



Treason in the Blood

By Anthony Cave Brown

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Brown tells the extraordinary stories of Kim Philby, a renowned double agent, and his father and mentor, Harry St. John Bridger Philby, who played a key role in establishing the modern Middle East. In this dual biography, the author includes interviews, private papers of both St. John and Kim Philby, and previously unreleased photographs and KGB memoranda--providing an intriguing account of espionage.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Kim Philby, called by Brown "quite possibly the greatest unrepentant scoundrel in modern British history," and his father, St. John, are profiled in this dual biography. Philby pere (1885-1960), after a brilliant academic career, worked for a time in the Crown's political department in India and the Middle East, even though he despised British imperialism. He resigned from the service over financial and diplomatic irregularities in 1924. He converted to Islam and became a power in Arabia as an unofficial member of the Privy Council, but no hard evidence exists that he was a spy. Nor, despite the book's title, does Brown make that contention. Born in India, Harold Adrian Russell "Kim" Philby (1912-1987) was educated at Cambridge, where he made the acquaintance of several classmates who were to influence his life: Guy Burgess, Anthony Blunt and Donald Maclean (John Cairncross, one of the Cambridge Five, is hardly mentioned in this account). Brown discusses Philby's homosexual relationships at Cambridge and his indoctrination into the Communist Party but otherwise scants these crucial years. He details Philby's luck in being cleared for the Secret Service; his work disrupting the German intelligence prior to D-Day; his postwar service as First Secretary at the British Embassy in Washington; his part in the Burgess-Maclean escape to Russia in 1951 and his exoneration by the government. Also recounted are Philby's time as a foreign correspondent in Beirut and his defection to Moscow in 1963. Spy buffs will find Brown's (*Bodyguard of Lies*) perspective on Philby's post-Cambridge years interesting. Photos not seen by PW.

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From Library Journal

Treason in the blood? Father as role model? Philby & Son, Spies? Such Freudian stuff aside, this is as absorbing and instructive a book as history buffs and spy-story lovers will read in the current season. Brown (*The Last Hero: Wild Bill Donovan*, LJ 12/92) is an old hand at spy tales. Not Kipling and perhaps not even Le Carre could have devised such a father-son story as this. Kim Philby is, of course, at the core of the notorious Burgess-Maclean case; his father is less well known as an intriguer, adventurer (not to say scoundrel), and Orientalist who played a significant role in the emergence of Britain's imperial making of the modern Middle East. True, the Burgess-Maclean-Philby-Blunt story is heavily dissected in a number of books. This one brings together the Philby story as such but not with absolute finality; unanswered questions remain to tease the reader—about moles in London and about who Philby really served. But for a book that covers the modern "great game," this is one of the best.

--Henry Steck, *SUNY at Cortland*

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From [Booklist](#)

Two decades ago, Brown burst into the club of espionage historians with his popular *Bodyguard of Lies*, which unveiled the Allies' Ultra secret in World War II. Here he examines the career of the infamous British turncoat whom the Soviets buried with state honors. (To set the social and psychological context, Brown also folds in the life of Philby's father, H. St. John. Kim, the younger blood, indisputably caused the deaths of hundreds of people, heinous enough, but mystery still envelops the magnitude of the damage he inflicted and the extent to which, if at all, he was protected from discovery by superiors in Britain's Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), or even by the CIA's James Angleton. While the SIS won't declassify its Philby file until 2025, Brown avails himself of the KGB's records and retired personnel still living who worked with *S{TM}ohnchen*, their code name for their ace mole. His thorough research narrates Philby's recruitment in 1934 by Soviet agents and how they groomed him to penetrate the SIS, which occurred in 1940. The next 10 years, furnishing the bulk of this book, are crowded with Philby's wartime operations and concomitant rise through

the ranks to a height (as chief of counterintelligence) that established his candidacy to become "C"--chief of the service. Unfortunately for him and the Soviets, his usefulness ended with the sensational defection in 1951 of comrade moles Burgess and MacLean--or did it? Brown is so skilled at synthesizing the minutiae of this case that spy catchers skulking about the stacks will inevitably be captivated by the story's outstanding enigmas. *Gilbert Taylor*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harold Walsh:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or even read a book allowed Treason in the Blood? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have other opinion?

Emily Meredith:

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Bernard Taylor:

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