



# London Match

*Len Deighton*

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Long-awaited reissue of the final part of the classic spy trilogy, GAME, SET and MATCH, when the Berlin Wall divided not just a city but a world.

The spy who's in the clear doesn't exist...

Bernard Samson hoped they'd put Elvira Miller behind bars. She said she had been stupid, but it didn't cut any ice with Bernard. She was a KGB-trained agent and stupidity was no excuse.

There was one troubling thing about Mrs Miller's confession - something about two codewords where there should have been one. The finger of suspicion pointed straight back to London.

And that was where defector Erich Stinnes was locked up, refusing to say anything.

Bernard had got him to London; now he had to get him to talk...

## London Match Details

Date : Published (first published 1985)

ISBN :

Author : Len Deighton

Format : Kindle Edition 451 pages

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# **From Reader Review London Match for online ebook**

## **Davidg says**

Bought along with a number of others in the series in the cheap section of a local charity shop. I had read the original trilogy when it first came out and thought it ok but not special. It is certainly not in the same class as Le Carre.

I have problems with the KGB and MI5 allowing suspect agents or recently returned spies free reign and no oversight. I am sure there would be extensive periods of garden leave and debriefing and not going straight into the field. And would a British KGB agent be able to slip in and out of the UK within months of their defection? If you can believe that then the book may be better, but I struggled with it. And they seem to be running the KGB when you just know that they would be held in a safe house for months until they had given all the information they knew and be judged as to whether they could be trusted. Can you imagine the KGB letting such an agent back into the UK, trusting that they would return?

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## **DeAnna Knippling says**

More office politics that turn deadly. The petty nature of the situation just makes everything more ironic and darkly funny. I enjoyed it, although there were sections of dialog where the characters are debating back and forth that may have been skimmed...

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## **Gram says**

Bernard Samson still complaining at the work he has to do for his bosses, all of whom he hates, although his love life has improved - with a woman half his age. As usual, the top men in MI6 are still stabbing each other in the back while wondering why the evil Commies manage to know everything that's going on at their head office. Ah, the price of freedom and democracy. At the end, it seems he and MI6 have been run ragged by the Soviet Union's latest top level defector but Bernard thinks it's maybe a draw - or even a win for the good guys. But, his best friend Werner knows better.

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## **Brad Lyerla says**

Read BERLIN GAME, MEXICO SET AND LONDON MATCH in order without a break. You will enjoy it immensely.

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## **Robert A Chalmers says**

This is one part of a trilogy. Berlin Game, Mexico Set, London Match. I've carried one of these on nearly every flight I've taken long haul. Excellent reads all three. Highly recommend them. The lead character

stands out, and his relationship with his counterpart, a want-to-be-spy is carried right through the trilogy. You have to wait until the very end to see how it all works out sorry. If you like Cold War British Spy Thrillers, you are going to have to love this set.

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### **Jim says**

Poor Bernard Samson! Probably the most experienced spy for Britain's MI6, he is under natural suspicion because his wife became a turncoat and joined the KGB. She has been quite busy, allowing a KGB asset, Major Erich Stinnes, to "defect," actually tossing a spanner into the works of London Central by casting doubt on one of the MI6 department heads.

Samson shows himself a pillar of strength and manages to foil his wife Fiona's sophisticated smears, even though he expects to get little credit for it:

Don't be disappointed, Bernard. This is a disaster averted, a Dunkirk for the Department. There are decorations galore and ennoblements and promotions for victories like Trafalgar and Waterloo, but there are no rewards for Dunkirks, no matter how brave or clever the survivors might be. London Central don't give gold medals to staff who prove they are wrong, and prove it with senior staff from [MI]Five looking on. They don't give promotions after finales like the last act of *Hamlet* with blood and gore on every side and the unexpected death of a KGB official, even if he wasn't given a safe conduct.

So far, London Match is the best of Len Deighton's Bernard Samson novels SO FAR (when read in sequence).

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### **John Defrog says**

The final book in the Game Set & Match trilogy, in which Bernard Samson helps capture a KGB courier using information from former KGB major Erich Stinnes – whom Samson convinced to defect in the previous book. But the courier's confession implies that there is another KGB mole in London Central – which is bad news for Samson, whose loyalty has been questioned since his wife turned out to be a KGB mole herself. Now he must find out who the mole is – or if the courier is lying. Deighton delivers a very good spy yarn that makes the most of the chief problem of the espionage business: never knowing for sure just who is on whose side, and who is telling the truth. London Match gets a bit too bogged down by the domestic lives of the characters – everyone seems to be having affairs with someone else and expecting Bernard to deal with it – and it gets a little tedious for the likes of me. But the twists and turns of the espionage angle more than make up for it.

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### **Jim says**

London Match is the concluding novel in the first of three trilogies featuring Bernard Samson. Samson suspects that there is a traitor within his department of MI6, due to the appearance of a memorandum which was leaked to the KGB.

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## Irma says

I love this series. I like the characters, the setting during the Cold War between London and Berlin is always exciting and believable.

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## Bookish Enchantment says

Having read this many years ago - time to consider reading again.

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## Nina says

Cały Mecz w Londynie to rozgrywka z i wokół majora KGB Ericha Stinnesa. Mimo, że urzędowa we Wschodnim Berlinie jako asystent Fiony Samson, awansowanej przez Kreml do stopnia pułkownika, Bernard Samson przywiózł go do Londynu z Meksyku. Ale nie tylko dlatego zainteresowanie Stinnesem wykracza poza sekcję berlińską MI6. Jego zachowanie, przetrzymywanego w półwiśniennych warunkach, jest co najmniej dziwne. Informacje, które dostarcza przesłuchującym, nie owocują żadnymi spektakularnymi sukcesami brytyjskich agentów. Przyczynia się to nie tylko do zaognienia personalnych animozji wewnątrz Firmy, ale przenosi na konflikty z kontrwywiadem, czyli MI5, a nawet wyżej, do sfer rządowych, między Foreign Office i Home Office. Czy czasem nie jest tak, że wszyscy po brytyjskiej stronie muszą ten mecz przegrać w starciu z KGB?

Kuchnia zimnej wojny wywiadów jest w tym tomie, zamykającym pierwszą z trzech trylogii cyklu Lena Deightona, obnażona w sposób bezkompromisowy. Oczywiście tak jak w pozostałych częściach cyklu jej demaskatorem jest Bernard Samson. Jego osobiste antypatie, sympatie i wrażliwości, którymi dzieli się w charakterystyczny dla siebie brylantowy i żółty sposób, świadczą na ogół o trafnej ocenie ludzi i zagrożeń. Choć jednocześnie i jego samego ukazują jako człowieka, który czuje się niedoceniany, lekko obrażony na los, a przy tym zadufany w sobie.

W przedmowie do której ze swoich powieści Len Deighton dzieli się wrażeniami ze swoich zajęć ze studentami planującymi własną karierę pisarską. Sądzi, że studenci dużo korzystają z analizując jego dzieła pod kątem, jak tworzy interesującą prozę, z pełnowymiarowymi postaciami, poprzez narrację utkaną z dialogu, obserwacji ludzi i scenerii, wreszcie z lakonicznych komentarzy związanych z konkretnymi sytuacjami. Co więcej, nie dziwi się, że wśród miłośników jego książek wielu przyznaje się, że czytało je kilkakrotnie. Sama nie wykluczam, że do niektórych fragmentów serialu o Bernardzie Samsonie będą jeszcze sięgać.

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## Richard Schwindt says

Perfect end to the trilogy. Bernie is settling into the new normal, a new girlfriend and his strange combination of domesticity and danger. He is still under suspicion and coping with the devious Eric Stinnes and his venal father in law. These books are so well drawn that you are easily immersed in an alternate

literary world and you want to stay. Again, this book ends with a bang (or series of them) and Bernie courts disaster. Well worth your time.

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## **Bettie? says**

Description: *With treason epidemic in London Central, a cloud of suspicion passes over each senior agent, and each falls helplessly into Moscow Centre's brilliant, complex trap. As LONDON MATCH rushes toward its amazing climax, the ultimate, decisive confrontation is about to take place--between Samson and the British KGB agent who, from the very beginning, has held Samson's entire life in delicate balance.*

Opening: **'Cheer up, Werner. It will soon be Christmas,' I said**

**I shook the bottle, dividing the last drips of whisky between the two white plastic cups that were balanced on the car radio.**

4\* Winter

4\* Berlin Game

4\* Mexico Set

CR London Match

3\* Ipcress File

3\* SS-GB

3\* XPD

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## **Peter says**

3rd in the trilogy but not quite the best of the three. Several twists and turns I didn't work out in advance, which is the test of a mystery/thriller novel and I really enjoyed some of the passages which expose the buffoonery of civil service life. I think Leighton pulls his punches when dealing with Fiona - she's either entirely cold-hearted and scheming or she's not. Don't keep trying to give her a soft centre!

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## **Johnny Waco says**

The last volume of Deighton's "Game, Set, Match" trilogy falls short of the quality of the previous books, but not too far. Bernard Samson is still dealing with the emotional and professional fallout from his wife Fiona's defection to the Soviets, and with his growing suspicions about the KGB defector Erich Stinnes. The intermingling of national and romantic infidelity provides a thoughtful subtext here. Not a mile-a-minute thriller, but an emotionally resonant and compelling one, a fitting conclusion to the trilogy.

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