



Dead Ground

Gerald Seymour

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Celebrated for his "palm-sweating tension" "(The New York Times)" and "rare insight" "(The Plain Dealer)," Gerald Seymour defines spy fiction at its best. Now, in this chilling revenge mission and haunting love story, he floodlights the East German Stasi as a young female British army corporal seeks retribution for Cold War atrocities. One frozen night, Tracy Barnes witnesses the killing of her lover by the East German secret police. Years later, when the Wall has crumbled and old enemies have become new friends, Tracy encounters the murderer and plans to make him pay. But in a country still at war with itself, Tracy finds that she is being played as a pawn in a far bigger game reaching all the way to Moscow.

Dead Ground Details

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Author : Gerald Seymour

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From Reader Review Dead Ground for online ebook

Marice Hill says

I really struggled to get into this book. The writing style at the beginning didn't grab me and I found it hard to see where the story was going. Became a bit more interesting about 150 pages in but really the book felt like a bit of a slog.

Edward says

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/11613264>

Peter says

Some years ago I read and enjoyed a couple of Seymour's books so when I spotted this book I decided to revisit him.

The plot at first impression was a fairly simple one. A young East German male is caught and killed by a Stasi unit led by Haupman Dieter Krause while on a spying mission for the British. A decade later, the Berlin Wall has collapsed and the German nation is in the throes of unification with many on the old Eastern side trying to readjust to their new circumstances. Dieter Krause thought he had buried his past and is now being touted around Western Governments by the German spy agency as having inside knowledge of Russian Defence Minister's right hand man Colonel Pyotr Rykov. On a visit to Britain Krause is attacked by the girlfriend of the young dead spy, who witnessed the murder, and so starts a search in old East Germany for evidence against Krause so he can be brought to book for murder. Albert Perkins, an agent for the British Government is also in Germany running his own parallel investigation into the relationship between Krause and Rykov. This is all fairly straight forward stuff but when secret videotape of Krauses's wife and Rykov having sex comes to light another plot is hatched led by another Cold War veteran Olive Harris which if successful makes the others null and void. Unfortunately, IMHO this third plot rather detracts from the overall story for me and only seems to have been added to suggested that the 'fairer' sex can be as ruthless as men.

There was some interesting insights into the old East Germany but generally I found it fairly predictable although there was a rather nice twist at the very end which I certainly did not see coming. I enjoyed the author's writing style, the lack of gadgets was certainly refreshing, but perhaps not quite as much as I remembered and perhaps that is the message of the book, you should revisit your past with caution. I enjoyed the book and it was a pleasant diversion but it is also probably not one that will live long in the memory.

Jose Calero says

I didn't like it very much. The author's writing prevents me from "going into" the story. I think there is little "passion" on the writing. Story, characters are not really appealing. Sad because I am very interested on books about Germany before the II World War.

Dave says

Atypical of Seymour's style-much takes place in the minds of the watchers and waiters, the pursuers and pursued. Suspenseful, with an interesting treatise of post-Wall Germany, with the demise of the Stasi and aftermath of their repressive and paranoid control of the citizenry.

Tessa Small says

Didn't enjoy the twisted story telling and tales and additions of characters to this book. Fell short of my expectations of his writing.

Barry Bridges says

Gerald Seymour never ceases to please with his carefully crafted tales that build from small beginnings to tense finales. An excellent twist of the tail was the crowning glory of a superb novel.
