



Cover Story

Colin Forbes

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'Adam Procane has to be stopped...'

It was the last message his wife ever sent, and even as he read it, foreign correspondent Bob Newman knew she was dead. The killers had sent a film of her murder to London with the warning - tell other people to keep away from Procane...

Procane, a top Washington official, is about to defect. With the Presidential election two months away, it's the last thing the Americans want. Trouble is, until they know exactly who he is, they can do nothing to stop him.

In London, Tweed of SIS watches and waits. Four highly suspect Americans have already passed through en route to Scandinavia - the Deputy Head of the CIA, the National Security Adviser and his wife, and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. Any one of them could be Procane.

Meanwhile Newman has slipped off to Finland, bent on revenge. It's time for Tweed to act. To get back into the field. To stop Newman and find Procane - before he - or she- takes vital secrets to the East....

Cover Story Details

Date : Published December 21st 2000 by Pan (first published September 1st 1986)

ISBN : 9780330294560

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Format : Paperback

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Spy Thriller, Espionage

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Susanne Bartel says

Found this book in our holiday house, and it turned out to be a real page turner. Great plot with a surprising end, and quite a lot of interesting details about the agents' life during the cold war.

Jim says

Published in 1985, this takes us from our current lukewarm war with Russia back to the real Cold War. The secret services grapevine has picked up news that "Adam Procane" is about to defect, this could be bigger than Kim Philby's defection. Adam Procane, whoever he might be is thought to be a top American Official, this could scupper Reagan's hopes of re-election. The GRU in the Soviet Union is rubbing its hands in anxious anticipation. Tweed of the British SIS, is keen to have Procane stopped before he (or could it be she?) crosses into the Soviet Union. In Estonia four GRU officers have been murdered mysteriously, could it be connected. Four highly suspected top Americans head for Scandinavia: the Deputy head of the CIA, the National Security adviser, his wife and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. Anyone of them might be Procane. All the agents now need to wait until someone makes a move.

This is a classic Cold War spy thriller. Everybody is following everyone else or trying to give their tails the slip.

"Here's a fiver. My wife has a detective following me in the cab behind. When we hit a traffic jam I'm getting out – you keep the change, OK?"

"OK, sir!"

The driver stared at Newman in his rear view mirror and winked. It was a situation he was not unfamiliar with.

Newman is the joker in the pack, he is not in the secret services, he is a journalist, he is desperate to avenge the murder of his wife, murdered by a rogue GRU officer in Tallinn. He needs to find some way of getting to Tallinn, not an easy task in the mid eighties when those westerners allowed into Tallinn, to outward appearances a model Soviet City, had to wait weeks for a visa and undergo various checks from the Russian secret services.

Tweed has a Europe-wide network of informers and assistants including some rather implausibly attractive and capable women. Tweed's codename of "Brown Seal" reminds me of the Dom Joly sketches with various secret agents having animal names in Trigger Happy TV.

Like all good thrillers there is a twist in the tale, but I won't spoil it for you.

TheIron Paw says

It was ok. A decent but not great spy story with several interesting twists. I may well try another of the Tweed series (why do I always come in in the middle of a series?). A decent summer read by the pool - or winter by the fireplace.

Nigel says

A really good espionage thriller. The action moves along at a good pace taking in many different countries, although the focus is Sweden, Finland and Estonia. Tweed is trying to track down a possible high ranking US defector (code named Adam Procane) and no one it seems knows who he is. As several possible contenders travel to Sweden and Finland the tension mounts, can Tweed stop the defector?

As I have come to expect from Colin Forbes, the characters are good and the plot lines are strewn with red herrings and false clues to keep you guessing right up to the end. It is always stated that Colin used to travel to the locations and his writing shows this up. As the action moves along the streets of various cities the realism of actual knowledge shines through.

All in all exactly what I was looking for in a Colin Forbes novel

James Findley says

Good grief! I picked this up in a bookstore. It is 35 years since it was written and it hasn't worn well. Comic book characters and a superficial plot.

Manoj says

Adam Procane... The emphasis right from the beginning about stopping a certain Adam Procane is brought about in a very interesting manner. With the brutal murder of his wife Alexis, Bob Newman sets out on his own to take on whoever was responsible for his wife's death....Procane, a top Washington official, is about to defect. With the Presidential election two months away, it's the last thing the Americans want. As the story moves on four of the top American move towards Finland and any of them could be Procane. The ending is brought about very beautifully with the huge twist given to the story.

Ingrid says

Actually didn't finish it, couldn't get into it.

Frederick Tan says

A proper espionage story.

Srimanth Guntupalli says

This is by far the best book to be involved in a character that takes you through the whole of Europe and

makes you feel that you have actually been there. The amazing description given of the people and of the places pinpointed even to the extent of the traffic rules of a country is truly an art of writing amidst the fictional chase for a person. Maybe I have been talking too much about the descriptions itself and that is not the whole thing of the book by the way. It is really a good and enjoyable for all the fiction lovers and moreover I don't like to degrade the suspense anymore...

Kirti says

Un-put-downable!

Cecilia says

Mysterierna med Tweed är alltid bra och detta bar jag inte i närheten att lista ut. Dock märker man att det är en av de tidigare böckerna på hans sätt att skriva. Bra underhållning när man mest vill klura på en gåta.
