



The Labyrinth Makers

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David Audley is an unlikely spy. True, he works for England's Ministry of Defense, but strictly as a back-room man, doing meticulous research on the Middle East. This new assignment, then, comes as something of a surprise: A WWII-era British cargo plane has been discovered at the bottom of a drained lake, complete with the dead pilot and not much else. Why are the Soviets so interested in the empty plane and its pilot? interested enough to attend the much-belated funeral? And why has Audley been tapped to lead the investigation? As Audley chips away at the first question, he can't stop asking the second. Could he possibly have been given the assignment in order to fail, to preserve the decades-old secrets at the bottom of the lake? If that's the case, someone's made an error. Audley's a scholar by training, temperamentally allergic to loose ends. And the story he unravels is going to make some people very uncomfortable indeed.

The Labyrinth Makers Details

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Author : Anthony Price

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From Reader Review The Labyrinth Makers for online ebook

D. says

This is a very well-written espionage novel set during the Cold War. It has links to archaeology and WW2, but the majority of the action, such as it is, is set in the late 1960's, I would guess.

It's the first in a long-running series that I've had recommended to me several times, so I decided to finally give it a try. I was pleasantly surprised by the characterization and the quality of the writing. While there is very little action per se (ie. car chases or explosions) there is a lot of subterfuge and machinations as the protagonist tries to find out the truth behind the contents of a mysterious WW2 bomber found at the bottom of a man-made lake.

Highly recommended.

DeAnna Knippling says

A historian who just happens to work for a spy agency in the UK is driven out into the field to find out exactly what was going on when a WWII pilot crashed into a lake with seven boxes of rubble in the back of his plane. Smuggling, sure, but...broken bricks?!?

An intellectual spy tale, the kind that has way too many bureaucratic details and not enough plot until suddenly you're like, "Wait, what?" An excellent quick read. A bit dated.

^ says

For anyone with an agile brain this is a tense and thoroughly un-putdown-able thriller. I'm not going to write a review here, because a great review has already been written by Nick Jones; at <http://www.existentialennui.com/2011/...> Please respect his copyright © 2007–2016 Nick Jones.

DGT says

David Audley is a reluctant field agent (and lover) when a Second World War Dakota reappears in a drained lake in Lincolnshire in the late 1960s. This event attracts spies in a Cold War drama which has a few intriguing twists and turns. The broad mores of the late 1960s come across but the social and political feel of the age is disappointingly thin, particularly given that Price pitches his contribution at the historical and research end of the spy-genre. The Audley-Faith Steerforth relationship is contrived, plot-wise, and is generally embarrassing, though the latter applies to John Le Carré, as well, and I like most of his novels. Having said as much, and added that Audley's back-story is not especially persuasive, he is an intriguing hero for a spy novel, and there are many sequels, of which I shall try a couple before deciding whether to keep going. I note an earlier reviewer's advice that "this is the first book in Price's espionage series about British Intelligence's shadowy "Research and Development" department. It pays to read the books in order of publication - they get more complex as you go along".

Susan says

This book, the first in the series, is set 25 years after WWII. David Audley is a desk man in British intelligence, who is suddenly asked to go into the field. During the war, a pilot was smuggling from war torn Berlin to Britain. He intended to do one last haul, of something so valuable that Russia have been searching for it ever since. His plane crashed on the way home and the pilot, the plane and the secret hoarde disappeared with him. Now, the plane has suddenly been unearthed, and the story has also been unburied. The Russians are still interested and Audley is sent to find out what he stole and where it is.

During his investigation, Audley meets the pilot's daughter and becomes involved with her. He is a very human character and nervous of the violence and danger he encounters. I liked him very much and thought the plot was thought provoking and extremely interesting. The book is set during 1969/1970 (I wasn't quite sure of the exact date), and there is a casual sexism in the way people talk, which placed the novel firmly during that time period. There is also a real feeling for those Cold War years, when suspicion reigned on all sides and the second world war was still something that most of the population remembered personally.

I have to admit that I had never read this author before and it is always wonderful to discover a great author that you have missed. This is an intelligent and well written thriller, a pleasure to read and I look forward to following Audley's adventures.

J Grimsey says

Good Spy Novel

Larry says

The first of the nineteen David Audley spy novels showed what the series would become: literate, low key, and clever. Espionage as described by Price is deadly work, but without the glamorous surface of the Bond books. In this case, the book begins with a death from out of the past when a World War II-era cargo plane is uncovered after a private lake is drained unexpectedly. The trouble is that the plane isn't where it should have been, is carrying a half dozen boxes of rubble from Berlin (in place of what?), and was piloted by the late lamented master smuggler of the RAF. So where is the real cargo, why have some of those who knew died at the hands of apparently Russian agents, and how does Audley, on the outs with his masters for being right about the Middle East once too often, learn to run agents. Reread after forty-some years (and because I still own the set), I remembered why I first liked it.

Brettsinclair70 says

Russians, Nazis, crashed bombers and a brainy hero. Ideal, really.

Peter says

Price's first novel from 1970 and if it hasn't got the smooth assurance of his later efforts, the love story being a little awkward for one, it's still an engaging narrative of the newly discovered wreckage of a Dakota bomber lost in September 1945, the pilot involved in smuggling the treasures of Troy from the Reich. The Russians are still interested as a staid MI5 type officially assigned to the case and his new love, the daughter of the pilot, attempt, with others, to locate the hidden loot. Well-written and involving.

Debra says

Fun book on tape, a bit dated--British spy novel of the sixties. Less James Bond, more accessible than Le Carre.

Chris Warren says

I enjoyed the tone and the look back at 1970. I will probably read more of the series. BUT... the awful attitude to women and the farcical romance between Audley and Faith are breathtaking. The rest I enjoyed.

Andy says

Better than average clever spy thriller as an excuse for a good history lesson about interesting stuff regarding Stalin, Nazis, WWII--not to mention Troy. Somewhat dated.

Mieczyslaw Kasprzyk says

This is my second encounter with the work of Anthony Price and I don't regret a moment of it. It is enthralling and engrossing. I read it in a day and a half - I just couldn't put it down. A bomber has been discovered at the bottom of a drained lake. The pilot is still in it, as are a number of boxes... The Russians are interested... From this moment on we are led down a path of investigation and murder. We think we know where we are being led but don't be stupid... this is the Cold War, these are spies, this is politics.... For the life of me I just don't understand why these books are out of print... Price is priceless!

Tim Trewartha says

Good, if somewhat clumsy in parts, thriller, let down by small doses of sexism and some of the most awkward love scenes ever written. The author would go on to do way better.

Margaret says

Reasonably interesting (especially once I found out what the treasure was), but not enough to get me to read the others in the series. Also, I really only have to hear once how flat-chested the hero's love interest is, please, Mr. Price.
