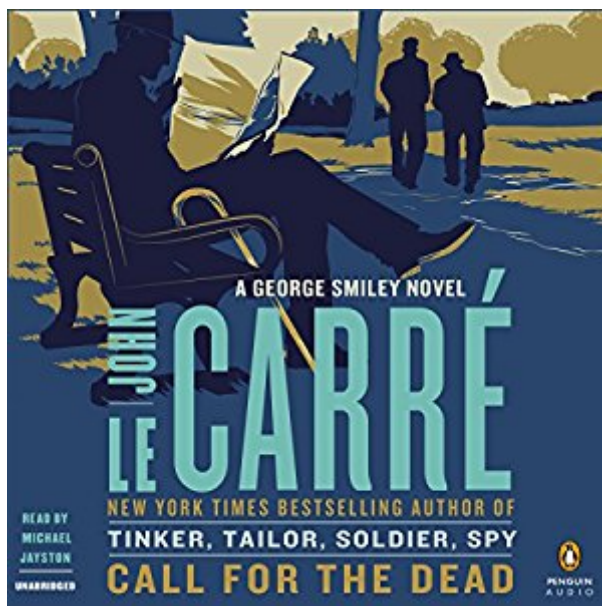


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# Call For The Dead: A George Smiley Novel



## Synopsis

George Smiley is no one's idea of a spy - which is perhaps why he's such a natural. But Smiley apparently made a mistake. After a routine security interview, he concluded that the affable Samuel Fennan had nothing to hide. Why, then, did the man from the Foreign Office shoot himself in the head only hours later? Or did he? The heart-stopping tale of intrigue that launched both novelist and spy, *Call for the Dead* is an essential introduction to Le Carre's chillingly amoral universe.

## Book Information

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Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > International Mystery & Crime

## Customer Reviews

Ah, it's a happy day when another Le Carre book hits the Kindle market. This is, if I'm correct, his first novel of any kind, and while it's hardly his best work, it is still a good read. And we get to meet a younger George Smiley, probably Le Carre's best known character. The plot of the book is classic murder/spy mystery. Someone suspected of wrongdoing is investigated. Same party shows up dead, apparently by suicide. But was it really a suicide? Who would benefit from this person being silenced? Would anyone be willing to kill for that silence? Is a trap being laid for the investigator himself? All of this is the meat and drink of almost everything Le Carre wrote and it's all here in infant form. If there is a knock on this book it would be that sometimes it seems it might have been published first in 1861, not 1961 as it actually was. Le Carre is hardly a formally experimental novelist when he is being adventurous. This book is a little more Agatha Christie than anything he wrote later. And he's not trying any adventure at all in this one. Questions are discussed over claret and mince at 'the club.' Manly men like Peter Guillam (seen in later novels much more fleshed out) do manly things in manly places. Female characters, often something to recommend Le Carre in his

later books, seem a bit flimsy here. Still, it's a good read, and I have no problem recommending it. Maybe not the first book I'd recommend by Le Carre, but if you're gone through some of the classic spy fiction you'll enjoy this one both on its own merits and as a bit of Cornwall ephemera to remind you where the man started.

I thoroughly enjoyed the characters and the story. LeCture does an excellent job. I am looking forward to reading more of LeCarre.

LeCarre' @ his best. Don't miss this one if you are a George Smiley fan. He is at his wallflower in the background best in this one.

you can see the genesis of the Smiley character's thinking here as it relates to his job, personality and his worldview at large. a nice murder procedural that really lets Smiley dig in and show more of his critical thinking. a fine introduction to Smiley by JLC that leaves you wanting more of the Smiley saga.

"Call for the Dead" is writer Le Carre's first spy novel and a very good one it is. The overall style of this short book is quite mature and a worthy predecessor to "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold" and all the great stories that followed. There is a tight storyline, credible characters and a satisfying conclusion. Altogether, a excellent launch of the this top-notch writer's literary career. The book's context is the politically fuzzy period following WWII, when intelligence organizations--including Britain's--were adjusting to the Cold War and the frequent revelations of traitors within the service ranks. George Smiley is a pre-WWII spy who is having difficulty finding a place in the new intelligence structure. A minor interview assignment with a British government official leads to two murders and an attempt on his own life. An old colleague surfaces as an adversary and further opposition comes from an old school supervisor who is interested, above all, in diverting attention away from the British Secret Service. As in Le Carre's later books, he gives the novel's characters considerable depth and complicated motivations. They are people living in a confusing time and they behave accordingly. Very entertaining.

I've seen a lot of movies based on Le Carre's books but this is the first one I've read. The plot is complex, well reasoned and entirely believable, and the characters are great and exquisitely developed. The writing is very British and some of the terms and phrasing leave an American in the

dark -- but not for long. The style is wonderful and readable. It provides a window into Cold War espionage. I'm starting "The Spy Who Came In From The Cold" today. You should read "Call for the Dead" first. I can already see that there is some follow-up in terms of characters and events.

Good read for Smiley fans , very true procedure thru out the story . I have also enjoyed the BBC TV series .

Great read....love Smiley...he's my hero...am eager to read every one of his books now..off to a good start with this one.

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