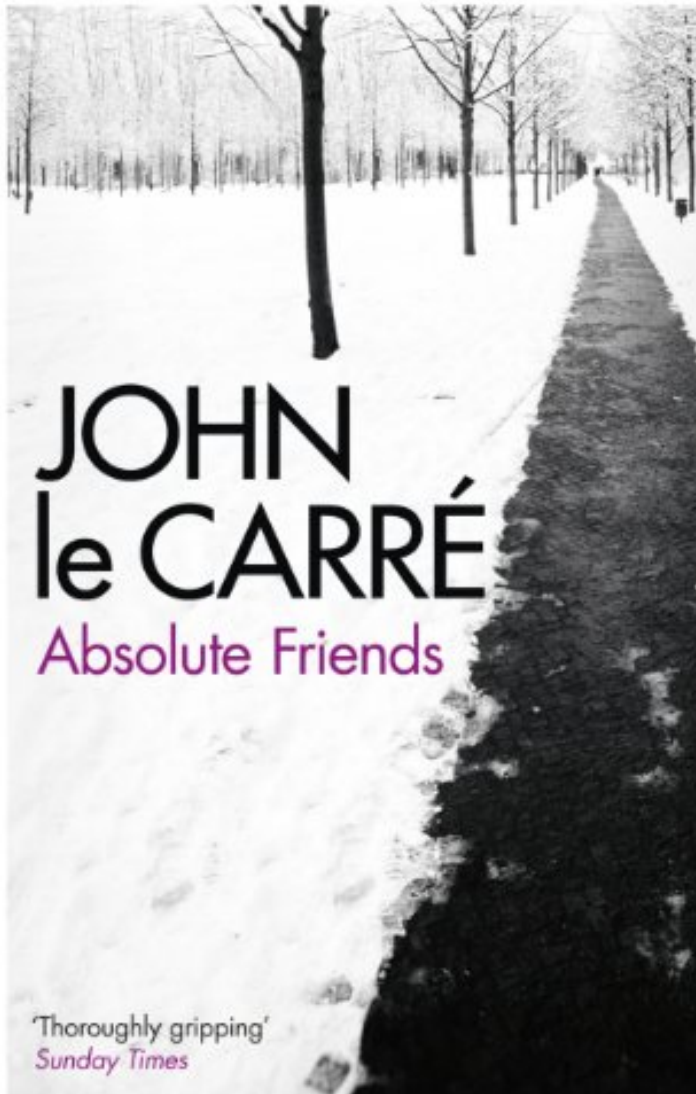


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Absolute Friends (English Edition)



Par John le Carré
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Par John le Carré : Absolute Friends (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Absolute Friends (English Edition):

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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurAbsolute Friends is a superbly paced novel spanning fifty-six years, a theatrical masterstroke of tragi-comic writing, and a savage fable of our times, almost of our hours. The friends of the title are Ted Mundy, British soldiers son born in 1947 in a shining new independent Pakistan, and Sasha, a refugee son of an East German Lutheran pastor and his wife who have sought sanctuary in the West. The two men meet first as students in riot-torn West Berlin of the late Sixties, again in the grimy looking-glass of Cold War espionage and, most terribly, in todays unipolar world of terror, counter-terror and the war of lies.

Absolute Friends presents us with magical writing, characters to delight, and a spellbinding story that enchants even as it challenges..co.ukJohn le Carré's Absolute Friends is his best in years, capturing the verve

and mastery of the magnificent early work. In fact, as a prelude to the book, you could do worse than reread

The Spy Who Came in from the Cold again, and be forcibly reminded how le Carr transformed the spy thriller 40 or so years ago. And the consolidation of his achievement came with the George Smiley sequence (inaugurated with *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*). As the Cold War came to an end, le Carr seemed to be in need of a new focus for his literary universe, but this was soon to come as the author explored newer social threats, with *The Constant Gardener* utilising the power of the pharmaceutical companies as nemesis, and producing yet another critical and popular success. *Absolute Friends*, even before publication, had some of the best word of mouth any le Carr novel had enjoyed, and every word of it was justified. As a penetrating character study, it's nonpareil, with the (very different) friends of the title brilliantly realised. Ted Mundy is the son of a British Infantry officer who left India under a cloud after partition, while Sasha is the crippled

son of a religious German family who became a star of Far Left politics in the 1960s, at which point he encounters the ungainly Ted, taught by his father--and a committed girlfriend--to loathe British imperialism and all its current offshoots. In the present, Ted finds himself acting as an eccentric tour guide at Ludwig's palaces in Bavaria. When the two men meet again, they once more become involved in clandestine

activities--with lethal results. If the author's own anti-Blair/Bush feelings are sometimes foregrounded, this is still le Carr at his considerable best, and a reminder of what a great talent the UK has in this writer. --

Barry Forshaw
From Publishers Weekly
Le Carre's angry, ultimately heartbreaking novel focuses on Ted Mundy, a good-natured British expat in Germany who's eking out a mundane existence guiding tourists through Bavarian castles when his longlost friend Sasha, a diminutive German anarchist, appears to offer him financial and ideological salvation. A surprisingly long flashback takes listeners from Ted and Sasha's first meeting in West Berlin in 1969 through the Cold War and, consequently, their careers as spies, before

returning to Sasha's present scheme to save the world from Western imperialism. The story melds the poignant personal tale of Mundy's unwavering altruism with the author's sardonic take on the perfidy of economic globalization. Both themes are well-preserved in this seamless abridgement. No one reads Le Carre better than Le Carre. His nuances, accents and inflections are as brilliantly precise as his prose. For example, Le Carre lends Mundy's voice a note of optimistic naiveté that eventually ages into a soft, measured fatalism, but for the ever-aggressive Sasha, his voice takes on a nervous intensity. Mood-appropriate music serves as a bridge between chapters--a Sousa-like march here, a vaguely Beatlesque riff there--adding to this well-produced audio package. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All

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