



A Spy's Journey: A CIA Memoir

Floyd Paseman

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For thirty-five years, Floyd Paseman served in the Operations Directorate of the Central Intelligence Agency. From spy in the field to the top ranks of the Company's career agents, he experienced it all as well as seven different presidential administrations. While Paseman's account of his long service has enough real-life derring-do to keep the reader engaged, of even greater interest, however, are Paseman's observation on politics and the CIA, especially how change of presidential administrations could bring sweeping, and often negative changes to the agency. - Johnson - declined to run for a second full term, broken by Vietnam- Nixon - resigned in disgrace after ending Vietnam and opening relations with China- Ford - never elected caretaker - Carter - hoist on the petard of fundamentalist Islam in Iran- Reagan - first full, two-term president since Eisenhower and declared war on the evil empire and brought the USSR to its knees with the threat of a still fanciful Star Wars- Bush the father - "won" the Cold War as the Soviet Union collapsed and "coalitioned" Saddam out of Iraq- Clinton - leader of the new world order, peace in our time, and dead Rangers in the streets of Mogadishu- Bush the son - 9/11, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In March 1967 author Paseman joined the CIA following successful service as an army armor officer in Germany. Highly trained in the Chinese language, most of his service was in the far east. Paseman served as chief of the East Asia division at Langley and was also station chief Germany, considered the agency's toughest Cold War field posting. About the Author Floyd L. Paseman retired from the Central Intelligence Agency in January 2001 after a thirty-five year career in operations. He now lives in southern Virginia outside Williamsburg where he works as an international security consultant.

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From Reader Review A Spy's Journey: A CIA Memoir for online ebook

Emmy says

Makes for a good family-history style read, not necessarily a polished memoir. Interesting, though.

Doyle says

A fun and informative read. Intelligence work is anonymous unless it goes astray. Appreciate the context it was written in. For those frustrated by the lack of names and places, I can only suggest to read up on geography and history to help fill some of the gaps by using analysis. Otherwise, I give this 4 stars. Truly appreciate the second half and final chapters, as well as the recommended reading list in the end.

Mark says

This book was not well-written. Although there were some cute anecdotes about his personal experiences, the book doesn't hold much "big picture" value. However, there were a few reflective chapters after his retirement that looked at intelligence in the larger frame of things that I thought were mildly interesting, though I still felt Paseman could have used an editor to help him clean up and focus the text better.

Boozy says

recommended for the intelligence professional. excellent list or recommended reading, and authors insights into political interference with the business of Intelligence.

Macjest says

Truly fascinating look at Paseman's years with the CIA. He served covertly in Asia and Europe for years before working a desk. Got an insiders look at spy craft and the administration that ran it as well as the politics. Would have like a little more background on how some things came about, but I did appreciate his unflinching look at what's right and wrong with the agency.

Loren says

Interesting but goes on way too long

Blueberry says

Paseman has a great sense of humor. This book chronologically follows his path as a CIA spy. Compared with other CIA memoirs, his is one of the most fun ones to read.

Catherine says

I am a dedicated and inveterate reader. It is rare to come across a book I don't like or finish. I am abandoning this book on page 76. The spy has gone so far to protect names and locations that "a person" went to "a country" and so forth. It appears that he wrote the book because Dr. Ralph E. Weber, a gentleman whom he respects greatly, insisted he write the book. He does not hesitate to share his kudos and the praise received from his supervisors but he does not deliver on the story that got him the reward.

His style is old European, stiff, vague by today's standards and considering it was published in 2004, the book is a bit archaic. Often I like archaic books for the sociological experience. The more I read of Mr. Paseman's book, the more I feel sorry for a man who may have done great deeds for a big world because he seems to have been living in a very small one.

a.t.m. says

Very insightful book about the modern day spy.

Because of the nature of the book in which the author was obviously hamstrung in telling his story and yet protect his agency and fellow spys . At times it was a hard read. The author is very intelligent, a brave and courageous patriot, and seemed to be perfectly suited for the job. Best part of the book was his assessment of all the modern day directors of his agency. I highly recommend this book.

Margaret says

Somehow the author makes 35 years of spying sound tremendously boring, mostly by not saying anything. "I was in a country, and I met with a contact." Really? Anything else you want to tell us??

Also, the author likes to tell tales of his macho manliness that he doesn't seem to realize make him sound like a raging asshole. As a prank on a coworker, he knocks out electricity on a whole block in a country with little electrical coverage, during a heat wave, as her husband that she hasn't seen comes to town. (We are supposed to laugh, but, Christ, what an entitled prick.) He kicks a local guard he finds slacking off, he tells off superiors, he's just oh so manly. Like the time he used bar girls as human shields to get past scary dudes with big guns. (Which he somehow managed to scare off. By his manly presence.). He also suffers from some serious gay panic. And can't tell the difference between homosexuality and pedophilia.

The book doesn't get interest until the end where he delves into the CIAs history, and then it's just risible. Can't blame them for Iran-Contra, it was really Ollie North. Bush the Second was very interested in intelligence. Etc.

If you want a good book about the CIA read Steve Colls "Ghost Wars".

Santo Golando says

CIA AGENT'S 35 YEAR LIFE AS A SPY. INTERESTING BUT TOO MUCH DETAIL ABOUT UNIMPORTANT STUFF

Laurie Schrall says

Good book, provides the reader with insight into the Agency's Case Officer career track - particularly overseas. Would recommend Class 11 before this book.

Stan says

not too much about the internal workings and more about the fun they had in the office.

Carl Phillips says

Pretty simple writing, just hope he was a better spy. Too many good books to spend time on this one unless you really want to know something about the CIA.
