



## Dark Spies

*Matthew Dunn*

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On the run from the CIA, intelligence operative Will Cochrane heads to the United States to uncover a diabolical spymaster at the center of an international conspiracy in this thrilling follow-up to *Slingshot*.

Will Cochrane crouches on a hilltop, assembling his sniper rifle. He's still thinking about being removed from his mission tracking the terrorist financier Cobalt. Instead, he's been sent to babysit a CIA operative and her asset in Norway, a routine assignment far below the skill level of the only agent to earn the code name Spartan. But as he scans the vista before him, he sees something that's just not possible, an eminent Russian spymaster—code-named Antaeus—whom Will is sure he killed three years ago. . . .

Will reports to Langley immediately and the response is emphatic: Antaeus Must Not Be Touched. Further Inquiries Require Project Ferryman Clearance. Almost as soon as he hears this, Will sees Antaeus's men execute the asset Will was sent to protect, and Will decides to take a shot at the spymaster, knowing it will make him a marked man. Will manages to kill the attackers and save the CIA operative, but the elusive spymaster slips from his grasp, and both the CIA and MI6 tell him to surrender for disobeying orders.

Now the only way to save his career—and his life—is to get into the U.S. and expose the truth about Project Ferryman. But to accomplish this Will has to outmaneuver four deadly Russian assassins and an elite FBI team controlled by officials who will stop at nothing to keep their sins and secrets safe.

## Dark Spies Details

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Author : Matthew Dunn

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# From Reader Review Dark Spies for online ebook

**wally says**

the 11th of october 2018, finished this one, first from dunn, good read four stars really liked it.

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**Nabarun says**

If there was an author who, in my opinion, has taken quantum leaps of maturity with each of his novel, then Mathew Dunn it is. I thought he excelled in his storytelling and holding the suspense till the end in his last novel, Slingshot. But goodness me, this one, Dark Spies, just pinnacles his writing skills to the A-level and he has just got himself elevated to the likes of his contemporaries like Vince Flynn, Daniel Silva, David Baldacci and Lee Child. Dunn's first two novels were great plots, taut thrillers and full-on action, but his writing skills, character cultivation and plot navigation felt a bit stunted. With Slingshot, I felt he overcame all those and were able to bring a much more wholesome Will Cochrane, his protagonist, to life and gave many more characters life in it. With Dark Spies, he just breaks all mold and catapults his novel into a Hollywood blockbuster script, similar to the likes of Bourne or Bond. And it just keeps getting better!

This novel starts off with Cochrane being taken out from the assignment of hunting down a terrorist financier called Cobalt and getting deployed to an assignment of protecting an American Agent runner, Ellie Hallowes, who handles a Russian spy and cover a meeting between the two in Norway. This seems like a task which is far below his skillsets, until all hell breaks loose and Antaeus, the Master Russian Spy, who Will Cochrane had supposedly killed 3 years back, shows up at the venue, his team kills the Russian spy, but not before the spy divulges a deep secret to Ellie, which seems to have catastrophic significance, enough to get him killed. And when Antaeus' men try to kill Ellie, Cochrane kills them inspite of a direct order from HQ, which asks Will not to kill the Russian operatives who would otherwise have killed Ellie. This act of defiance makes Will a law-breaker in the CIA-M16 agencies and he becomes the most hunted man in the world. But he manages to forge a deep bond with Ellie, saving whose life had made Will a rogue agent of the agency.

Never one to back down or dissuaded to unravel the truth, Will now tried to run make his journey from Norway to Washington, where all his answers lie. And this journey becomes the most difficult of his tasks he has ever undertaken as the Sr Management within CIA blows his cover and makes him Public Enemy Number 1. Behind him, is Marsha Gage, the best FBI agent who is leading this manhunt to capture Will. Also, Antaeus and Sheridin (CIA) has deployed their own assassins so that Will is captured, but now alive. With all these surmountable odds against him, trying to get to the root of all smoke almost seems impossible for Will, but he gets timely help from know and unknown people which helps him in the end to uncover the layers of mysteries and deceits and take out the bad guys. In the end, it becomes clear that Will can be no longer remain as Spartan, as his cover is blown and the whole Spartan program has been shutdown. But Alistar and Patrick, who has been Will's handlers make a deal with him and ask him to continue to work in the black-ops world, but in a private capacity with they being Will's only employers.

This is the first Dunn novel where the climax and the ultimate unveiling of truth was just a cracker, brilliantly crafted suspense till the last chapter of the book and I can say confidently that this is one of the best books I have read in the "Spy" genre for a long time. The civilians who helped Will in his quest, his fellow spies and those assets which cultivated over the years and kept hidden from everyone's knowledge are

brilliantly developed new characters in this book which the readers would fall in love with. Even the villains in this novel are so well crafted that you would love to hate a few and then develop a respect for some, as they go about doing their hell-work with such dedication.

I really enjoyed reading this, almost feel sad that this book has come to an end and I think I might want to read this book again, sometime in the future. A great book, definitely a 5/5 stars and can be a couple more! Now onto the next Dunn/Cochrane saga!

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### **Phoenix says**

This was a very enjoyable read. I am often negative about certain titles, but this one was a captivating page turner. Well thought out, with loads of realistic action.

Bearing in mind that perfection does not exist--as we know it, there is one pet peeve I'd like to make. I implore the author to stop having his heroines all be chain smokers. It destroys the illusion, there is nothing cool, sexy or romantic about a woman with a fag in her face. It shatters the illusion of beauty he is attempting to create. It appears to be a fixation with Matthew Dunn and I've pointed this flaw out before.

That was really only my major criticism, and it was a personal one.

There is also a questionable segment where the FBI agent Marsha Gage uses the word "ain't" Really? I know Dunn is this super British secret spy but someone who is as talented and intelligent as the character he represents would never resort to such slang. (p. 401.)

I'd recommend the book, I have enjoyed the Dunn series and will probably delve into another shortly. Do read it if you like edge of the seat suspense and fine plot construction.

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### **Christina says**

This is not my usual genre but I found this book to be very enjoyable. I like the action and I will most likely read the other books in this series.

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### **Roberta says**

I was very fortunate to have won this book on Goodreads. As I had other books which I'd rec'd. prior to this, it was set aside so I could complete a few weeks of catch-up reading. Had I known it would be such a page-turner, I would've set all the other ones aside. I don't feel worthy enough to review a book from such a masterful writer. I only wish a reader had the opportunity to rate a book beyond five stars, as this is one which unquestionably deserves it.

I burned the midnight candle as I flipped the pages with alarming & rhythmic speed well into the wee hours

of the night and toward the approaching sunrise. I especially appreciated the glossary at the end, though I rarely had to use it. Now I understand a fraction of what my ex ('analyst') husband might have been up to before he retired many years ago. Whenever we were at a restaurant, it was understood he'd never sit with his back to the door. He probably still doesn't, just as the author. Old habits.

The author did something in this story that most authors can only do with extreme difficulty. Have a guy be a 'nice guy' at the beginning (Ed Parker) and later have the reader interpret him to be something other than that. That's all I can say on this subject without divulging a spoiler.

I found myself distraught when Ellie was captured. After what then occurred to her, I had to set the book aside for a while to contemplate these events. I then reminded myself that the Spycatcher Series revolves around the formidable Will Cochrane.

Highly recommend this book, no matter how much one thinks they know about any branch of the intel community.

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### **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

Since I picked up my very first Matthew Dunn novel and get addicted to the Spycatcher Series, I knew I was in for life. Fast paced, adrenaline rush from every moment, is a given and a guarantee, but you will also find yourself sentenced to life in making sure you definitely don't miss out on all of the action from MI6 agent Will Cochrane! For fans of James Bond and Ethan Hunt along with a handful of Jason Bourne tossed in just for kicks and thrills, you will most definitely want to begin this journey!

In the latest novel in the Spycatcher Series from best-selling author Matthew Dunn, we meet up with Will Cochrane who has been assigned the task of ensuring that one of the CIA's best deep-cover agents Ellie Hallowes is protected at all costs. Her goal in meeting with a Russian Intelligence officer that carried the CIA code name Herald in a small remote cluster of cabins in Norway, word was that this meeting might in fact be compromised and that Ellie could be attacked. Will's goal was to ensure that Ellie escaped to safety with the information she gained from this meeting.

What Will didn't expect was to find his arch nemesis that he believed was dead to turn up in his sniper rifle's sights. Does he finish the job or does he follow orders? When Will reports in what he sees and asks for permission to take the shot, he is ordered to stand down and to abort the mission. But if he aborts, Ellie will most certainly wind up dead and that is something that doesn't sit well with Will and won't sit well with the agency once they find out he has disobeyed direct orders. This will put him at the top of the most wanted list for both MI6 and the CIA and will mean he will have to use all the resources he has to get back and get the answers to just what is going on and who is trying to cover things up after lying to him. The manhunt for Will Cochrane has now begun...

I received Dark Spies by Matthew Dunn compliments of William Morrow, a division of Harper Collins Publishers for my honest review. I did not receive any monetary compensation for a favorable review and the opinions expressed here are strictly my own. While the novel does contain profanity and violence, this is still an exceptional book to fans of Bond, Bourne and Hunt. It will definitely leave you wanting more and I would recommend if you haven't read the first novel in the Spycatcher Series, Spycatcher. This is the four novel in the series and it just seems to get better and better with each one. I truly love the character of Will Cochrane and find his traits of trying to be a decent guy commendable and worthwhile! This one easily rates a 4 out of

5 stars in my opinion and also based on my own personal rating system.

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### **Irene says**

Received a copy from Goodreads Giveaways.

Excellent read. Exciting, non-stop action. Great characters, great writing.. Very believable. Extremely hard to put down. This is the second book I have read by Matthew Dunn and it did not disappoint.

Definitely recommend.

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### **Louis says**

I never tire of reading Matthew Dunn's Spycatcher series! Will Cochrane could teach both James Bond and Jason Bourne a trick or three. I will continue to read these as long as Mr. Dunn continues to write them!

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### **Anne Monteith says**

This is the first thriller that I've read in awhile that I liked this much. This is a fast moving novel; it is intelligent, the plot is exceptional and an enjoyable read from start to finish.

While it works as a stand alone novel I recommend that you read the series in order so that you will know this exceptional character the Dunn has created and why he is one the most competent and dangerous spy in the business.

His current assignment is to protecting a deep-cover CIA agent as she meets with a Russian informant. When he sees a Russian spy that he believed he had killed years ago and reports what he has seen to Langley who tells him to stand down. However, he cannot standby while another agent to be assassinated; he kills the assassins instead but their leader escapes. Since he has disobeyed orders he is considered a rogue agent and he has to avoid the Russians who want him dead while he tries to clear his name by exposing Project Ferryman and those behind it.

: \*\* Receiving this book through Amazon's Vine Program did not influence my rating or review of this book; all opinions are mine\*\*.

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### **Timothy says**

This is Matthew Dunn's 4th book featuring Will Cochrane. It took awhile for me to discover Dunn. I would always look at Spycatcher (the 1st in the series) and pick it up and mentally add it to the "to be read" shelf in my head. This is what happens, after a while the dominant thought will be to read said book. I was blown away. Dunn is a good writer, but it is his humanity with the character of Will Cochrane that impresses. I thoroughly recommend that you read the series in order. Each book builds on the story that is this incredible

character. It doesn't hurt that Dunn has "been there and done that". Authenticity reads true.

As for Dark Spies. By far this is the best book of the series. Intelligent, brilliantly plotted and a real pleasure from first page to last. Will Cochrane does not disappoint and we begin to see his influence on those around him. People who recognize his humanity and goodness on an intimate level and respond with help and kindness when needed when others would turn and run the other direction.

There are a handful of thriller authors that are making outstanding contributions to the genre currently, Marc Cameron's Jericho Quinn series, Ben Coe's Dewey Andreas series, newcomer Mike Maden and his fine book, Drone as well as an old favorite, Daniel Silva with his masterful Gabriel Allon. What's even more impressive is that even though these authors write about dangerous people and enemies of the people, they are very clean writers who have the skill necessary to write compelling, action filled thrillers without resorting to profanity to get their story across. Refreshing to say the least.

Well done Mr. Dunn and company. Well done. You will not be disappointed with this book.

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## **Michael says**

Matthew Dunn provides his readers with the events of an M16/CIA operative, Will Cochrane. Will goes against his orders. He observes a number of Russians who are about to kill a CIA operative and the Russian agent she had been getting information from. He shoots the Russian killers and saves the CIA agent's life.

However, he endangers an important mission and the directors of the CIA and FBI want him dead.

Will shows his integrity and desire to do the right thing in saving his fellow agent's life. The agent reveals to Will that she just learned from her source that there is a Russian mole who is a high ranking person inside the CIA.

Who can Will trust?

He had to get from his current assignment in Oslo back to Washington, D.C. to get the answers. In the meanwhile, intelligence officials tell a different story. They depict him as a rogue agent who is a killer and put out an alert that he's a wanted man, dead or alive.

Will has to rely on his instincts and attempt to get the answers about a project that his superiors want kept secret. He is a well developed character. We see his bravery, resourcefulness and determination to save his life and his career and uncover the mole.

The author, Matthew Dunn, was an M16 field officer and knows his stuff. He writes a believable, engrossing story that is impossible to put down.

Well done!

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## **Jim says**

Will Cochrane is an elite MI6 field agent whose skills have been tested many times. He has proven himself one of the most dangerous and capable spies in the world. He is under the impression that his current assignment, protecting a deep cover CIA agent as she meets with a Russian informant at a remote cabin in

Norway, is a simple and straightforward one, until he sees a Russian spymaster that Will thought he had killed years before. Cochrane reports who he has seen and is told to stand down by the powers that be at CIA headquarters in Langley, but another internal voice overrides the transmission from Langley. He cannot allow the CIA agent that he is supposed to be protecting to be killed by a team of assassins, instead he shoots the Russians, though he is unable to get their leader. Because he disobeyed orders he is now a rogue agent with almost no one he can trust, but he knows that something is wrong and he sets out to find out the truth. His road to that truth leads him from Norway to Washington DC and all the while he is in danger.

The author is himself a former MI6 field officer who is able to draw on his past experience to write some very exciting fiction. Dunn has made the motivation behind the various characters' actions an important part of this story. Some work for money, others because of a personal code, still others are motivated by a lust for power attempting to move up one more rung on the ladder, no matter what it will take to get them there. The contrast he highlights is between motivation and trust. How do you know when you can trust someone? You have to first understand their motivation. If you like me are a fan of the Bourne series by Robert Ludlum, then you too will enjoy reading this one.

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### **Harvee says**

I've enjoyed all his Spycatcher books. The action is a bit violent but the plot is excellent.

I received an uncorrected proof of this book from the publisher for review.

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### **Soul Survivor says**

Good book ; I'll go back and read the earlier volumes !

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### **Craig says**

Great book. This is a great series of books. Start with book one or this book will be difficult to understand. It is a bit Bourne-ish in some ways but don't let that stop you from reading it.

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