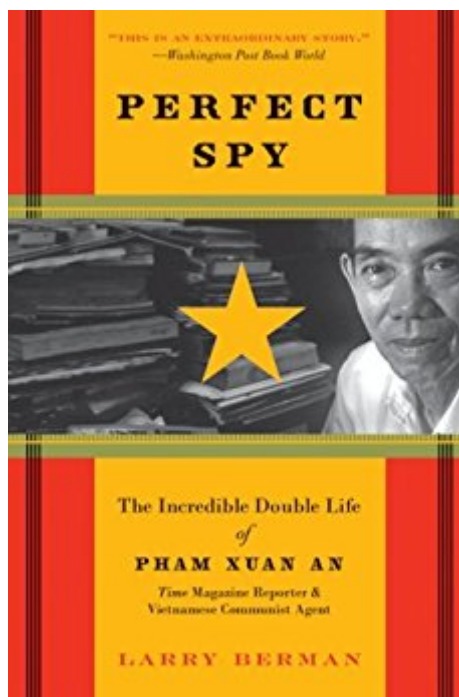




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Perfect Spy: The Incredible Double Life Of Pham Xuan An, Time Magazine Reporter And Vietnamese Communist Agent



Synopsis

During the Vietnam War, Time reporter Pham Xuan An befriended everyone who was anyone in Saigon, including American journalists such as David Halberstam and Neil Sheehan, the CIA's William Colby, and the legendary Colonel Edward Lansdale "not to mention the most influential members of the South Vietnamese government and army. None of them ever guessed that he was also providing strategic intelligence to Hanoi, smuggling invisible ink messages into the jungle inside egg rolls. His early reports were so accurate that General Giap joked, "We are now in the U.S. war room." In *Perfect Spy*, Larry Berman, who An considered his official American biographer, chronicles the extraordinary life of one of the twentieth century's most fascinating spies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An amazing story that proves the adage "Truth is stranger than fiction". Well researched and gives a totally new view of the war in Vietnam....reads like a thriller....actually is a thriller!

Wonderful book on the spy side of the Vietnam War.

Larry Berman's trace and insights into this master spy, An, forces one to confront the arrogance and amateurishness of Americans who touted their professionalism at war. The complexities of the Vietnamese people, their culture, history, hopes and dreams, all as unknown to Americans of 1955-1975 as their language, provide the means to understand why we lost and now the South Vietnamese nationalists were betrayed by the communist party of the North. Not a book for those who want to see that time, or this, as a set of clearly defined opposing choices, or the "less developed" nations of the world as simple, backward or unenlightened. His subject is a sophisticated, complex individual who understands he was ultimately used.

How does a spy make and keep friends with most of the "enemies" he meets for his entire life? By never telling a lie. Read it and learn.

Who would have known. I was surprised by the subterfuge of the NVA/VC spy network. When I was there, we knew enough not to tell the locals anything, and yet they knew...

Absolutely fascinating and well written account of the life of a Vietnamese double agent. He was recruited as a young man to spy for the Communists, but also was loyal to his many American friends when he worked for TIME during the War. It is both an almost unbelievable personal story and an insightful and researched history of Vietnam. Highly recommended.

Fascinating story about the "American War" from the other side.

You'll always enjoy a book that out smarted the Americans at their own game.

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