

A *Lit Hub* Pick for “The Ultimate Fall 2024 Reading List”

One of:

***The Telegraph*’s “10 best books to read this autumn”**

***The Boston Globe*’s “20 books we can’t wait to read this fall”**

***The Guardian*’s “Best books of autumn”**

"Honestly reads like a lost le Carrè. Smiley is back at the Circus in the safest of hands."

—**Richard Osman**

"Le Carre’s legacy is in good hands—Smiley is back with a vengeance!"

—**Ian Rankin**

"*Karla’s Choice* is a note-perfect tribute to le Carré. Nick Harkaway has pulled off the remarkable trick of providing the long-term reader with something which is satisfyingly fresh and new, and yet fits seamlessly into the world of Smiley’s Circus in its heyday."

—**Mick Herron**

“George Smiley returns in this terrific spy saga from John Le Carré’s son, *Titanium Noir* author Nicholas Cornwell (writing under the Harkaway pseudonym). . . . Longtime Smiley fans will delight in the enormous cast of familiar characters, the thoughtful meditations on the morality of espionage, and the lived-in tradecraft. Harkaway brilliantly channels his late father’s voice, and in the process delivers an essential new chapter for Smiley and Karla.”

—***Publisher’s Weekly* (starred review)**

"A glorious conjuration of a lost era. It’s a book as rich and complex as its cast of characters. But it’s also a feat of extraordinary literary alchemy. Harkaway has summoned Smiley, his colleagues, antagonists, and the dark moral machinations of their secret Cold War institutions back into existence with all the deft emotional precision of the best of Le Carré, but in so doing he has given us something wondrously new: a giddy, compulsively fierce novel that is very much his own. I read it twice in as many days and am about to pick it up and read it again."

—**Helen MacDonald, internationally bestselling author of *H is for Hawk and Prophet***

"Smiley and his people are back, and thank god for that. *Karla's Choice* is a beautifully rendered spy story full of familiar characters and authentic Cold War tradecraft. It's the missing chapter of Smiley's battle with Karla that we've always wanted, and Harkaway delivers."

—**David McCloskey, author of *The Damascus Station***

"The legendary Smiley’s return is a classic thinking person’s espionage thriller packed with more secrets, tricks and deceptions than a roomful of triple agents. We have witnessed the rebirth of an icon."

—**Scott Mariani, author of *The Tudor Conspiracy***

"A tense and atmospheric, meditative and moving. The familiar elements of LeCarré's prose are present, but the novel is also enriched by Nick Harkaway's dry wit and sense of humour, and the slightly off-kilter way he has of viewing and describing the absurdities of our world. Fans of LeCarré will have much to rejoice about, but so will fans of Nick Harkaway. 'The Legend Returns', but under Harkaway's pen, it's safe to also say that 'A new legend begins'."

—**Tan Twan Eng, author of *The House of Doors***

"A brilliant and almost uncanny incarnation of le Carré's voice and world—and an exceptional espionage novel in its own right."

—**William Boyd, author of *The Romantic***

"Gripping, clever, and full of tension, *Karla's Choice* bridges the gap in the Smiley saga perfectly. Fans of John le Carré will not be disappointed."

—**Lisa Hall, author of *The Woman in the Woods***

"Harkaway . . . was hoping to 'fit some sort of story into that 10-year gap' between le Carré's breakout novel *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold* . . . and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. . . . He does this very precisely. . . . [with] the careful and creative loyalty of *Karla's Choice* to an old world."

—***The New York Times***

"John le Carré's son does him proud. . . . Harkaway faithfully reproduces his father's rhythms at the level of sentence and plot alike, with slow-burn tension giving way to agonising jeopardy as cat-and-mouse games explode into crunching hand-to-hand combat or street gun battles. . . . [G]rippingly cinematic. . . . A loving tribute . . . as well as an excellent novel in its own right."

—***The Guardian***

"*Karla's Choice*. . . is an accomplished homage and a captivating thriller. It may be a standalone story, but with luck Mr. Harkaway will continue playing the imitation game."

—***The Economist***

"Nick Harkaway's novel delivers fresh Cold War intrigue for John le Carré's redoubtable spymaster. . . . [I]mmensely le Carré-like."

—***The Wall Street Journal***

"Harkaway has been careful to honour his father's universe while gently asserting his own imprint. [*Karla's Choice*] moves at a deliberately meticulous pace and features many characters that will be familiar to those with a good memory. The voice throughout is *very* le Carré."

—***The Independent***

"*Karla's Choice*, penned by le Carré's son Nick Harkaway, is shot through with shadowy glimpses of loss and a foreboding sense that some things cannot be undone, and not everyone can be saved. Harkaway is pitch-perfect, perhaps in a way that only a close relative could be in capturing the beating heart of le Carré's world. This is a brave and poignant tribute from a son to his father and ensures that the much-loved le Carré legacy lives on."

—***The Irish News***

“This is a Smiley novel that could slip seamlessly into the sequence. . . . Harkaway . . . pull[s] off the acute pinning down of character and psychology that make le Carré a rewarding read. . . . The novel also has that authentic le Carré feature of it being difficult to explain to yourself exactly what is going on—until Smiley reaches the answer. So, if you’ve read all the Smiley books and want more . . . you’ll . . . be pleased with this. If you haven’t read any, then . . . [*Karla’s Choice* has] the right flavours to make a perfect introductory taste.”

—*The Times*

“[T]his continuation of le Carré is a treat. . . . [*Karla’s Choice*] expertly evokes the atmosphere of the originals. . . . Harkaway . . . is also funny in the right way. . . . He demonstrates superbly, too, how suspense can arise from the patient accumulation of detail.”

—*The Guardian*

“In *Karla’s Choice*, which fills in George Smiley’s missing years, Nick Harkaway has done an extraordinarily good job with his father’s legacy. . . . [His] new recreation of the Smiley milieu is note-perfect. . . . [W]ritten with the brilliance of le Carré at his best. . . . Readers will respond to *Karla’s Choice* with pure gratitude.”

—*The Telegraph (UK)*

“John Le Carré’s son has resurrected his father’s books brilliantly. . . . Harkaway is a fine writer. . . . Does he succeed in reviving the franchise? He does.”

—*The i (UK)*

“[A]bsolutely first rate, as both a homage to le Carré and as a work in its own right. . . . Harkaway captures the feel of the novels with precision. . . . It is difficult to encapsulate what a remarkable achievement this novel is. . . . In a way, forget about le Carré and Harkaway . . . what matters is that this is Smiley.”

—*The Scotsman*

“[*Karla’s Choice*] is intricately interwoven with the existing books. . . . [Harkaway’s] back-story expertise is impeccable. He has also quite successfully imitated le Carré’s . . . method of narrative delivery and nicely pastiched his prose style.”

—*The New Statesman*

“[A] great book. . . . It has John le Carré’s dash, that odd ability to immediately hook you into a world that should be alien but immediately feels familiar and one that you just want to stay in. . . . The book understands that what le Carré was doing, what the best of great world genre writers like him and Simenon and Ambler and Matsumoto did, was not simply tell stories, but create worlds, into which we link and sink forever.”

—*Big Issue*