the novel's final twists and turns. Perhaps I've read too many thrillers, but the second half of this novel seemed rather conventional, and a final "twist" did not ring true at all.

Still, Cochrane remains an intriguing hero - if not yet in the John Rain or Jack Reacher class, he's in the next group down. And that can be enough to sustain a good thriller.

Patrice Hoffman says

Won through a goodreads giveaway

I really hate starting books in the middle of the series because my view of that book may not be fair. But... judging from the reviews of others on this website I may not have missed much. This book is about a spy who's chasing another spy. Enough said? Need more? Well that's all there was. The characters were all one-dimensional and the writing was so-so. Given my hang ups... I did actually like the book.

There's nonstop action and gruesome moments in this book that made me cringe when reading it. One moment in particular (at least) had me squirming in my seat at work. Basically Will Cochrane is a super-human. He can get out of any situation with barely a scratch. A well trained "Sparta" man who can do no wrong is our hero. Razin is his nemis who is offing agents in an attempt to begin a war between Russia and America. Some of that gets a little muddled and confusing but the reason I stayed interested is because this novel moves so quickly.

The combat scenes are given with clarity which makes it obvious the author has had an extensive background in being a field officer. Overall I did not really get a sense of who Cochrane was except a man on a mission to save the world. Once more, not really fair since the first Spycatcher book could have been a little more descriptive, but... I do recommend this book for anyone who's extremely into espionage novels.

Kim says

Loved Spycatcher so hoped this book would be its equal. Found the characters a bit shallow and the twists in the plot line too farfetched.

Phoenix says

Another good thriller from Matthew Dunn. though I might sound a bit pessimistic at times concerning various writers, this novelist spins a good, thrilling and entertaining read.

A few personal quirks...his fascinated fixation with chain smoking, desiccated chicks is annoying. Also Does he only operate in Snowy cold climates? The redundancy in his novels will eventually lead to a loss of interest. Additionally, the constantly highly detailed geographic descriptions of the surveillance, counter surveillance events becomes tedious.

Dunn does a good with the weaponry and the accessories, the glossary at the back of his novels is a great touch and shows thoughtful research that is involved. I like the fact that his agents do not all automatically speak fluent "whatever" as is the error with many writers. The Cochrane figure is a bit too mushy and maudlin to be real and that might be something the author could work on. His sentimentality is a bit over the top for reality sake.

This was the third novel I have rapidly consumed in succession and I do enjoy his writing style. But please Matthew Dunn, there is nothing sexy about smoking female agents it really is an unnecessary touch. Drop that peccadillo please.

Nabarun says

This is my second book in the Spycatcher series and I have to say, this is becoming an addiction. These novels are very fast paced, kick-ass action and quite good thrillers. Maybe not classy literature or even great plot building in terms of character cultivation, but quick page turners till you read the last page. I am slowly getting the hang of the series. The protagonist, Will Cochrane (with the "Spartan" codename) is not someone like Mitch Rapp (Vince Flynn series) or Will Robie/John Puller (David Baldacci series) who is so damn insanely and inhumanely good that they don't even get a scratch while destroying a whole army of bad people. Instead, Dunn presents Cochrane as someone who is human but with extreme capabilities and insane will-power, where most people just give up or cannot withstand the level of pain that Cochrane can tolerate and ignore while keeping that one minded devotion to get the job done. He gets hurt, he feels pain, he feels remorse (when his love interests get killed like the last two books), he gets frustrated and he gets angry unlike other assassins or spies or agents. Where he stands out from the rest is, he is immensely hard-working, humane, loyal and intelligent. And if this character was given a bit more color and antics by the author (like Vince Flynn or Daniel Silva or Baldacci does), he would have stood out like another action hero - Mitch Rapp or Jack Reacher or Will Robie.

The plot is simple. Sentinel is the codename for the previous and the first Spartan agent, who was captured by the Russians years back and tortured for 6 years, didn't break and then were released back to MI6 through diplomatic channels. He used to recruit and run lot of agents in Russia before he was captured by Russian SVR. After he got released, he went back to the same job of Agent handler and recruitment of more sleeper & active Russian spies. But when MI6 receives a panic/distress message from one of the Tier 1 Russian agent, they deploy Will "Spartan" Cochrane to get more information on the distress call. Will goes into enemy territory (Russia) to speak to the agent (codenamed: Svelte) where he finds the agent murdered. He then joins hand with Sentinel to find how Sentinel's agents were getting murdered. In this effort, Sentinel gets captured by the Russian spy, Razin, who seems to have a plan of his own, to kill all Sentinel's Tier 1 agents and then create a war between US and Russia and in the end, when ceasefire and peace returns, he would reveal about the murder of the Russian moles and become the big Boss himself.

Spartan finally meets his match in Razin, who is not only difficult to beat, but maybe even better than him. But the place where Spartan stands out is that he is patient and is waiting to capitalize on the mistakes made by others. So begins the great battle of these two spies and the final showdown. Like the first book, midway through the novel, I was able to predict the climax of the stories, the layers of deceit and lies that were built into the plot and the possible ending. Which to me felt that the plot was not too tight or not so full of twists and surprises till the end. And maybe this book had a tad bit less action than the first book.

Otherwise, the book is as good as the first and a very addictive read. And it definitely deserves 4.5 stars.

Bpp531 says

It is very very rare for me to start a book and not finish it. But unfortunately, this was just one of those books. The writing is below average. The characters have absolutely zero depth to them. Literally, zero. The I'm single, lonely and depressed story line seems completely forced. The plot is disjointed and takes gigantic leaps of logic to make sense of it. Never has there been such a dull and lifeless main character.

Tom Tischler says

Whatever happens don't go to war. This strange message is received by MI6 and the CIA. Even though the message is clear the reason is unknown. Will Cochran the West's most capable intelligence operative is sent to infiltrate a remote Siberian submarine base to find out the truth. The enemy though is warned of his arrival and Will is pitched against the most dangerous adversary he has ever faced. This is the second book in the Spycatcher series and it's another let's kill everyone book. I gave it a 4.
