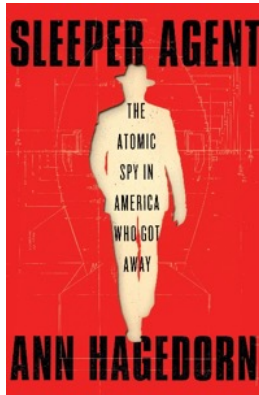


News from Simon & Schuster



SLEEPER AGENT

The Atomic Spy in America Who Got Away

Ann Hagedorn

Simon & Schuster | Hardcover | July 20, 2021 | ISBN: 9781501173943

“Doggedly researched . . . Enlivened by its brisk pace and lucid scientific details, this is a rewarding introduction to a noteworthy episode in the history of Soviet espionage.”

Publishers Weekly

“The biography of a Soviet spy whose story may be new even to history buffs . . . an eye-opening account”

Kirkus Reviews

“Compelling . . . Hagedorn’s well-researched account employs a host of primary and secondary sources to convincingly connect the dots between Koval, the Soviet spy network, and the creation of the atomic bomb.”

Booklist

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George Koval was born and raised in Iowa, charmed everyone he met, loved Walt Whitman, played baseball, and could reel off the stats and history of every big-league pitcher. He was a gifted science student who in the 1940s took courses at Columbia University and at City College of New York.

Yet Koval was not who he seemed. He was also a Soviet military-trained intelligence officer who gained full U.S. security clearance at two top-secret sites of the Manhattan Project where the fuels— plutonium, uranium, and polonium— were produced for the atom bomb.

Under cover as a U.S. Army corporal, Koval worked with a handler who lived in the Bronx and operated a cover shop in Manhattan and through whom Koval sent atomic secrets to Moscow that would help to shorten the time it took the Soviets to build their own atom bomb— years earlier than U.S. experts had predicted.

Koval, with his self-designed tapestry of lies and half-truths, was not detected by the FBI until after he had returned to the Soviet Union, where the accomplishments of his eight years as a spy in America were known only to top intelligence officials. He escaped with barely a scratch, and his intriguing story remains little known to this day.

SLEEPER AGENT: *The Atomic Spy in America Who Got Away* exposes fresh parts of the 1940s atom bomb history— including the production of polonium crucial to the atom bomb's trigger, the importance of a Dayton, Ohio site tied to the Manhattan Project, and the tactics and techniques employed by Soviet military intelligence in wartime America, such as the use of science-trained student spies.

SLEEPER AGENT also delves into the psychology of the spy, shedding light on the hopes, fears, and beliefs that spurred Koval's decisions— including the anti-Semitism he experienced in both the US and in the USSR—and how he embedded himself so completely and successfully as the ultimate sleeper agent.

A gripping, fast-paced, extensively researched story about one undetected spy who changed history, **SLEEPER AGENT** is perfect for both history buffs and lovers of spy thrillers.

Title: Sleeper Agent: The Atomic Spy in America Who Got Away

Author: Ann Hagedorn

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About the author:

Ann Hagedorn is a former staff writer for the Wall Street Journal and an award-winning author of five previous narrative nonfiction books, including *Beyond the River: The Untold Story of the Heroes of the Underground Railroad* and *Savage Peace: Hope and Fear in America, 1919*. She has taught writing at Columbia University, Northwestern, Xavier University, and Miami University, holds masters degrees from Columbia University and the University of Michigan, and an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Denison University. She lives in a small town on the Ohio River that she discovered while researching *Beyond the River*.

More praise for SLEEPER AGENT:

"Ann Hagedorn, who is a masterful historical sleuth and a superb writer, has told the riveting and previously untold story of an atomic spy... Hagedorn has not only penetrated the inner life of a "sleeper agent," she also has transformed our understanding of the origins of the nuclear arms race." - **Bill Tuttle, author of *Race Riot: Chicago in the Red Summer of 1919* and "Daddy's Gone to War": The Second World War in the Lives of America's Children**

"Ann Hagedorn has gifted us with a dazzling, gripping, most timely reflection of the Cold War era — and the ongoing legacy of hateful anti-Semitism driving the quest for sanctuary, education, and peace. This captivating, profoundly researched book is required reading for everyone concerned about history and the future." - **Blanche Wiesen Cook, author of *Eleanor Roosevelt* (Vols. 1-3), and *The Declassified Eisenhower***

"Ann Hagedorn is one of those rare writers I trust to keep me reading in these times when the competition for our attention can be overwhelming. But with the fascinating *Sleeper Agent*, Ms. Hagedorn has once again captivated me with the focus and depth of her superlative investigative talents, in this instance unraveling the secrets of what J. Edgar Hoover called 'the crime of the [20th] century'—Soviet atomic espionage in wartime America." - **Bob Shacochis, National Book award recipient, author of *The Woman Who Lost Her Soul***

"*Sleeper Agent* is both an important work of history and a story that's hard to put down. Ann Hagedorn might have been a master spy herself, so brilliantly has she assembled myriad specks of information into this extraordinary map of an underground America below the surface of World War II and the Cold War." - **James Tobin, author of *The Man He Became: How FDR Defied Polio to Win the Presidency***

"From 1940 to 1948, George Koval hid in plain sight, using his real name while gathering intelligence for the Soviet Union about the American atomic project. Ann Hagedorn tells this incredible story and more: Hagedorn's account of this life is a gripping page-turner, almost unbelievable yet true." - **Stephen M. Norris, Director, Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, Miami University**