



## Our Man in Havana

By Graham Greene

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MI6's man in Havana is Wormold, a former vacuum-cleaner salesman turned reluctant secret agent out of economic necessity. To keep his job, he files bogus reports based on Charles Lamb's *Tales from Shakespeare* and dreams up military installations from vacuum-cleaner designs. Then his stories start coming disturbingly true...

First published in 1959 against the backdrop of the Cold War, *Our Man in Havana* remains one of Graham Greene's most widely read novels. It is an espionage thriller, a penetrating character study, and a political satire of government intelligence that still resonates today. **This Penguin Classics edition features an introduction by Christopher Hitchens.**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

The ultimate chronicler of twentieth-century man's consciousness and anxiety. (William Golding)

As comical, satirical, atmospherical an 'entertainment' as he has given us. (*The Daily Telegraph*, London)

#### About the Author

Graham Greene (1904-1991), whose long life nearly spanned the length of the twentieth century, was one of its greatest novelists. Educated at Berkhamsted School and Balliol College, Oxford, he started his career as a sub-editor of the **London Times**. He began to attract notice as a novelist with his fourth book, **Orient Express**, in 1932. In 1935, he trekked across northern Liberia, his first experience in Africa, told in **A Journey Without Maps** (1936). He converted to Catholicism in 1926, an edifying decision, and reported on religious persecution in Mexico in 1938 in **The Lawless Roads**, which served as a background for his famous **The Power and the Glory**, one of several "Catholic" novels (**Brighton Rock**, **The Heart of the Matter**, **The End of the Affair**). During the war he worked for the British secret service in Sierra Leone; afterward, he began wide-ranging travels as a journalist, which were reflected in novels such as **The Quiet American**, **Our Man in Havana**, **The Comedians**, **Travels with My Aunt**, **The Honorary Consul**, **The Human Factor**, **Monsignor Quixote**, and **The Captain and the Enemy**. As well as his many novels, Graham Greene wrote several collections of short stories, four travel books, six plays, two books of autobiography, **A Sort of Life** and **Ways of Escape**, two biographies, and four books for children. He also contributed hundreds of essays and film and book reviews to **The Spectator** and other journals, many of which appear in the late collection **Reflections**. Most of his novels have been filmed, including **The Third Man**, which the author first wrote as a film treatment. Graham Greene was named Companion of Honour and received the Order of Merit among numerous other awards.

**Christopher Hitchens** is a widely published polemicist and frequent radio and TV commentator. He is the author of many books, including **Why Orwell Matters**, **Letters to a Young Contrarian**, **The Trial of Henry Kissinger**, as well as books on Cyprus, Kurdistan and Palestine, including **Blaming the Victims** coedited with Edward Said. He is a contributing editor to **Vanity Fair** and writes for, among others, **Slate**, **The Atlantic Monthly**, **The New York Times Book Review**, and **The Washington Post**. He lives with his family in Washington, D.C.

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**Doris Whobrey:**

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