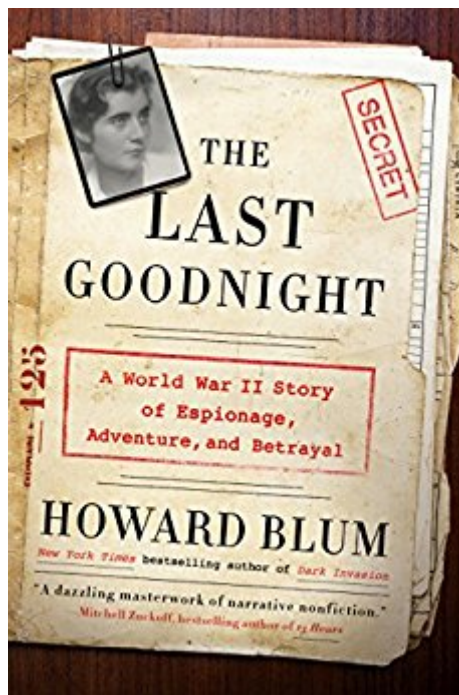




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The Last Goodnight: A World War II Story Of Espionage, Adventure, And Betrayal



Synopsis

The New York Times bestselling author of the acclaimed *Dark Invasion*, channels Erik Larson and Ben Macintyre in this riveting biography of Betty Pack, the dazzling American debutante who became an Allied spy during WWII and was hailed by OSS chief General "Wild Bill" Donovan as "the greatest unsung heroine of the war." Betty Pack was charming, beautiful, and intelligent—and she knew it. As an agent for Britain's MI-6 and then America's OSS during World War II, these qualities proved crucial to her success. This is the remarkable story of this "Mata Hari from Minnesota" (*Time*) and the passions that ruled her tempestuous life—a life filled with dangerous liaisons and death-defying missions vital to the Allied victory. For decades, much of Betty's career working for MI-6 and the OSS remained classified. Through access to recently unclassified files, Howard Blum discovers the truth about the attractive blond, codenamed "Cynthia," who seduced diplomats and military attachés across the globe in exchange for ciphers and secrets; cracked embassy safes to steal codes; and obtained the Polish notebooks that proved key to Alan Turing's success with Operation Ultra. Beneath Betty's cool, professional determination, Blum reveals a troubled woman conflicted by the very traits that made her successful: her lack of deep emotional connections and her readiness to risk everything. *The Last Goodnight* is a mesmerizing, provocative, and moving portrait of an exceptional heroine whose undaunted courage helped to save the world.

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Customer Reviews

The story is a gripping tale of bravery in a troubled time. While the heroin faced many enemies, her greatest challenges were dealing with her own demons. I liked the book because of it's honest approach to the world of International Espionage. A great read!

What an interesting non-fiction treatment of WWII. Very informative. Code-named Cynthia, she marched to the tune of her own drummer and sleeping around for intelligence. Me thinks she enjoyed it too much. She died in her fifties partly from a very unhealthy life-style. Parenting her daughter was not her strong suit by a long ways. Another informative book, although a novel, about another war-- the one in Vietnam-- is PERFECT ICE by Nicholas Mizet. Really good!

An interesting read, but somewhat repetitive ... after a few chapters, her next trist was predictable. Still, gave some interesting insights to the intelligence game and its incredible importance in warfare ... and peacetime. Not a particularly well-written book, imo.

The author tries to answer the question; "Who was Cynthia?" The answer comes on every level...woman, mother, lover...spy. The heroine herself is flawed indeed but her acts are heroic nonetheless. Couldn't put it down.

Betty was a faithful a passionate spy--the only thing in her life she was faithful to. What a perfect job for her. She was an important cog in the spy wheel that helped to defeat the Germans. At the same time she was able to satisfy her own hunger for adventure and passion. Betty is one of those unforgettable true-life characters.

One of the best books I have read in a long time. Kept me enthralled. I had never heard of this woman before, but what a lady!

The first few chapters I found hard to concentrate on but as soon as `Cynthia` threw herself into her

role, I was hooked. Well written and a superb history lesson in spying for your country.

This was a fascinating story of a woman spy during the events prior to and during WW-II. Her position as wife of a British Ambassador afforded her good cover for her many affairs and the performance of her assignments. Her penchant for the excitement and dangerous exploits of her assignments trumped her feeling for her husband, son and daughter. I was surprised by the way she could leave family with no regrets (hardly) and use her womanly charms to further the cause of the espionage assignment. A very good read.

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