

# **The Unlikely Spy Study Guide**

**The Unlikely Spy by Daniel Silva (novelist)**

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# Plot Summary

The *Unlikely Spy*, by Daniel Silva, is the story of a British professor who is enlisted into the British Intelligence Service via his friendship with Winston Churchill and whose actions are instrumental in preserving the secret location of the Allied Invasion in 1944.

The story begins with a murder of an innocent woman in 1938 and heralds the arrival of sleeper spy Anna Steiner into England. Anna is a very intelligent and thorough secret agent who establishes cover in England as Catherine Baker and then waits for six years before she is activated.

Alfred Vicary is a university professor of history who has a longtime friendship with Winston Churchill. In 1940, Vicary is pressed into service as a spy master in MI5 and becomes one of the best in the business at finding German spies. Vicary works for a man called Basil Boothby and is partnered with an ex-London police officer named Harry Dalton. Together with cryptologists, radio listeners, and watchers, these men are very successful in capturing spies. Yet as the Allied forces begin preparation for an invasion, Vicary learns that a spy network MI5 knew nothing about is being activated, and present a danger to the success of the invasion.

With Boothby manipulating the facts and pushing Vicary for results, the team of Dalton and Vicary find themselves racing against time to uncover these sleeper spies and prevent them from reaching their German controllers.

Sean Dogherty is one of these sleeper spies, and he assists Horst Neumann with entrance to the country and a cover at his small farm in the North of England. Jenny Colville, a young woman who often seeks shelter with the Dogherty family when her father is violent, falls in love with Neumann. Sean's wife Mary is not happy that Sean is a spy but does nothing to stop him.

Anna and Neumann make contact in London and Anna learns she is to seduce Peter Jordan, an American engineer who has been tasked with helping the English create the Mulberries or giant concrete structures that will be used in the Allied invasion.

Knowing that the Mulberries will be sunk and used as breakwaters to assist in the invasion is the key to knowing that the invasion will be at Normandy and not Calais. Compromising Jordan, then, becomes the key to the Germans finding out where the invasion will be located.

Anna seduces Jordan and is successful in retrieving the information. As she prepares to transmit this information to the Germans, she also realizes that she is in danger of discovery and arranges to be taken out of England. Vicary and Dalton have indeed figured out who she is and the chase begins.

Neumann is able to extract Anna from London and in a stormy English night along bad roads, the two make their way to Dogherty's farm. Jenny's father is killed there and so is



Sean. Jenny is forced to come with Neumann and Anna because Neumann feels sorry for the girl.

Vicary and his team are in pursuit and when Anna, Neumann, and Jenny board a fishing vessel and head to sea to meet the U-Boat awaiting them, the British are not far behind. Jenny is able to break the engine on the fishing boat, and as the British catch up the two spies are killed before they can board the U-Boat and give away the information about the location of the invasion.

After the war, Vicary is dismissed in disgrace from MI5 but he soon works out what happened. Vicary asks Boothby to visit him at his home in Gloucestershire and learns that has been manipulated by Boothby since the beginning of the operation with the German spies but it was for the good of the country. Vicary retires to his life in Gloucestershire, content that he is no longer just a professor of history but actually a part of it.



# Chapters 1-5

## Chapters 1-5 Summary

In Chapter 1, Beatrice Pymm, a spinster in Suffolk, England, is murdered as she returns home from a day of painting by the river. Her murderer is a woman who is also a German spy. It is November of 1938, and the spy has chosen Beatrice in an intricate plot to enter England unnoticed and become a deep cover spy for Germany. Beatrice is buried in a shallow grave, meant to be discovered, and her face is beaten beyond recognition. The identification papers of a young Dutch woman, the murderer's previous cover, are scattered nearby. After burying Pymm, the spy takes the stolen van to a nearby field and burns it, then leaves on a motorcycle. She is confident that no one will consider the murder and the burning van to be related.

In Chapter 2, the Lauterbach family is gathered at the huge estate in Oyster Bay, New York, and it is August of 1939. All talk at the breakfast table centers upon Hitler's intentions in Europe. Peter Jordan is there, with his wife Margaret, the oldest Lauterbach daughter. Margaret has just informed Peter she is pregnant with their second child. Peter Jordan is a gifted engineer, and loves his wife very much. A guest at the Lauterbach estate is Walker Hardegen, a man who once vied with Peter for Margaret, and works closely with Margaret's father, especially in the family's German interests. Peter leaves Oyster Bay earlier than Margaret, expecting her to join him in New York City that evening for an important dinner with clients. Margaret is killed in a car accident on the way to New York City. Peter is devastated, and at the funeral is angry when some of the mourners are talking during the service. He learns afterwards that they were discussing the news that Germany had just invaded Poland.

Chapter 3 is set in London, in May of 1940. Professor Alfred Vicary is introduced as the unlikely spy, an older man with a long standing friendship with Winston Churchill, who is called into service for MI5 as a spy catcher. Vicary has settled into a dull routine as a professional academic, and is surprised to be brought into the service of his country. Vicary is an eminent professor of history, and has wanted to be a part of the war effort for some time. His secretary and housekeeper are amazed that the man they have been cooking and caring for would be drafted into the military, but many civilians are called to serve England during these desperate times. At first Vicary is considered an oddity at MI5, and somewhat resented by the career men around him, but Vicary emerges as an excellent spy master.

In Chapter 4, Admiral Wilhelm Franz Canaris is on his way to see Hitler, and to attend a meeting of the Führer's staff. At the meeting, the discussion concerns the impending Allied Invasion. Canaris reports from his spies that Calais is the probable landing point. Rommel is of the opinion it will be at Normandy, and Hitler discusses strategy. Hitler assigns Canaris and his spies with finding out the exact landing point Allies will use.



In Chapter 5, it is Spain, in August of 1936. Anna is having an affair with a rich Spaniard named Emelio, and with his daughter Maria, who she met at school. Emelio is a spy recruiter for a man named Kurt Vogel, and Emelio sees the qualities of an excellent spy in Anna.

It is Berlin, in January of 1944, and Kurt Vogel is remembering how he was trained as a lawyer, but could not practice law under Hitler. He thinks of Anna, who he trained to be a spy and then sent to England under deep cover, to await his orders. Vogel is very much like Vicary, in his mannerisms, his thoroughness, and his commitment to his country. Vogel has been instructed by Canaris to activate his spies in England, and to specifically target Anna towards Peter Jordan. Vogel sends his assistant Ulbrecht to Hamburg to send the messages to the spies and to find Horst Neumann.

## Chapters 1-5 Analysis

These first chapters provide the introduction of major characters and an insight into their personalities and motivations. By moving each chapter into a different time and location, the author is setting the reader up for a mix of characters, settings, and emotions. Anna the beautiful spy will be pitted against the aging college professor turned spy master. A disenchanting German lawyer turned spy master against his English counterpart, and against his own ruthless superiors.

Peter Jordan, an emotionally wounded American engineer, is susceptible to seduction by the beautiful Anna. The Allies are pitted against the Axis, with a critical invasion in the offing and an huge operation that needs to be kept absolutely confidential. The author has introduced a variety of likable characters and frightening consequences, motivating the reader to continue turning the pages to discover how these seemingly distant personalities will find their place in the story.



# Chapters 6-11

## Chapters 6-11 Summary

Chapter 6 opens in London with MI5 and Albert Vicary's duties there. He is in charge of locating German spies and either having them executed or turning them for England. One of Vicary's turned spies is Becker, who is located in a prison near London and provided with a radio from which to send reports. Vicary has created a huge imaginary network of spies and activities for Becker to use in transmitting misinformation to the Germans. Vicary meets with his supervisor, Basil Boothby. There is a discussion about military deception, and Boothby confirms to Vicary that Normandy is indeed the landing spot for the invasion. Boothby tells Vicary that he is in charge of the deception and the misinformation regarding the Dover false army, and emphasizes that Vogel and his spies must never learn the truth about the invasion landing spot. Boothby tells Vicary that Churchill wanted Vicary to have the job and he got it over Boothby's strong objections.

Chapter 7 opens in London in 1944. Anna's deep cover is complete, and she calls herself Catherine Baker. She poses as a widow whose husband was killed at the Battle of Britain, and works as a volunteer at the local hospital. Over the years as a deep cover spy, she has worked hard at protecting her identity, and practices her craft of spying and evading followers. She lives simply without lovers or friends. She writes herself letters from imaginary friends so her mail does not look suspicious to her landlord. Every week she listens to the radio provided by the German Abwehr, and is surprised one night to hear a transmission for her to rendezvous with another spy.

In Chapter 8, in the North of England, Sean Dogherty is another German spy listening to his radio. His orders are that he will be receiving a German spy on the nearby beach and is to give him cover and a place to stay. Sean's wife Mary is aware of Sean's activities as a spy and does not approve. That night, as Sean is in the barn listening to his orders, Mary is not surprised to find Jenny Colville at her door, soaked from the rain, running away from her father who beats her. Jenny often goes to a small cave near the beach and hides there as well.

Chapter 9 opens in London, with Vicary remembering how he originally met Churchill and how he worked in the intelligence service for England during the first world war. Vicary is often troubled by the fact that he was injured while attempting to convey some critical information to his superiors during a battle, and because he did not complete his mission, many men died.

Vicary heads to the file room to do some research on Vogel, and meets with Grace there. Grace and Vicary's investigation team partner Harry Dalton, are having an affair. When she retrieves the file for Vicary, he is surprised to find the file is empty. He feels something is seriously amiss at MI5, and suspects that, contrary to the belief of his co-workers, MI 5 has not rounded up all the German spies in England.





In Chapter 10, Denholm Saunders is at Bletchley Park in England, deciphering codes and reading transmissions that have been received. As a mathematician, Saunders is one of the premier cryptologists in the spy business. He notices some anomalies in the usual transmissions, and sends a notice to MI5.

Chapter 11 is the story of Peter Jordan after his wife is killed in a car accident. He is a brilliant engineer and when the invasion plans begin for the Allies, they realize they need to create a way to land on the Normandy beach in bad weather. Jordan is involved in the Phoenix Project, designing and building massive concrete fixtures that will serve as breakwaters in the area off the beach. Jordan is sent to England to take over the project.

## Chapters 6-11 Analysis

In these chapters, the characters are updated to the novel's present time in early 1944. Allied Invasion is definitely scheduled for Normandy Beach and it is critical that the Germans believe it will be Calais. Vicary is under tremendous pressure from Boothby to keep it all under wraps and Vogel has activated Anna. MI 5 knows something is happening but they do not know where the new spy will appear. Jordan's role in the invasion makes him a prime target for the wiles of Anna.

Vicary begins to realize all is not right in his world, and that Boothby is not being truthful. These chapters speak to the alienation and remoteness that successful espionage agents need to develop in their lives. The underlying theme of nationalism is also highlighted in these chapters, as people risk their lives to protect a secret that will help their nation to win a war.



# Chapters 12-19

## Chapters 12-19 Summary

Chapter 12 opens in London. Vicary is meeting with Churchill for a personal update regarding the spies. The British have believed they caught them all and control the remainder, but obviously that is not the case based upon the recently acquired transmissions. Vicary spends hours reviewing all the old transmissions and case files in an attempt to determine where Germany will drop their new spies. After walking in the nasty British rain, he realizes a parachute jump could only happen in good weather, so Vicary contacts the weather service, discovering that the spy has a small window, the next evening, to execute a jump over Britain.

Chapter 13 opens with Sean Dogherty making preparations for the incoming German spy. He builds brush fires on the beach and waits, knowing that his wife Mary has been watching, but not knowing that Jenny Colville had taken refuge in a hiding place to escape her father, and has seen the preparations as well. Back in London, Vicary and his partner Harry are wondering if they have covered all the possible entry points into England, knowing that it is impossible. They decide to go back to their files and research more. A few hours later, a man arrives by parachute.

In Chapter 14, it is Russia in 1925 and a small girl is out hunting deer with her father. She is fifteen and shoots a large buck. She thinks of her mother, who has died of TB, and who asked her to be the son she could not give her father. Anna has been everything to her father, perhaps too close, even sleeping in the same bed with him. Her father has been posted to America and Anna is fiercely protective. Time moves forward to London, in Anna receives more information regarding the German spy she has been instructed to meet. Anna is using the alias of Catherine Blake and is a German spy because Vogel has threatened her once again with her father's safety. Anna has been under deep cover for six years and is somewhat curious and anxious to do some work. She is on her way to meet the contact in Hyde Park. She is wary of everyone she sees.

Horst Neumann is the German spy who has just arrived, and he is working his way towards the meet with Anna. His cover is of a British soldier who was wounded at Dunkirk. Neumann's real name is Nigel Fox, and his childhood was difficult because of his step father. Neumann is a German paratrooper, but was injured in an incident in Paris when he was trying to defend a French woman from German troops. Neumann and Anna make their connection.

In Chapter 15, Harry Dalton is thinking about how frustrating searching for German spies is, and remembers his past experiences with the police department. He takes a moment from his inquiries to see Grace, his lover who works at the Registry Office. He asks Grace to tell him who in the office had access to Vogel's file. He discovers the person is Basil Boothby.



Vicary meets with Boothby every evening to update the director on the status of the case of the German spies. Vicary introduces the theory that Vogel has kept a cell of sleeper spies in Britain. Boothby rejects Vicary's request to update the Americans on the British failure to find the spies, and tells Vicary to renew his efforts.

In Chapter 16, Anna and Neumann go to her flat for the debriefing. She is satisfied that he is not an MI5 agent, and she listens while he tells her of her new assignment, seducing Peter Jordan. Neumann gives her a letter, supposedly from her father, but Anna believes that her father is actually dead. Neumann heads back to stay with Dogherty. While at the Dogherty farm, Neumann keeps in shape by running and bicycling and often sees Jenny Colville as he goes around the town. He knows the girl is attracted to him, but he cannot allow compassion to get in the way of his mission again.

In Chapter 17, it is Gloucestershire, England, and Vicary's aunt has passed away, leaving Vicary as the sole inheritor. His aunt's solicitor is an old friend. After signing the papers, Vicary calls Dalton for an update. Dalton is on the trail of the murdered Beatrice Prymm, which will lead them to Anna. Before Vicary leaves his aunt's house, his solicitor tells him Helen wants to have lunch with him next week.

In Chapter 18, Anna is faced with the monumental task of working her way into Peter Jordan's life. She decides to turn to a London underworld figure, Vernon Pope, for help. A few years before, in her role as a volunteer in the hospital, Anna had earned Vernon's gratitude when she helped to save his brother Robert. When she meets with Vernon and his brother at their warehouse on the East End, Vernon agrees to follow Jordan for 72 hours, as Anna requests. Vernon's mistress, Vivie, passes through the meeting briefly. When Anna leaves, Vernon has her followed, but Anna loses the tail. Vernon tells Vivie everything, and Vivie offers to help find something to use against Anna. The Pope brothers are ruthless and criminal, and want to turn this job into a blackmail setup to make even more money from Anna.

Chapter 19 opens with Robert Pope and his employee, Dicky Dobbs beginning their surveillance of Peter Jordan. Vernon and Robert are surprised at how difficult the chore is, and spend a wild three days following him. The entire time they are conducting the surveillance, the men realize Anna's interest in Jordan is not a simple love affair gone wrong, but probably involves national security. Dicky overhears a conversation concerning women between Jordan and one of his friends. This goes into the report being prepared for Anna.

## Chapters 12-19 Analysis

In these chapters, the author heightens the suspense with Sean Dogherty preparing for the arrival of the German spy. The reader is then provided with the back stories of Anna, who was viciously raped as a young girl, and Neumann, whose dreams of an army career were dashed by his fellow soldiers during another violent rape scene. It is revealed that Anna chose to be a spy to protect her beloved father from harm by the Nazis, but she has adapted well to the secret agent lifestyle.

Anna's employment of the Pope brothers to track Jordan is a dangerous risk to take, and returns the suspense to a high level at the end of this section.



# Chapters 20-24

## Chapters 20-24 Summary

In Chapter 20, Vicary is remembering how he damaged his knees in World War I. He was a courier and had just been given some valuable information. He drove fast on his motorcycle, but the motor broke and he had to push it down the road. Shelling began and one hit him, damaging his legs and putting him into the hospital. He had failed his mission and the important papers fell into the wrong hands. Brought back to the present, Vicary is entering the pub across the street from MI5 headquarters. Harry Dalton is there and asks to speak privately to Vicary. The discussion is about Beatrice Pymm and her unusual death. Dalton has put it together that the death and the burned van are evidence that a spy has entered the country. Unfortunately, although they have figured out the method of entry, Vicary and Dalton have no idea where to find the female spy now. Vicary sends Dalton back to be with Grace, but before he leaves, Dalton confesses he feels strange being in London instead of being on the front. Vicary goes to Boothby again with his recommendation that the Americans be advised of the presence of German spies in England, and again Boothby refuses. The two men have a nasty confrontation over the situation, and Vicary is left with few choices.

In Chapter 21, Anna goes to Pope's warehouse to collect the report on the surveillance. She had demanded that none of Pope's men are there, and he complies. When she pays him for the report, he pulls her into his bedroom where his girlfriend awaits. Anna realizes they plan to sexually assault her then blackmail her because they know she is someone of interest to the police or MI5. Anna plays along for the first few minutes, then uses her training to kill them both.

In Chapter 22, the murders committed by Anna at the Pope warehouse are being investigated by Kidlington and Meadows of the London Police. In the meantime, Robert Pope and Dicky are looking for Anna. They discover an address she gave the hospital, in Islington and head there, ransacking the home and drawing the attention of Meadows to that crime as well. Meadows knows there is a connection.

In Chapter 23, Anna devises a way to meet Jordan, by stepping into his path during the blackout and colliding with him. Her amazing beauty attracts him and he asks her for a drink. She pretends not to be interested in him, therefore arousing his interest even more. Jordan cannot stop thinking about her.

In Chapter 24, Vicary is reviewing his files on the Becker network, where an actual German spy named Becker has been turned to spy for the British and is used to transmit false info to the Germans. In this false information is a series of additional spies, all invented by Vicary for realism. Vicary has massive backstories for all of the spies. Tonight he has traveled the roads that the fictitious lorry driver would have traveled in order to put together a report for Becker to transmit the next day to his German handlers. As Vicary is driven back to London, he sleeps, and he dreams of his



first time making love with Helen. He awakens and thinks of Alice Simpson, the woman who has been his lover for several years.

Vicary arrives at the prison where Becker is kept. Vicary and Becker have a comfortable relationship, and when Vicary shows Becker the photograph of the woman on the Dutch passport found near Beatrice Pymm's body, Becker recognizes Anna. After Becker sends the message to the Germans, he begins talking about Anna. After telling Vicary about her, Becker mentions a special training area for deep undercover spies who were trained in English ways. Vicary discovers that Boothby and Broome had been to see Becker several months before and he had told them the same thing.

Vicary is shocked to learn that Boothby has been keeping this information from him, and is determined to find the appropriate time to confront his supervisor with this knowledge.

## Chapters 20-24 Analysis

In these chapters, the reader is plunged into the emotions of the characters. Vicary is recalling the pain of his failure in the previous war to prevent an important battle, all because he was in a hurry and damaged his courier transportation. Dalton feels guilty about being safe in London while his peers are on the front. Anna is regretting her decision to use the Popes and once again commits murder to protect her own cover. Vicary feels betrayed when he learns that Boothby has been questioning the imprisoned Becker and never told Vicary of his findings.

The author is reminding the reader that this is not just a novel of country against country. It is a story of humans with real human traits of failure, betrayal, feelings of inadequacy, and misplaced devotions. This is a foreshadowing of events and plans that can go horribly wrong and ends with results unsuspected by the reader at this point.



# Chapters 25-29

## Chapters 25-29 Summary

In Chapter 25, Admiral Canaris and Schellenberg, both from rival factions in the German intelligence agencies, are speaking. Although sworn to destroy the other, the two men begin their mornings with a horseback ride. Schellenberg is telling Canaris of some information he has received via a Soviet spy in MI5. The conversation turns to Vicary and Vogel. Schellenberg leaves this meeting to be with Himmler and Hitler, and these two men are interested in Vogel's behavior as well. Himmler assigns Schellenberg to penetrate Vogel's network, even though Hitler has chosen not to replace Canaris just yet.

The distrust and betrayal between Canaris and Schellenberg is clear, and Vogel is unwittingly becoming a major pawn between the two men. Their own careers and power plays are becoming more important to them than the success of the German Intelligence efforts to find out where the invasion is.

In Chapter 26, Anna realizes she has placed herself in danger when she murdered Pope and his girlfriend, but she continues with her mission to seduce Jordan. She goes to the Savoy, where Jordan often meets his friends and he discovers her there. He takes her home and they have an impromptu dinner. She stays in character, tells him she lost her husband early in the war. Anna is surprised at how comfortable she feels with Jordan. As she leaves his apartment, she realizes she is being followed by Robert and Dicky.

It is Germany in 1938 and Anna and Vogel are at the secret spy training camp. They are lovers. Anna believes that if Vogel falls in love with her she will be safe from being sent to England, but he is smarter than her. Vogel is using her instead and tells her to think of the man who hurt her when she was a child. Anna feels betrayed, knowing only her lover Maria knew of that fact, and must have told her father, who told Vogel. The next morning Anna is sent to Holland.

In Berlin in 1944, Vogel receives word that Anna has made a successful contact with Neumann and Jordan. Himmler is advised that Vogel's man Neumann is in the game now. Vogel is tempted to remove Anna to a safe place and protect her from the war, but he realizes she does not love him and never could. He is disappointed in himself that he almost abandoned his wife and children for such a cold hearted woman.

In Chapter 28, Neumann is running on the beach near the Dogherty house, knowing he needs to stay in good shape so he can serve as a courier for Anna. As he runs, he sees Jenny Colville, and she joins him when he is done. Neumann is using the cover name of James Porter, staying with the Dogherty couple to recover from wounds received in battle. Jenny has a crush on him but Neumann cannot afford to have a lover complicate his life at this point. He is angry at the way that Jenny's father treats her.



Chapter 29 shows Vicary in London, giving Boothby an update on the case of the German spies. The report is not good, and Vicary confirms two of his suspicions about Boothby: that Boothby lied about reading the Vogel file, and he kept critical information from Vicary. As the contentious meeting ends, Boothby tells Vicary if there is no progress on the case soon, there will be changes in Vicary's position with MI 5.

## Chapters 25-29 Analysis

Whereas the previous chapters were centered upon those characters operating in England, this section returns the reader to the minds and actions of the Germans. Even with warring intelligence officers and Hitler the madman at the helm, the Germans are not incompetent. Anna and Neumann are resourceful and ruthless in their pursuit to obtain vital information. Hitler and his officers will stop at nothing to win the war.

The author has provided the reader with sympathetic characters on both sides now, creating an atmosphere of increased tension, suspense, and doubt concerning the Allies' success.





# Chapters 30-38

## Chapters 30-38 Summary

In Chapter 30, Anna has sex with Peter Jordan and while he is sleeping, begins her work as a spy. She is able to enter his safe and she takes photographs and impressions of his house keys. Jordan is completely unaware and they make plans to meet the next night. Anna makes her connection with Neumann. Neumann completes his assignments, enjoying his brief time in London, and then goes back to the Dougherty farm. Anna is amazed at how much she likes being with Jordan, but she does not let it dissuade her from her mission. As she was in his study, she kept her gun on the table, ready to kill Jordan if he had entered the room before she was finished.

In Chapter 31, Hitler is getting a briefing from Canaris concerning the information provided by Anna. The Germans know uncovering the secret of Operation Mulberry is the key to the landing site for the invasion. There is still a question as to whether the large concrete blocks are breakwaters or an anti-aircraft operation designated for a port landing. The answer to the Mulberries will provide the answer to the location of the invasion so it is critical to the Germans that Anna continue her espionage.

In Chapter 32, Anna is recognized on the bus by a woman who served as her father's cook in London from years before. Anna knows that this woman would begin asking questions and perhaps talk to someone else about seeing Anna, and her entire operation and cover could be blown after all this work. Anna makes a decision and murders the woman in a small stand of trees near her house.

In Chapter 33, Harry Dalton has been researching Anna's past and discovers the names of people who worked for her father during his stay in London. After much research and investigation, Dalton has the names of people who are still in London, and has chosen the cook to question first. Just then he learns that she is the latest murder victim in London. Dalton calls Vicary and begins investigation of the murder, knowing they are now hot on the trail of Anna. When Dalton leaves work for the night, he goes to spend the night with Grace and tells her everything. He does not know that she will not keep these secrets to herself.

In Chapter 34, a meeting between the British and American engineers regarding the Mulberry Project results in Jordan being sent to the construction sites to figure out how to hurry things along. It is three months before the designated D-Day. Jordan often brings secret documents home in his briefcase, locking them away in a safe. His house had been secured by MI5 and he has not informed them that he has taken a lover.

In Chapter 35, Harry's investigation of the cook's murder obtains some solid leads, and he now knows his suspect is a very tall, very attractive woman. Anna is preparing for her evening with Jordan when he calls to tell her he has to cancel. She arranges to be at his house at 11pm, and as she leaves the taxi, Dobbs attempts to run over her with his van.



Jordan saves her life, and tells her he loves her. Vicary meets with Boothby again to update him on the investigation. When Vicary leaves his office, Boothby makes a phone call to an unknown person advising them of the situation.

At Jordan's house, Anna has slipped from the bedroom and photographed the contents of the briefcase and notebook Jordan brought home that night. She is almost discovered, but was willing to shoot Jordan if necessary. Anna knows that her work is vital to the success of Germany's war efforts, and knows as soon as this mission is over she needs to escape from England. She photographs a note saying "get me out" as part of the film she is sending to Vogel.

In the investigation of the Pope murders, Dalton's team confront Dobbs and find Robert Pope alive inside the van. This is a tremendous break for Dalton and Vicary.

In Chapter 36, Dalton's investigation reveals that Anna had hired the Popes to trail Peter Jordan. When Vicary finds out who Jordan is, MI5 and American Intelligence forces are thrown into chaos. Anna meets Neumann and advises him to be prepared to pull her out at a moment's notice.

Vicary meets with Boothby who tells him the details of Jordan's involvement with Operation Mulberry and the Phoenix concrete structures. Vicary is appalled to learn that Jordan has been taking secret documents home.

Neumann makes his drop and decides to take the bookshop girl up on her earlier offer of coffee. Vicary and Dalton put Jordan into their custody.

In Chapter 37, the interrogation of Peter Jordan is conducted by Vicary, and Dalton is impressed with the skill used by the older man. During the questioning, Jordan mentions his friend Shep Ramsey, his old rival Walker Hardegen. When Vicary breaks away, he is ushered into an adjoining room where Churchill, Eisenhower and Boothby are waiting to talk to him. The men decide that Jordan should continue seeing Anna, feeding her misinformation, and allowing them to track down her network. Jordan is unhappy with the situation but realizes he must do as they ask.

In Chapter 38, Vogel presents his findings to Hitler and his commanders. He is told that his operative, Anna, must stay in place. Vogel realizes he is being used as a pawn between two of the intelligence commanders, and must be careful. He is staying with his wife and children in Bavaria, for a brief reunion with them, and his wife is horrified that Himmler has come to her house. Vogel tells her he has no choice but to cooperate or the entire family will suffer.

## Chapters 30-38 Analysis

These chapters are action-filled and moves the plot on a brisk pace. Jordan and Anna begin their affair and the team of Vicary and Dalton are closing in to Anna's location and purpose.



There is a great deal of information in these chapters that will be vital in the reader's ability to follow the twists and turns in those that follow. The author uses terse language, heavy dialogue and rapid movement from character to character to pull the reader from the history of the characters to a time of action and quick moves.



# Chapters 39-42

## Chapters 39-42 Summary

Chapter 39 begins with the setup of Operation Kettledrum, which is designed to track Anna through the use of her affair with Jordan. The watchers consistently lose Anna, and Vicary realizes she is a very gifted spy. Jordan arranges to meet her and the listeners know she has photographed the misinformation placed in Jordan's briefcase. Dalton asks Grace for a search on some names provided by Vicary, and Grace tells Boothby about the request.

In Chapter 40, Boothby takes Vicary to meet some of his operatives, Pelican and Hawke. Vicary sees another side of Boothby this night, and learns that Pelican is a double agent working also for Schellenberg of the Abwehr.

In Chapter 41, Anna is traveling to meet her new contact, who is Horst Neumann. Anna is sure she is being followed, but does not catch anyone doing it. Vicary learns Anna has evaded her watchers again, and knows instinctively that she has made a drop. He is overcome with feelings of failure.

In Chapter 42, Vogel is with Canaris, on the way to another meeting with Hitler. In the meeting, Vogel tells the group that Mulberries, the large concrete structures, are actually an anti-aircraft complex, and this means Calais is the invasion point. Hitler is not convinced. Hitler and Himmler meet afterwards and they agree that Canaris is a traitor who is working Vogel. That night, while Vogel is with his family, Himmler, and Schellenberg show up and tell Vogel that he must work against Canaris.

## Chapters 39-42 Analysis

In these chapters, the reader learns that things are not always as they seem and that Vicary is not as smart as we have been led to believe. Subterfuge and treachery are afoot, as our hero Vicary seems to be outwitted by Anna, by Boothby and by Vogel. This is a low point for the story and the author is preparing the reader for any outcome.



# Chapter 43-46

## Chapter 43-46 Summary

Chapter 43 opens three weeks after Vicary has ordered the tail on Anna, and so far they have been unable to see her make the drop. Dalton and Vicary begin looking at the photographs taken and see the same man in three of the photos.

In Chapter 44, Neumann is back at the Dougherty place, and he and Sean have stopped into the local pub after a hard bicycle ride. Neumann tells Sean they may soon need to activate the escape plan for the German spy in London. Jenny's father is in the pub, drinking, and Colville tells Neumann to stay away from his daughter. A fight ensues, and Neumann suffers some injuries but wins. Jenny comes to him that night and crawls into bed with him to sleep.

In Chapter 45, Vogel is aware he is being watched by the Gestapo and thinks of how he has been forced now to gather evidence against Canaris, expose any double agents, any deception by British Intelligence, and work harder to bring the Nazis into power. He remembers why he stopped being a lawyer under Hitler, and wonders now how he will justify to himself his actions to help Hitler.

In Chapter 46, Vicary finally meets Helen for lunch. She asks him to be her lover, and he declines, then realizes she was once Boothby's lover. As he walks back to his office he takes a longer route and just before the blackout begins, he sees Grace get into a car with Boothby. When Vicary gets back to the surveillance headquarters, he and Jordan have a revealing discussion as well.

## Chapter 43-46 Analysis

After the dark moments in the previous chapters, suddenly Vicary and Dalton are beginning to see some light in their investigations. Anna and Neumann are both committing serious errors. Just as tension heightens again, the author introduces a digression for Vicary, an opportunity to enter into an affair with his longtime love, Helen.

Vicary could, at this moment, turn away from his pursuit of the spies and live out his dream as Helen's mate. Yet this unlikely spy and aging college professor turns his entire attention and energy towards saving his country rather than himself.



# Chapters 47-50

## Chapters 47-50 Summary

In Chapter 47, MI5 agent Clive Roach is following Anna. Neumann is headed towards London on a train, preparing to meet with Anna. Clive's assignment is to follow Neumann, named Rudolf by MI5. Clive sees the exchange, and after the handoff, Neumann begins following Anna, and Clive following Neumann. Anna knows Neumann is following her but does not know why. A few hours later, Neumann is convinced Anna is being followed by MI5. Neumann decides to approach Anna and talk to her. This surprises the MI5 agents completely. Vicary knows the German spies realize their cover has been exposed, and he wants to arrest them immediately. Boothby delays. Neumann and Anna leave their meeting with a plan for escaping London.

In Chapter 48, Mary Dogherty is thinking about the offer Neumann made to Sean to escape with him and the other spy. As she is looking out over the rainy landscape, Jenny Colville arrives at the door, looking for Neumann. Mary tells the young woman to stay away from him, that he is not what he seems and he cannot love her. Jenny runs out, saying she knows that Neumann loves her. She returns home, avoiding her father.

In Chapter 49, Clive realizes he has lost Neumann, the man MI 5 calls Rudolf. He stops the train and gets off. Vicary waits for clearance from Boothby to pull Anna immediately, but the approval comes too late. Neumann rescues Anna and they escape, but not before Harry grabs the radio Anna was carrying. Harry is injured.

In Chapter 50, Vicary is called into Boothby's office and Boothby makes it clear Vicary will take the blame for the German spies escaping. Vicary goes to the file room and requests that Grace brings him the Kettledrum file. It is empty.

## Chapters 47-50 Analysis

These chapters take the reader into the mind of many of the minor characters in this story, Clive Roach the follower, Mary Dogherty the long suffering wife, and Jenny Colville, the young abused woman who has fallen in love with Neumann. These characters have a very limited view of the big picture of the novel, but move the plot along critical lines, and assist the author in telling the story in ways he otherwise could not.



# Chapters 51-52

## Chapters 51-52 Summary

In Chapter 51, Neumann and Anna make their way to the Dougherty farm in the darkness, avoiding the main roads. Sean opens the barn for them and they discuss the escape plans. The German spies do not realize Jenny's father, still suffering from the indignity of being beaten by Neumann in front of the entire town, has seen them pass by on the road and then followed, overhearing the entire conversation. Colville has his shotgun and is entering the barn. Jenny has heard her father leave the house and has followed close behind.

Chapter 52 opens with Charlotte Endicott, a Wren listener at her post about one hundred miles north of the Dougherty farm, near the spot the German spies need to be in order to reach their U-boat. Charlotte hears a signal and knows instinctively it is a spy on the coast contacting the U-boat. The captain of the U-boat begins preparations to pick up their spies from England. The weather over England is very bad, and the submarine captain has no idea what sort of craft the escaping spies will be arriving in; at the same time, Schellenberg and Vogel have been advised that the spies are coming out, and the two men have arrived at their offices to await the news. A great deal depends on the messages received by Neumann and Anna and the fate of the Germany and the war is at stake.

## Chapters 51-52 Analysis

The chase begins, time is critical, danger is imminent. The author uses the driving rain, the dark of night and the difficult English roads to enhance the torturous route Anna and Neumann must travel as they flee from MI5. Just as the reader begins to think the German spies will escape, a Wren listener with excellent judgment comes on duty and overhears the U-Boat contact.



# Chapters 53-56

## Chapters 53-56 Summary

Chapter 53 returns to the Dogherty farm where Colville shoots first at Neumann, missing him, then kills Sean Dogherty. Neumann and Anna both fire on Colville and kill him. Mary rushes in and Anna almost shoots her, but Neumann stops her from doing so. Jenny, unknown to everyone in the barn, is seeing everything. Jenny debates whether to go to the village and call for the police or hide first. She realizes that Neumann will find her dad's bike and then her own as they are lying side by side. She decides to hide. Neumann begins searching for her and Anna takes Mary into the house to tie her up.

Chapter 54 introduces Arthur Braithwaite, the man in charge of Submarine Tracking for the British Navy. Braithwaite reads two dispatches, one being Vicary's alert for Neumann and Anna, and the other is Charlotte Endicott's message interception.

In Chapter 55, Jenny runs to her hiding place near the dunes, thinking she is safe but Neumann had figured that out long before. He brings her back to the cottage, ties her up and puts her in the van. Anna is not happy about bringing Jenny along, dead or alive.

In Chapter 56, Braithwaite realizes that U-509 is the submarine designated to pick up the German spies. He has his staff contact Vicary.

## Chapters 53-56 Analysis

A series of unexpected events combine to make the German plans known to those who can change the course of history. The submarine tracking commander realizing why a U-Boat has maneuvered closer to the English shore, and Jenny Colville seeing her father murdered are both events that will play critical roles in the plot





# Chapters 57-58

## Chapters 57-58 Summary

In Chapter 57, Vicary is staring at a map of Britain, trying desperately to figure out where the sub will be meeting the spies. Vicary meets with Boothby, trying to determine the best way to get Vicary to the location during the terrible weather in time. Just then a series of calls are received. Braithwaite informs Vicary about the lurking sub off the coast of Lincolnshire, and an alert policeman has found Mary Dogherty and the bodies of Colville and Sean. Mary does not know where the spies went, but knows they are in a black van.

In Chapter 58, Anna and Neumann are making their way through the bad weather, poor roads and black night to reach their destination. While they drive, they talk about their pasts. Anna tells Neumann everything, about her real name, the fact Vogel threatened her father to make her become a spy, and then she falls asleep, dreaming about the man who raped her when she was a child. Neumann wakes her abruptly from her sleep, saying that they are in trouble.

## Chapters 57-58 Analysis

Anna's dream of her childhood trauma is symbolic in these chapters. She has been honest with Neumann about everything, and it has opened her psyche to allowing herself to think about the single most defining event of her life: being raped by a poacher. This gives the reader insight into her cold remoteness, a last look at the circumstances that brought her to a life of espionage.

Conversely, things are coming together for Vicary. Well-timed messages, his vast knowledge of history and his excellent instincts propel Vicary to move his team towards the exact spot where Anna and Neumann are headed.



# Chapters 59-60

## Chapters 59-60 Summary

In Chapter 59, Neumann and Anna encounter a police blockade. Jenny makes some noise in the back of the van, and all of the police officers are killed by Anna and Neumann. Neumann piles the bodies in the old van and he, Anna and Jenny transfer to the police van. In the next blockades, the fugitives are waved through without stopping. They reach the docks and take the fishing boat Camille. Vicary traces them down and sends Dalton, Jordan and Clive to follow them in a police boat. The weather has become increasingly worse. Although the spies have no way of signaling the U-boat, it has moved closer to the shore and is watching for them. The British Navy has sent two of its fast boats, called Corvettes, to search for the U-boat and for the Camille, but the police boat is much closer to the actual site. However, with the stormy weather and the darkness of night, no one can see the Camille, not even the U-Boat.

In Chapter 60, Neumann knows the U-Boat will never find them in this weather if he does not turn on the Camille's lights. As soon as he does, the U-Boat and the British police boat occupants see them and race towards them. Although the British police boat does not have weapons, Jordan, Roach and Dalton decide to ram the Camille to prevent them from reaching the U-boat before the Corvette arrives. Jenny, tied up in the bottom of the boat, has seen the British police boat and the U-Boat and realizes if she must do something even if it causes her own death. She works her way towards the bottom of the fishing boat, to the engine, and maneuvers a hammer into the engine, causing it to stop. The fishing boat slows, allowing the British Corvette to come close enough to shoot Neumann and Anna before they reach the U-Boat. Jenny is thrown from the boat and almost drowns, but Jordan and Harry jump in to save her. Before Jordan can be pulled from the water, the sinking fishing boat takes him down.

## Chapters 59-60 Analysis

The peak of action is achieved in these chapters, with the plot's conflict coming to a violent and unexpected head. Using the bad weather, the darkness and so many unknowns for Vicary's team, the reader's suspense level is kept at high until the very last moment when Anna and Neumann are killed by the British team on the corvette. Surprisingly, Jordan is also lost in this confrontation, giving his life to save another.

The characters are true to themselves and the final scene of the chase across Britain is believable and well written.



# Chapters 61-62

## Chapters 61-62 Summary

In Chapter 61, Vogel is meeting with Schellenberg in Berlin, and it is April of 1944. They are discussing the disaster of losing Anna and Neumann. Canaris has been removed from power. Schellenberg shares the latest intelligence he has received from their inside man in MI5, and Vogel admires the deception that was perpetrated by the upper ranks of MI5. Vicary has been removed from office and blamed for the existence of the German spies.

Chapter 62 is Jordan's funeral. Dorothy Lauterbach, Margaret's mother, and now caretaker of Billy Jordan, reads a letter written to Billy from Alfred Vicary. Vicary tells Billy that Peter Jordan was a hero. Dorothy looks out the window of her estate and sees her other daughter Jane sitting with Walker Hardegen, and with Billy. Dorothy thinks about how life continues, no matter what happens.

## Chapters 61-62 Analysis

These two chapters reveal the human sides of Vogel and Vicary, men who had never met, but knew each other very well. Both were men who had other occupations before being pressed into service for their countries, and they performed well above the expectations of their co-workers and supervisors. Both suffered badly from betrayals of their own ranks, but maintained their dignity and self purpose. Vogel has managed to emerge from the war with his family safe in another country. Vicary has retained his humanity enough to write a poignant and heartfelt letter to the Jordan's son Billy.



# Chapters 63-64

## Chapters 63-64 Summary

In Chapter 63, it is September of 1944, and Alfred Vicary has been thrown out of MI5. He has gone to his Aunt Matilda's house to live, and returns to his old ways of academia, although he has declined an invitation to return to his old professorship. He spends his days in his garden, reading, and misses MI5 very much. One day he realizes the entire scope of his work at MI5, and calls Boothby, asking him to come visit him in Gloucestershire. Boothby arrives, and as the two men walk along the gardens, Boothby tells Vicary he has guessed the truth.

The upper ranks of MI 5 needed to ensure that no one ever figured out the ruse of the false army in Dover. They devised a clever and intricate plan involving the deep cover German spies, Vogel, and Jordan. The entire purpose was to pit Schellenberg against Canaris, thereby causing chaos within the ranks of the intelligence officers for Hitler. Vicary was used because he was a dedicated man who was methodical and thorough.

In Chapter 64, it is London, May of 1945, and Vicary has come to his old haunts to see what London looks like now that the war is over. He walks alone through the streets, remembering all that happened. He goes by Helen's house and sees her through the window, once again on her husband's arm. Vicary calls his old girlfriend Alice Simpson and asks her to come stay with him in Gloucestershire. As he rides in a taxi back to the train station, he thinks of Boothby and as the novel ends, Vicary is gazing at his own reflection in the window of the cab.

## Chapters 63-64 Analysis

These chapters represent the denouement. The war is over, Vicary has been drummed out of MI5 and returned to his own world. After much contemplation, he demands to be told the truth, and Boothby complies. Vicary learns he was not betrayed but manipulated for what his country deemed was a greater purpose. During the same time he learns how wise he was not to engage in an affair with Helen.

Now Vicary is not just a bystander studying history, but he has also been a part of making it.



# Characters

## Professor Alfred Vicary

Alfred Vicary is the protagonist of this novel and is the man the author considers an "unlikely spy." An entrenched academic and professor of history at University College, Vicary is pulled into the war efforts by his longtime friend Winston Churchill. His thoroughness and attention to detail, combined with his World War I experience as a courier in the intelligence service for Britain, brings Vicary into MI5, and he is assigned the task of locating German spies.

Vicary's lessons in history alerted him to the dangers of Hitler well before the rest of Europe was fully aware. Suddenly, as the threat of war increases, Vicary's life changes from the dull and practiced routine of a college professor to a vital member of MI5's efforts to eradicate British soil of German infiltrators.

Vicary was one of the thousands of British citizens pulled into the war efforts, supplementing the career military and sometimes resented for their lack of specific military experience. Vicary soon discovers that Sir Basil Boothby, his supervisor at MI5, is a career intelligence professional who respects Vicary, but minimizes his abilities because he is a professor.

Vicary's romantic past is limited. He was in love with a beautiful woman named Helen when he was younger, but was discarded when her father did not approve of Vicary's meager earning potential as a historian. As the story opens, Vicary has a long standing relationship with a woman named Alice Simpson but is not married.

Vicary is the unlikely spy catcher because he is an academic of long standing, entrenched in his routines, injured from the previous British war, and past the age of traditional espionage agents. His country needs him, he has a contribution to make, and he steps into the role with vigor and passion.

In the story, Alfred Vicary is thrust into the intelligence service in 1940, rising in ranks quickly, and becomes the man in charge of locating German agents in Britain, and either turning them into double agents or ordering their execution.

As the plans for the Allied Invasion of Europe coalesce, it becomes critical to deceive the Germans about the landing site. The Allies have chosen Normandy, but have created an elaborate ruse for the Germans to believe the site is Calais. Vicary's network of double agents and the belief that there are no German spies operating on British soil is the key to the success of this deception. However, intercepted transmissions and the behavior of certain people who are being watched indicate there is an unknown factor, sleeper agents, at work.

Vicary works his spies, reviews his files, and desperately tries to figure out where and when the additional spies will arrive in England. He is teamed with Harry Dalton, a



London detective who has, like Vicary, been pulled from his regular duties to assist in the war effort.

Soon it becomes obvious to Vicary that his German counterpart, Vogel, has activated a sleeper cell network and the target of their attention is Peter Jordan, a brilliant American engineer who has been put in charge of a critical phase of the invasion plans.

Vicary discovers that Anna has established contact with Peter Jordan and has already stolen some vital information concerning the invasion. Vicary and Dalton work every angle of the case, and it consumes their time. While this crisis is occurring, Vicary gets a visit from his old love Helen, is betrayed by his boss Boothby, and pushes himself to the limits physically and emotionally.

Vicary and his team are able to prevent the Germans from knowing that Calais is not the intended target but the mistakes made by MI5 in this case are all blamed on Vicary. He is asked to leave MI5 and he goes to Gloucestershire to live in the home left to him by his recently deceased aunt.

As Vicary contemplates the time he spent in service to his country, he realizes he was manipulated by MI5 and Boothby just as intricately and well as he manipulated the double agents in his charge. Vicary contacts Boothby and invites him to visit him in Gloucestershire, to tell him the truth. Boothby confirms everything Vicary suspected, that he and Dalton were used to ensure Canaris and Vogel and Schellenberg, all German intelligence officers, were so consumed with the sleeper cells that they were diverted from investing more time and manpower to discover the truth about the Dover deception.

Vicary returns to his former academic life, gives up on Helen forever and restarts his relationship with Alice Simpson, and realizes he has learned an important personal life lesson via his wartime efforts

## **Anna Katarina von Steiner/Catherine Blake**

Anna was born in London to an English mother and a German father. Her mother died when she was very young, and Anna began devoting her life to pleasing her father. When Anna was a young teenager, she was raped by a poacher on her father's land in Germany. She never told anyone of this event, but it shaped her life forever.

Anna grew up to be a strikingly beautiful woman who felt nothing for anyone except her father. She has a summer affair with a young Spanish woman, and at the same time, with the woman's father. The father, Emelio, recognizes that Anna has the emotional detachment necessary for a spy, and the beauty to seduce and thereby influence any man. Emelio sends her to Kurt Vogel, who trains her to be a sleeper spy, and sends her to England for deep undercover work. Anna is an excellent candidate as a secret agent, but Vogel ensures her loyalty to the German cause by threatening to kill her father if she does not complete her missions.



Anna arrives in England with the cover of a Dutch woman who is on holiday. Soon after, Anna murders Beatrice Pymm, allowing her to shed the Dutch tourist cover and assume a new one, that of Catherine Blake, a widowed woman of middle class means, who does volunteer work for a London hospital. Five years pass, and Anna uses her time to further deepen her cover and learn her craft.

Anna feels nothing when she is required to murder Beatrice, then her old nanny, then a local criminal and his girlfriend. When tasked with seducing Peter Jordan, Anna is pleased that he is young and handsome but she would have done whatever necessary to save her father. Her father is the only person she loves.

Anna's knowledge of evading followers and working with a fellow agent are put to the test when Neumann arrives as her contact for the material she gathers from Jordan's private papers.

Anna and Neumann are discovered through excellent detective work by Dalton and Vicary, and Neumann rescues Anna, taking her to Sean Dogherty's farm on the coast of England.

As Anna and Neumann attempt escape through the night, Anna dreams of the man who raped her when she was a child, the man who set her on the course of her life of dispassion and alienation. Anna is shot by the British just as she is about to board the German U-Boat sent to rescue her.

## **Peter Jordan**

Peter Jordan is an American engineer who was originally married to Margaret Lauterbach, a wealthy woman from New York. Before the war began, Margaret, pregnant with their second child, is killed in an automobile accident. Jordan throws himself into his work, and becomes well known for building unique bridges and fortifications. When the Allied forces plan their invasion of Normandy, a particularly clever engineering feat will be required, and Jordan is brought to England to work on it. Anna makes contact with Jordan and steals some secrets before Vicary discovers her presence. Jordan is alerted to the fact he has fallen in love with a German spy and cooperates, even participating in the pursuit of Anna and Neumann when they attempt to flee England. Jordan jumps into the ocean to save Jenny Colville and drowns.

## **Kurt Vogel**

Vogel is a German citizen who was originally trained as a lawyer, but realized he could not practice law under Hitler's regime. He turns instead to being a German secret agent and operates a network of spies. Some of his spies are sleepers, sitting in place in foreign countries awaiting activation. Anna is chosen as this type of spy, but before he sends her to England, Vogel sleeps with Anna, and falls in love with her. For a time he considers giving up his wife and children for Anna but at the end he realizes Anna



cannot love anyone so he saves his family by sending them to Switzerland as the intelligence network falls apart. Vogel is used as a tool by Canaris and Schellenberger.

## **Basil Boothby**

Sir Basil Boothby is a career military intelligence officer who works for MI5, in the upper echelon of that entity. Boothby runs his own operators, manages several teams of British agents and directs Vicary and Dalton. Basil's reputation is that of a womanizer, a wealthy and ambitious man, and a networker in the system of spies. Boothby causes Vicary just as much grief as Vogel does and Boothby is on the same side as Vicary.

## **Jenny Colville**

Jenny lives in the same village as Sean and Mary Dogherty. Her father is an angry man, raising her on his own, and strikes her when he is drunk. Jenny often goes to Mary for comfort and stays at the Dogherty house when her father is especially difficult. Sometimes Jenny sleeps in a little cave near the seashore, and it is where she is staying one evening when she sees Sean preparing a series of bonfires on the beach. Jenny falls in love with Neumann, who she believes is an injured British soldier staying with the Dogherty family. One night soon after Neumann and Colville get into a serious fight, Jenny follows her father to the Dogherty farm and watches in horror as Neumann and Anna shoot her father, Sean, and then tie up Mary. Jenny is taken as a hostage, against Anna's better judgment, and thrown in the back of the police van, then the small fishing vessel they use to meet the U-Boat. It is Jenny who causes the engine on the boat to stop, thus allowing the British to prevent the Germans from acquiring the knowledge Neumann and Anna would have given them.

## **Horst Neuman**

Horst is a career German soldier who was injured in a bar room brawl with some fellow Nazis, and was recruited by Vogel to become a secret agent. Neumann is perfectly suited for the job, because he blends into crowds, is calm and powerful, and thinks ahead. Neumann cares about Jenny and saves her from Anna's gun. In doing so, he causes his own death.

## **Admiral Canaris**

Canaris is the head of German secret intelligence and is not a fictional character. His arch enemy is Schellenberger with the fate of the network of German spies at stake.





## **Harry Dalton**

Harry is a British police officer who has been called into service for his country during the war, partnering with Vicary in the investigation of the German spy network.

## **Grace Clarendon**

Grace is one of the female file clerks at MI5, and is having an affair with Harry. Grace plays a critical role as the woman who has access to confidential information, and she is manipulated by Vicary, Harry and Boothby, all for their own reasons.

## **Becker**

Becker is a German spy turned by Vicary into a tool of the British MI5 for sending misinformation to the Germans. Becker is in prison and provided with his confiscated German radio at those times that Vicary needs messages sent to the Germans. Becker is being used by Boothby as well, and Vicary does not discover this until some time after Becker has been turned.

## **Sean Dogherty**

Sean is an older man whose brother was killed in a confrontation with British police. His decision to become a German spy was based on this incident. Sean is drawn into the German spy network more seriously when Neumann needs a place to land and a cover for his activities.

## **Winston Churchill**

Winston Churchill is an actual historic figure who is used in this novel to interact with the fictitious characters. Churchill was the prime minister of England during World War II, and in the novel, a close friend of Vicary, instrumental in promoting Vicary to being a key player in the search for German spies.



# Objects/Places

## Berlin

Berlin is the capital of Germany and was the Headquarters for the Nazi regime. In this novel, it is the location for many of the meetings for Vogel and his superiors, and the place Anna considers home.

## MI5

MI5 is the name designation for British Intelligence. In the novel, it is where Vicary, Boothby, and Dalton are employed and their German counterpart is Abwehr.

## Abwehr

Abwehr is the name designation for Nazi Intelligence. At the time of the novel, Abwehr is controlled by Canaris, but undermined by the distrust of Hitler and the competition from Schellenberger. Kurt Vogel is an unwitting pawn in the power struggle for Abwehr.

## London

London is the capital of England, and serves as Headquarters for MI5. It is the operating arena for Anna.

## Espionage

Gathering intelligence concerning enemy countries is called espionage. During pre-war and wartime eras, espionage is critical in discovering the future moves of an enemy.

## Phoenix Project/Mulberries

Mulberries are massive concrete structures designed to serve as breakwaters in the invasion of Normandy beaches. Phoenix Project was the name of the project of creating and transporting the Mulberries across the English Channel to be sunk before the invasion began.

## Spy radios

Espionage during World War II required transmission of information over secret radios, owned and hid by the spies using them. The radios were tuned to specific frequencies,



and the spies were directed to exact dates and times for receiving and transmitting signals.

## **World War II**

World War II is the name historians have given to the international conflict that began with Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939 and ended with victories of the Allies over Germany and Japan by 1945. In this novel, it is the backdrop of historical events and an important plot device for the action and immediacy for the characters.

## **Dogherty Farm**

This simple English farm served as the base of a German spy operation that was critical to the success of the Allied Invasion. Sean Dogherty was a sleeper spy called into action when Neumann parachuted to a beach nearby, and operated until Anna needed to be pulled from England.

## **Neumann/Colville fight**

The fist fight between Neumann and Jenny's father was a catalyst in the plot of the novel. If Neumann had not allowed his compassion for Jenny Colville to affect him, he would never have aroused the suspicions of her humiliated father. As a result of this fight, Colville followed the van carrying Anna and Neumann. Jenny followed her father and was forced to come along with Anna and Neumann. Jenny damaged the engine on the boat, giving the British sufficient time to kill Anna and Neumann before they reached the U-Boat.

## **Boothby's Office**

Boothby's office was a reflection of the man himself. It was located behind a pair of massive oak doors, and a light over the doors indicated whether or not Boothby was receiving visitors. It was common for the man to make his visitors wait. The room itself was massive, expensively decorated, and served to display Boothby's position and power.

## **MI5 file room**

The file room for British Intelligence was a product of its era, with all information on paper, securely fastened to brown file folders. Files were recorded as checked out or checked in, and were managed by a force of females who scurried about the building and the file room, filing, recording, and placing the files back into their appropriate places in the file cabinets



# Themes

## Nationalism

The Unlikely Spy is a story about the world at war and the people from those nations who have joined together to fight. The characters in this novel are primarily from England and Germany, pitted against each other for their very existence. Germany is intent upon invading England and adding the British Isles to its empire and England is fighting with everything it has.

The people of Britain are steadfast and grim. Every citizen is doing what they can for the war effort. In Germany, the people are fearful and the ruling Nazis are ruthless and determined to win. German citizens are forced to serve as spies in order to keep their families from being murdered.

Nationalism is the tendency of humans to defend their national place of origin. Such defense can be executed as a soldier, a volunteer for an organization that is helping the war effort, monetary contributions, or as a collector of secrets from other nations. Vicary was a college professor who decided not to take the safe route by using his age and his academic status to escape service for his country. When pulled into the MI5, Vicary totally immerses himself in his dedication to saving his country.

Vogel is German and trained as a lawyer. When he sees the scope of Hitler's Germany and attitude towards law, he realizes he could never enforce that law in his heart, but cannot desert his country either. By becoming a spy master, Vogel assuages his own conscience about his country.

Dalton's form of nationalism is to serve in the intelligence community as an investigator, using the skills he developed as a police officer in London. To Dalton, this service is not as valuable as those on the frontline but he is instrumental in making the way easier for his own countrymen who landed on the beaches at Normandy.

The women in this novel do not appear to be as driven by nationalism as the men. Anna is a spy because if she had said no to Vogel her father would have been shot. Helen is a bored rich wife whose husband has been called away to war, and she wants to take a lover rather than be faithful to him. Grace also has a husband in the war and a lover in London. Mary Dogherty is an English woman whose husband is a German spy, yet she does nothing to prevent him from carrying out his duties. Jenny Colville is the only woman who does anything for her country voluntarily and at great risk when she damages the boat engine Anna and Neumann are using to escape England.

The author presents a theme of nationalism as a strong trait in all his characters and the critical component in his plot. The characters in this novel are all compelled to go beyond their normal experience, risk their lives and those of others, push their



imaginations and creativity beyond a breaking point, and give everything they have for the sake of their respective countries.

## Heroism

In *The Unlikely Spy*, there are many heroes, some quite obvious, some less so. A hero is someone who risks harm to themselves in order to save others. During war, risks and danger are ever present, and the opportunity to become a hero is more available than during peace. However, the choice to step up and take action requires the same amount of courage, whether the action is to jump into water to save a drowning person or choose a career that means constant danger of exposure while obtaining secrets that will save your country.

Anna was an unwilling hero to the Nazis. She was an excellent spy and died trying to accomplish her mission, even though she was only in that job because if she had not acquiesced to perform it, her father would have been killed.

Vicary is heroic in his departure from the safety of academia to assist his country by becoming a spy master for MI5. Harry Dalton became heroic the moment he reached for Anna's radio and hung on even though she tried to kill him. Peter Jordan jumped into the angry ocean to save a drowning girl., Neumann fought with Jenny's father to make a point. Jenny Colville was the unknown heroine, working her way down in the boat to damage the motor when she could have been trying to get topside to save herself.

Heroism was a critical component to this novel and the author shows repeatedly that the outcome of World War II would have been quite different without that character trait in the hearts and souls of the people fighting against the Germans.

## Alienation

In *The Unlikely Spy*, the author's characters who are engaged in espionage have one trait in common. It is alienation. Their remoteness and distance from the world of emotions and common human compassion is critical to their success as secret agents. Murder, manipulation, deceit, and betrayal are conditions of normal life to the role of an espionage agent throughout history. Whether they are attempting to save their country, gain power or money, or personal satisfaction, a person who must constantly be on guard, in danger, watching, thinking, and preparing for impending disaster, cannot conduct their emotions and lifestyle like normal people.

Anna, injured emotionally at a young age by a brutal rape and the death of her mother, was detached from the world of true love and healthy relationships. She did not find it difficult to seduce strangers for a goal, murder those who kept her from her mission, or live a life of deceit and subterfuge.



Vicary was a good man but something inside him allowed him to be a step apart from others, to manipulate his spies, and to concentrate on the goals of MI5 rather than pining for a normal life.

The author acknowledges the need for this alienated human in the time of war and peace, knowing that although we may not like the qualities these people possess, the importance of a nation's existence may depend on such an individual to do what needs to be done to preserve it.



# Style

## Point of View

In *The Unlikely Spy*, the author Daniel Silva, has chosen to tell his story through the omniscient point of view. This allows the author to reveal the thoughts and actions of any character, minor or major, to the reader, and to be a trustworthy source of information to the reader. Although the author primarily uses the characters of Vicary and Anna in the plot, the reader is privy to information from a variety of characters throughout the story.

The author's use of a variety of characters throughout the story to tell the tale allows him to move the plot along with a variety, and to show the main characters from the eyes of others. This method provides a more well rounded picture of the action and the characters than if it were told by just one person's view.

## Setting

The story takes place between 1938 and 1945, with one reference to an incident in 1925. The scenes are set in London, Berlin, and sometimes in the countryside of England and Germany. The crisis scene takes place in a stormy ocean just off the coast of England.

The author uses the perpetually foggy and rainy weather of England to create a feeling of secrecy and intrigue to the story, especially the hours of blackout during the war. The quiet country towns with their blacked out windows and depleted police forces are critical to the success of Anna and Neumann's flight from the city of London.

Wartime England is an excellent backdrop as well for the themes of nationalism and heroism.

## Language and Meaning

This book was written in English, and the author employs a strong and descriptive vocabulary while not using arcane terms or foreign phrases in dialogue or description. The characters speak directly and conversationally, not in long paragraphs or lectures.

Any terms that might be unknown to a reader are explained briefly and succinctly. The plot moves along quickly along the lines of the espionage genre and follows a logical order.



## Structure

The *Unlikely Spy*, by Daniel Silva, is 724 pages long, consisting of sixty-four chapters. The chapters are then divided into five parts. There is a preface and a page of quotes before the novel begins with Chapter One.

The chapters are divided logically, usually staying with one character per chapter, but sometimes including more than one character's thoughts and actions within that same chapter.

The plot does not meander and after the initial introductory chapters for the setting and characters, there is little reference to the past and the plot progresses easily.

Part One of the book involves the introduction of the major characters and their motivations for their ensuing actions. Anna, Vicary, Boothby, Vogel, Neumann, Dalton, and Dogherty are all described and placed in the scheme of things.

Part Two begins to show how the characters are tied together and must at some point clash due to their beliefs and commitments. Vicary suspects Boothby of hiding something from him, Anna and Sean are activated from their sleeper cell status to assist Neumann and the threat of a German interception of the Allied invasion rises to the attention of MI5.

Part Three is the progress by the German spies and the desperate investigation by MI 5, headed by Dalton and Vicary. At this point, the outlook appears very grim for the Allied forces.

Part Four has the rising action, and the crisis of the story, when the investigation reveals Anna and Neumann and MI5 chases them across the English northern countryside and into the sea before finally stopping them.

Part Five is the aftermath of the investigation, and the revelation to Vicary that he was part of the cover up without even knowing that he was involved.





## Quotes

"Vicary had decided he wanted to contribute. He wanted to do something instead of watching the world through his well-guarded window" (Chapter 3, pg. 32.)

"Perhaps the Allies will engage in some trickery. A diversionary landing, perhaps as you yourself have suggested, my Fuhrer. But the real strike will come here. At Calais" (Chapter 4, pg. 53.)

"Why, we're simply going to create an army of a million men. Conjure it up, I'm afraid, completely out of thin air" (Chapter 6, pg. 87.)

"Alfred, I want to be completely honest with you about something from the outset of this case. The prime minister insisted you be given the assignment over the strenuous objections of the director-general and myself" (Chapter 6, pg. 95.)

"After more than five years, some agents might be tempted to become complacent. Catherine would never become complacent. It was one of the reasons she survived when others had been arrested and hanged" (Chapter 7, pg. 105.)

"An entire network of agents that we haven't uncovered - is that possible?" (Chapter 9, pg. 131.)

"Because this department is not going to officially inform the Americans and the prime minister that it is incapable of performing its job. That it is incapable of controlling the threat posed to the invasion preparations by German spies" (Chapter 20, pg. 243.)

"Alfred Vicary felt he was sinking in quicksand. The more he struggled, the deeper he descended. Each time he unearthed a new clue or lead he seemed to fall further behind. He was beginning to doubt his chances of ever catching the spies" (Chapter 29, pg. 328.)

"Hello Alfred. So good to see you again. I wish it could be under different circumstances. I'd like to introduce you to a friend of mine. Professor Alfred Vicary, meet General Eisenhower" (Chapter 37, pg. 430.)

"I understand she's very beautiful. It must have been difficult to give up a woman like



that. It must be tempting to bring her home and lock her away. But she is to remain in place in England. Is that clear, Captain Vogel?" (Chapter 38, pg. 449.)

"Vicary thought that sometimes God's coincidences were too vulgar to contemplate" (Chapter 46, pg. 544.)

"We chose you because you were intelligent and resourceful and under normal circumstances you would have given them a run for their money. My God, you almost saw through the deception while it was underway" (Chapter 64, pg. 716.)

## Topics for Discussion

Why did Emelio think Anna would be a good spy? What traits did she exhibit that served her well as a secret agent?

Who is the "unlikely spy" in the novel? Is it Anna, Vicary, Vogel, Neumann, or Harry?

Why was Anna able to keep her cover as Catherine Baker for so many years?

Discuss the personality of Horst Neumann. How did his compassion for helpless women damage him and eventually kill him?

Discuss Vicary's relationship with Helen and why it took him so many years to get over her. What was the turning point in his affection for her and why do you think he refused her veiled offer for an affair?

Discuss the character of Anna. Was she destined for a career as a secret agent? What made her so alienated and remote? Was her character's actions believable?

Vicary and Vogel were two sides of the same coin. Discuss their similarities and differences.

Discuss the affair between Harry and Grace and how they used each other for different goals. Do you think the affair lasted after the war ended and her husband returned home?

Discuss the character of Sir Basil Boothby who was a master in manipulating emotions and events.

The last several chapters of the novel involve MI5 chasing the Germans spies through northern England and on the sea, desperate to catch Anna and Neumann before they can supply the Germans with critical information regarding the location of the Allied Invasion. What devices did the author use to convey the suspense and sense of urgency to the reader? Discuss events, conversations, the weather, and characters.