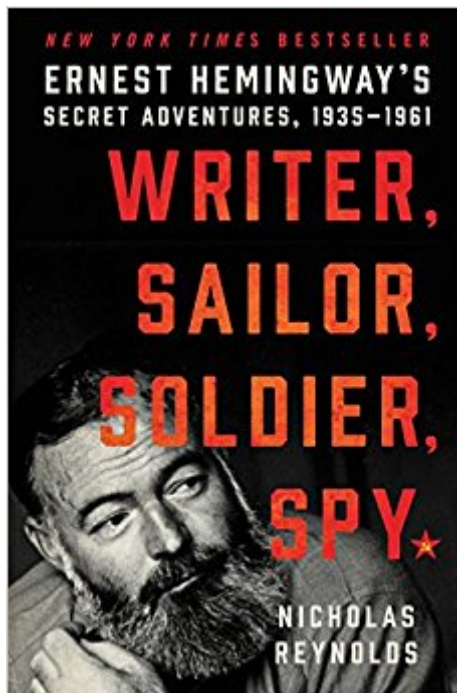




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# Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy: Ernest Hemingway's Secret Adventures, 1935-1961



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER — A "riveting" — international cloak-and-dagger epic, here is the stunning untold story of Ernest Hemingway's dangerous secret life -- including his role as a Soviet agent code-named "Argo" -- that fueled his art and his undoing. In 2010, while he was the historian at the esteemed CIA Museum, Nicholas Reynolds, a longtime American intelligence officer, former U.S. Marine colonel, and Oxford-trained historian, began to uncover clues suggesting Nobel Prize-winning novelist Ernest Hemingway was — deeply — involved in mid-twentieth-century spycraft -- a — mysterious and shocking relationship — that was far more complex, sustained, and fraught with risks than has ever — been previously supposed. Now Reynolds's — meticulously researched and captivating narrative, *Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy*, "looks among the shadows and finds a Hemingway not seen before" (London Review of Books), revealing for the first time the whole story of this hidden side of Hemingway's life: his troubling recruitment by Soviet spies to work with the NKVD, the forerunner to the KGB, followed in short order by a complex set of secret relationships with American agencies, including the FBI, the Department of State, the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), and the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a precursor to the CIA. Starting with Hemingway's sympathy to antifascist forces during the 1930s, Reynolds illuminates Hemingway's immersion in the life-and-death world of the revolutionary left, from his passionate commitment to the Spanish Republic; his successful pursuit by Soviet NKVD agents, who valued Hemingway's influence, access, and mobility; his wartime meeting in East Asia with communist leader Chou En-Lai, the future premier of the People's Republic of China; and finally to his undercover involvement with Cuban rebels in the late 1950s and his sympathy for Fidel Castro. Reynolds equally explores Hemingway's participation in various roles as an agent for the United States government, including hunting Nazi submarines with ONI-supplied munitions in the Caribbean on his boat, *Pilar*; his command of an informant ring in Cuba called the "Crook Factory" that reported to the American embassy in Havana; and his on-the-ground role in Europe, where he helped OSS gain key tactical intelligence for the liberation of Paris and fought alongside the U.S. infantry in the bloody endgame of World War II. As he examines the links between Hemingway's work as an operative and as an author, Reynolds reveals how Hemingway's secret adventures influenced his literary output and contributed to the writer's block and mental decline (including paranoia) that plagued him during the postwar years -- a period marked by the Red Scare and McCarthy hearings, which destroyed the life of anyone with Soviet connections. Reynolds also illuminates how those same experiences played a role in some of Hemingway's greatest works, including *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*, while also adding to the burden

that he carried at the end of his life and perhaps contributing to his suicide. A literary biography with the soul of an espionage thriller, *Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy* is an essential contribution to our understanding of the life, work, and fate of one of America's most legendary authors.\*William Doyle

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Important.... Reynolds, a former curator at the CIA Museum, demonstrates that Hemingway was afraid the FBI might uncover a dirty little secret he had hidden for more than 20 years: In 1940 he had agreed to assist the NKVD, the Soviet Union's foreign intelligence agency.” (Wall Street Journal)

“Reynolds looks among the shadows and finds a Hemingway not seen before.” (London Review of Books)

“[An] engrossing story of Hemingway's disillusionment with American politics, his sympathy with communism, and his attraction to adventure and subversion.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“An engrossing read for Hemingway buffs as well as casual readers, *Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy* adds more fascinating details to a life that remains continually fascinating.” (Minneapolis Star Tribune)

“Nicholas Reynolds's fascinating new research in *Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy* shows that [Hemingway] was in fact working for both the Russians and the Americans.” (New York Review of Books)

“The riveting, brand-new story of how America's greatest writer was shaped by his secret adventures as a spy for both U.S. intelligence and the Soviet NKVD: *Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy* is compelling, vivid, and essential reading for all Hemingway and espionage fans.” (William Doyle, author of *PT 109: An American Epic of War, Survival, and the Destiny of John F. Kennedy*)

“A thorough, well researched, and highly readable account

of Ernest Hemingway's engagement with espionage (American and Soviet), Communism, and military adventurism. ... In particular, *Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy* is the first book to put Hemingway's dalliance with the Soviet NKVD in the broader context of Hemingway's life. (John Earl Haynes, coauthor of *Spies: The Rise and Fall of the KGB in America*) "Drawing on his intelligence background, Reynolds uncovers a trove of documents that point to American novelist Ernest Hemingway's recruitment in 1940 by the NKVD. ... Reynolds ably researches Hemingway's World War II adventures. ... Intriguing. ... Recommended. (Library Journal) "[A] thoroughly researched exploration of Hemingway's military adventurism. (Publishers Weekly) "Captivating. ... Reynolds reveals the covert side of Hemingway other biographers have not disclosed. ... An important addition to the canon of one of America's foremost writers. Reynolds's unique biography reads like an espionage thriller. It is well illustrated, clearly written, and an engrossing read that adds more details to Hemingway's continually fascinating life. (The Missourian) "Nicholas Reynolds ably weaves Vassiliev's revelation, unavailable to previous biographers, into the tangled fabric of Hemingway's event-filled life. Hemingway's readers... will find it fascinating. (Times Literary Supplement (London)) "Renowned American novelist Ernest Hemingway led a shocking secret life as a Soviet spy, according to claims in a new book. The startling revelations are detailed in *Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy* by former CIA officer Nicholas Reynolds. (Daily Mail (UK)) "Colorful, fast-paced. ... [A] fascinating story. (The Journal of America's Military Past)

An international cloak-and-dagger epic ranging from the Spanish Civil War to the liberation of Western Europe, wartime China, the Red Scare of Cold War America, and the Cuban Revolution, HERE is the stunning untold story of a literary icon's dangerous secret life—including his role as a Soviet agent code-named "Argo" that fueled his art and his undoing. In 2010, while he was the historian at the esteemed CIA Museum, Nicholas Reynolds, a longtime American intelligence officer, former U.S. Marine colonel, and Oxford-trained historian, began to uncover clues suggesting Ernest Hemingway's involvement in mid-twentieth-century spycraft was far more complex, sustained, and fraught with risks than has been previously understood. *Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy* reveals Reynolds's discoveries for the first time, bringing to light the whole story of this hidden side of Hemingway's life: his troubling recruitment by Soviet spies to work with the NKVD, the

forerunner to the KGB, followed by a complex set of secret relationships with American agencies, including the FBI, the Department of State, the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), and the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a precursor to the CIA. A literary biography with the soul of an espionage thriller, *Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy* is an essential contribution to our understanding of the life, work, and fate of one of America's most legendary authors.

Professor Reynolds is a superb historian, who has written a very fine book about Hemingway's espionage exploits. He does a brilliant job of showing how the NKVD's brilliant recruiters - cosmopolitan, worldly, and multi-lingual - plied their trade among westerners disillusioned by the Spanish civil war. Hemingway lived life to the fullest, and Professor Reynolds captures how the war was for many, a touchstone in their lives, and both a world-changing event for those such as Hemingway and his colleagues in the OSS. Reynolds' book read like a novel, and he succeeds in humanizing Hemingway, gently but persuasively getting past the myths that made the man. All in all, a superb book.

great story, very cheap paper

I enjoyed the book. From what I know of Hemingway it seemed to be pretty well researched. His suicide should not have come as a surprise based on the books he wrote. Most of them dealt with loss and/or death.

Good book as I'm canvassing lots of Hemingway books and movies. Maybe a little too much detail which can drag the story down.

well written book and easy to read with good research and background on events happening during Hemingway's lifetime. I really like the book. Reynolds covered his lifetime well..

It is an interesting story about Ernest Hemingway's life & it is written in an engaging grabbing fashion. There was a void in the facts about Hemingway's hunt for fascists in Cuba. Perhaps because the KGB had Hemingway too busy.

This book reveals another interesting aspect in the life of a legendary author. It is a great read that was meticulously researched.

Fantastic book. Well researched and riveting!

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