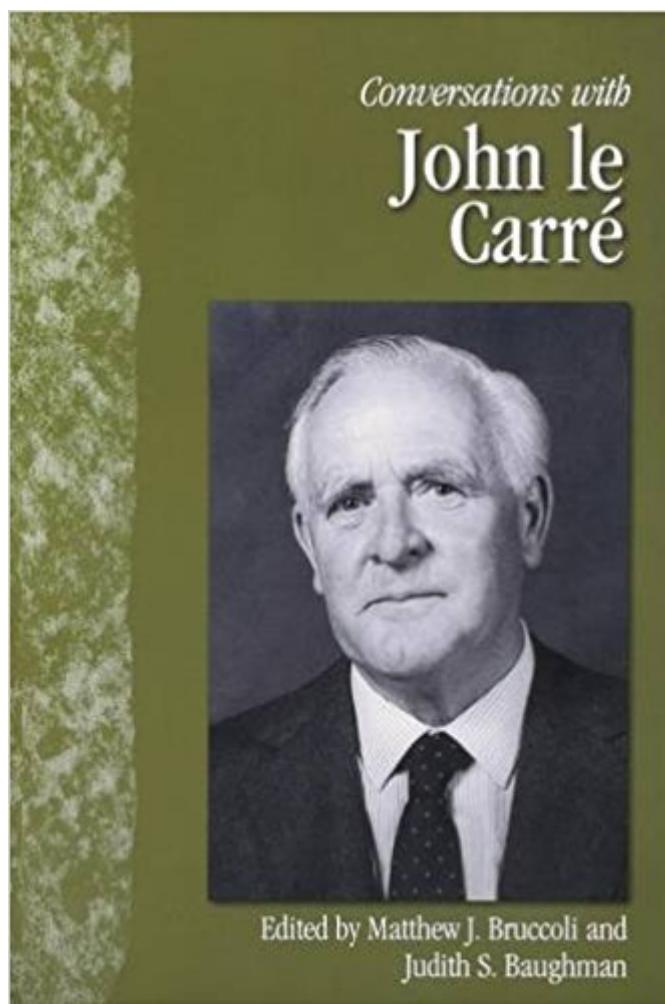


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# Conversations With John Le Carré (Literary Conversations Series)



## Synopsis

John le Carré (b. 1931) is the pen name of David Cornwell. Under that pseudonym he has become the leading writer of contemporary spy thrillers. Tremendously popular and deeply influential, his novels feature a level of psychological depth and narrative complexity that makes them as rewarding as the most highly-touted literary fiction. Weaving incisive political commentary, razor-sharp satire, and suspense, his work reflects upon and dissects both Cold War anxieties and the complications of social relationships. Several of his novels—including *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*, *The Russia House*, and *The Tailor of Panama*—have been adapted into award-winning movies. In *Conversations with John le Carré*, the acclaimed writer talks about his craft, the nature of language, the literature that he loves, and the ways in which his own life influences the creation of, and characters within, his novels. He worked for the British Foreign Office in the 1960s, and although his works are dazzlingly informed about global politics, le Carré's voice is distinctively British. His love of language, particularly the ways in which it can reveal or conceal thought and action, is evident in every piece here. In interviews with George Plimpton, Melvyn Bragg, and others, le Carré proves himself to be quick witted, engaging, and deeply passionate. Though often self-deprecating in his humor, le Carré reveals his commitment to the spy thriller and tells us why he thinks it is just as capable of exploring human consciousness as any other literary genre.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A spy, like a writer, lives outside the mainstream population. He steals his experience through

bribes and reconstructs it." - John Le Carre"

\* Career-spanning interviews with the leading writer of the contemporary spy novel, one whose books have been made into many award-winning movies, among them "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold", "The Russia House", and "The Tailor of Panama" \* Features interviews ranging from 1965 to 1999, spanning the breadth of his literary career \* Includes interviews conducted by such notable figures as George Plimpton and Melvyn Bragg \* Provides the first collection of interviews with this extremely popular writer --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

The main idea first thing: If you are a John le Carre fan, this is a must read. If you are a student of the interview this is a great study. This book is one of a series of books that include interviews with well known authors. A brief look for "Literary Conversations" in reveal many titles that cover writers from Susan Sontag to Bernard Malamud to Chaim Potok to Joseph Heller and many more. As such these books operate on at least two levels. If you aspire to interview as a profession, here are some of the best. If you are a fan of , in this case Bernard Cornwall/John le Carre' here he is in his own words. I am a fan of le Carre going back several decades. I had some general idea of his biography and more than some idea of what his books are about. In this collection the reader can have fun learning the about the man. Part of the fun of this collection is that it is in date order and crosses 42 years of le Carre`'s career. Much like his books there are flirtations and gradual reveals. What was his real role in British Intelligence? Who and what was his father? How much of his works are total fiction and how much biography? Did he invent the language of spying or steal it? What drives a man to take on the conspicuous consumption, lady's man spy James Bond and give us George Smiley? Its all here and its always your decision how much to believe and how much is deliberate misdirection. To be fair one must acknowledge the editors. In their introduction they correctly remind the reader that as much as an interview is about the person being interviewed, it is also about the person who writes the interview. Absent this knowledge, the reader will miss at least 1/3 of what this book contains. Also to be fair, interviews can be repetitious. John le Carre` has some canned answers and prepared evasions. Maybe there are only so many questions you can ask the master author of cold war/post cold war spy novels. Maybe the reason why good interviewers get paid is because it is hard work. Read it one or two interviews at a time. This way it can be a break in your routine and you can re-experience the fun of learning the story of the man almost as if it were an exercise in intelligence gathering.

A worthwhile book for those who already appreciate Cornwell's/LeCarre's fiction-writing abilities, with numerous thoughts, insights and opinions expressed by the author on numerous topics ranging from family issue to world affairs.

The different essays etc give a marvellous insight into his writing (as far as he wishes to allow that of course via interviews etc) --- a "must" for the genuine Le Carré fan! Reminds me of all the good books about Graham Greene in its intensity. Not everyone's kind of book, maybe, but certainly mine. Minor criticism: I found the last few pieces relatively uninteresting. Otherwise brilliant reading for the highly motivated!

This is an academic collection of various interviews with le Carre over several years. I liked the book but it was too short.

If you love Le Carre, this is a useful addition to your collection. The master has class, talent and a great backstory.

If you like le Carre books you want this - it's just a series of very different interviews. After reading this I bought the one novel I had not read, "Naive and Sentimental Lover." I'm not sure about that yet.

John LeCarre is a great writer, and this book shows that he is a very interesting person as well. A fun read.

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