



City of Spies

By John Cheney

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City of Spies By John Cheney

Four years before the fall of the Berlin Wall, East Germany was preparing for war. A series of exercises were conducted simulating an invasion of West Berlin. But what if one of these operations was no drill at all? In 1985, Border Troop officer Hans Brandt rises to the inner circle of the East German government, where leaders have begun to fear the country's inevitable collapse. Hans discovers Stasi colonel Karl Scharf's audacious plan to save the GDR — actually conquer West Berlin. Wanting to prevent a war, Hans moves to stop the invasion. But when Scharf uses a mole hunt to leverage his plan, Hans is drawn into a battle of espionage that will cost him more than he can know. Using actual secret East German invasion plans and real locations, *City of Spies* is a historical thriller that brings modern insight into a pivotal world era. Seen through the eyes of Hans Brandt, the struggle to peacefully end the Cold War presents a precarious balance of power, escalating tension between rival factions, and ultimately a race for personal survival. Like many world events that hinge on a few actions, *City of Spies* shows the peaceful revolution in Eastern Europe was anything but inevitable. Twenty-five years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, *City of Spies* finds startling relevance.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Although a work of fiction, John Cheney's *City of Spies* reads with an authenticity with respect to Cold War politics and the human condition that is usually the province of political science curriculums. Infused with a deftly plotted story of unexpected twists and dramatic turns, *City of Spies* is a non-stop thriller that is pure entertainment from beginning to end and will make a popular addition to community library collections and personal reading lists" -- Midwest Book Review

About the Author

From the moment he first set foot in Berlin, John Cheney knew he was in a city of contrasts. On one hand, Berlin is charging headlong into the future -- on the other, Berlin is a city haunted by its past. John sensed there was an untold story to be mined from Berlin's recent history, and when he learned about the Border's Edge series of exercises that were held in the 1980s, he knew he had found it. Born and raised in Michigan, John Cheney has lived in Germany, England, and Los Angeles. He loves to travel, absorbing the culture and history of every place he encounters. John began his career in film, writing and directing several short films that have played at festivals across the United States and in Europe. *City of Spies* is his first novel. John's second novel, present-day thriller *The Apocalypse Men*, was released in November 2015.

Users Review

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