



Legends: A Novel of Dissimulation

By Robert Littell

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Legends: A Novel of Dissimulation By Robert Littell

Now a TNT series starring Sean Bean

Robert Littell is the undisputed master of American spy fiction, hailed for his profound grasp of the world of international espionage. His previous novel, *The Company*, an international bestseller, was praised as "one of the best spy novels ever written" (Chicago Tribune). For his new novel, *Legends*, Littell focuses on the life of one great agent caught in a "wilderness of mirrors" where both remembering and forgetting his past are deadly options.

Martin Odum is a CIA field agent turned private detective, struggling his way through a labyrinth of past identities - "legends" in CIA parlance. Is he really Martin Odum? Or is he Dante Pippen, an IRA explosives maven? Or Lincoln Dittmann, Civil War expert? These men like different foods, speak different languages, have different skills. Is he suffering from multiple personality disorder, brainwashing, or simply exhaustion? Can Odum trust the CIA psychiatrist? Or Stella Kastner, a young Russian woman who engages him to find her brother-in-law so he can give her sister a divorce.

As Odum redeploys his dormant tradecraft skills to solve Stella's case, he travels the globe battling mortal danger and psychological disorientation. Part Three *Faces of Eve*, part *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold*, and always pure Robert Littell, *Legends*—from unforgettable opening to astonishing ending—again proves Littell's unparalleled prowess as a seductive storyteller.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. As in *The Company* (2002), a long and serious chronicle of the CIA, Littell provides plenty of inside intelligence info in his superb new thriller, but he adds a decidedly comic spin. A female CIA executive looks frighteningly like Fred Astaire, while a former top agent works as a PI out of a former pool parlor above a nondescript Chinese restaurant in Brooklyn. The detective's name seems to be Martin Odum, but "Fred Astaire" calls him Dante, and he also goes by Lincoln Dittmann, the name of a Civil War enthusiast whose cartons of memorabilia sit unopened in Martin's office. Is Martin Odum himself a "legend"—a fake identity dreamed up in the dark imagination of the CIA? Because he needs the work, Martin agrees to help an old Russian KGB agent find his Israeli daughter's husband and persuade the man to give her a "get"—a divorce decree required by religious law. The husband has been pretending he's Jewish to cover up his link to a Russian criminal called the Oligarkh. As the bodies of his friends and clients begin to pile up, Odum searches for answers about not only the missing husband but also himself. Wonderful writing and a great sense of fun make this another winner.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

What does a spy novel look like after the end of the Cold War? Littell provides quite an answer. A former Newsweek reporter, he has produced an entertaining romp through post-Soviet Russia. Reviewers found plenty to quibble with, most notably Littell's surprisingly cliché-ridden prose. But in exposing the tensions of Russia's transition to capitalism, Littell approached the genre with creativity. He doesn't overlook the War on Terror, either; Al Qaeda gets a walk on. The plot line of Odum's struggle to figure out his true identity struck some readers as a bit forced—but others thought it added depth, bringing rich layers of meaning to what otherwise might have been a stock genre piece.

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From [Booklist](#)

Get this: ruffled Brooklyn PI Martin Odum is not sure who he really is, having lived so long and so convincingly under the assumed identities--legends--in his work for the CIA. Hired to find the missing Samat so that his abandoned Israeli wife can get a proper divorce, Odum tracks his man across the continents, stumbling over a plethora of shady dealings that make Eric Ambler's Dimitrios seem small-time: plastic explosives, opium, bioweapons, suspicious quantities of fertilizer, the relics of a Lithuanian saint. All of which may or may not connect to the past exploits of Martin's other selves: the brash Irish dynamiter Dante Pippen, who infiltrates Hizbullah, and the disaffected Civil War buff Lincoln Dittman, who penetrates al-Qaeda. Littell's sardonic style is reminiscent of the wry slouch-and-dagger intrigue of the late, great Ross Thomas, enthusiastically embellished with spy lore and geopolitical anecdote. No respecter of the classical unities, Littell imbues his tale with the same split personality of its protagonist, veering from jocose banter to grim torture, but for readers prepared to follow his lead, he delivers a smart, fun, strange adventure in the legendary tradition of Odysseus, yet another wily trickster who boasts to his peril that he is "no man." *David Wright*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Raymond Roth:

This Legends: A Novel of Dissimulation book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book will be information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This Legends: A Novel of Dissimulation without we know teach the one who looking at it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't be worry Legends: A Novel of Dissimulation can bring any time you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even telephone. This Legends: A Novel of Dissimulation having very good arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

David Robinson:

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Leroy Mallett:

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James Snider:

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