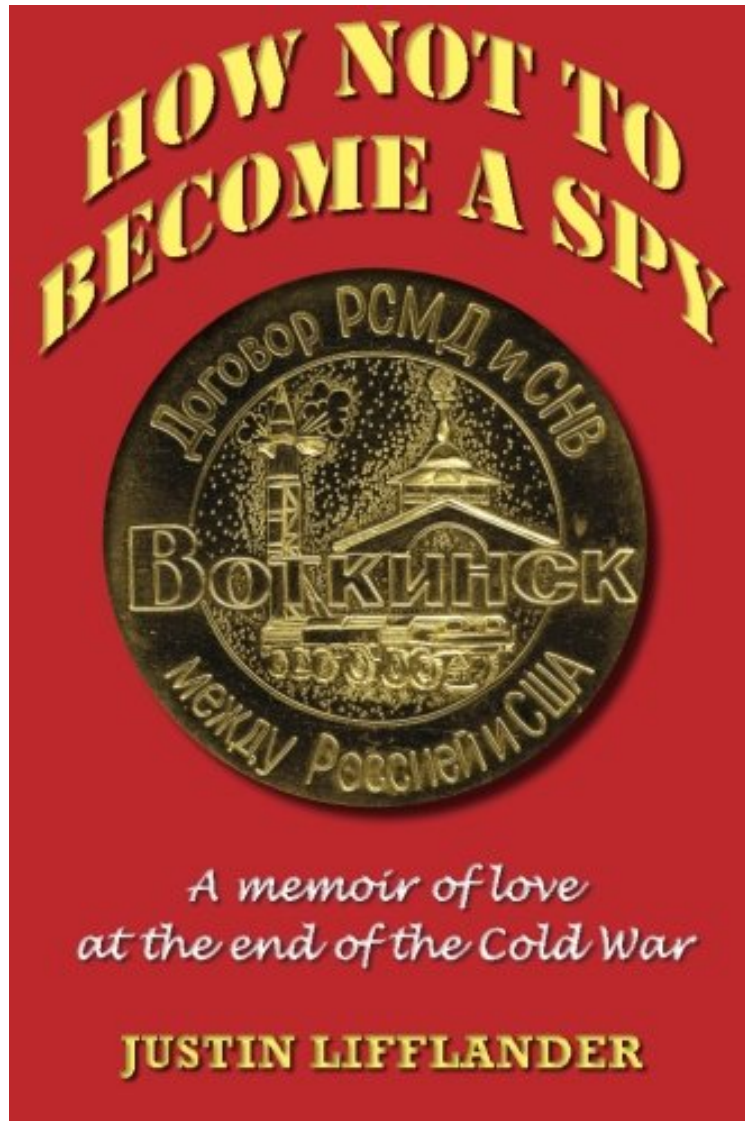


(Ebook free) How Not to Become a Spy: A memoir of love at the end of the Cold War

How Not to Become a Spy: A memoir of love at the end of the Cold War

Justin Lifflander

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#354867 in Books Ingramcontent 2014-09-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .64 x 6.00l, .84 #File Name: 0692259945284 pagesHow Not to Become a Spy A Memoir of Love at the End of the Cold War | File size: 47.Mb

Justin Lifflander : How Not to Become a Spy: A memoir of love at the end of the Cold War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How Not to Become a Spy: A memoir of love at the end of the Cold War:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I thoroughly enjoyed this bookBy StevenUnique and

Interesting! This book captures a unique moment in history, when the gigantic and unprecedented military stand-off that was the Cold War ended. For the world it was a relief, but for a few it was accompanied by unexpected new friendships. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, written by a firsthand witness to the cooperation that took place when American and Soviet arms control inspectors visited each other's countries to verify that hundreds of weapons of mass destruction ceased to exist. In addition to that unprecedented task, Justin Lifflander befriended his Soviet counterparts, and fell in love with one of them. With expertise and humor, the author takes the reader on a journey that includes adventure, spycraft, international intrigue, and a most unexpected romance.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This book is lots of fun, appropriate for understanding aspects of the Cold War ... By Sol This book is lots of fun, appropriate for understanding aspects of the Cold War that made the lives of Americans in Russia occasionally very silly, but also there's good portraits on "the Soviets" (some big shots, some small shots) and how their country eventually collapsed... People who stuck around (like Lifflander) will see obvious parallels to current life in Russia, which has changed in some ways but barely in others. Justin Lifflander is much more than just an educated observer of Russia at the end of the Cold War. He is like Graham Greene's "Our Man in Havana" but in Moscow instead of Cuba, and also "post- post- post- Our Man in Havana". He is a highly educated and bilingual Cornell American, and knows just when, and when not, to take himself and his surroundings seriously. Let's see the sequel as the non-spy businessman appears to have stayed in Russia for decades beyond the focus of this book, with high level positions in business and journalism, making money in the post-Soviet world... He's got to tell us to what extent anything has really changed (I suspect, not much)...

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fun and interesting read. By foton7 Provides unique insight into one component of the US-Soviet/Russian Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty at Votkinsk, in the Udmurt Republic, USSR, where U.S. inspectors monitored the output of a Soviet missile factory (as Soviet inspectors did in the U.S. at Magna, Utah). "Walt Knight" is clearly Scott Ritter (Ritter = "knight" in German...). For those who've been there, it'll bring back memories. For those interested in US-Soviet relations, it'll give some idea of how things worked where the rubber meets the road. Lifflander picks the forbidden fruit of an affair with one of the Soviet social escorts, as did Ritter.

Justin Lifflander dreams of becoming an intelligence officer and joining the Cold War fight against the Russians. Following internships at the State Department and the FBI, he lands a job at the US Embassy in Moscow. But Lifflander's story turns out to be less *The Spy Who Loved Me* and more *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. He sets off for provincial Russia to live outside the gate of a nuclear missile factory and work as an inspector-janitor-chef on the US monitoring team. There he discovers Russians are just as friendly--and suspicious--as their American counterparts. What sinister significance could the Americans' pink lawn flamingos have? The local KGB wants to know. The Americans are managed by young female "escorts" tasked by the KGB to watch for signs of espionage. They begin to manipulate Lifflander's favorite--a pretty girl named Sofia. Against the rules and reason, Justin and Sofia become emotionally involved. Both a romantic comedy of errors and a narrative glimpse into the golden age of US-USSR relations during perestroika, Lifflander's memoir is revealed through deeply personal experience, humor, and heartache. It reminds us our enemies are never as unknowable as we think or as easy to fathom as we'd like.

"Damn-well written...I delighted in reading it. It often made me laugh. Often with spy books, everything is so serious. Your book felt like slapstick...an "undercover" clown, and a beautiful romantic quest!" -Patch Adams, MD "A real-life Cold War tale filled with nostalgia, exuberance and satirical wit." - Kirkus s "A hilarious book!" - Jackie Lupo, *The Rivertowns Enterprise* "He cites the need to address the current "crisis of misunderstanding" between the United States and Russia, and urges us to challenge everything we think we know in that effort." - *The Foreign Service Journal* "A memoir of a time and place which was rich in comedy and Justin had a keen eye. Anybody who knows Russia from that period will enjoy the ride down memory lane. For everybody else, a better understanding of Russia as it was being born will help make more sense of the country today ... perhaps an exaggeration, but a great read and a pleasant change from the plethora of academic works and the "Russia is evil" genre clogging airport book stands." - Chris Weafer, *Macro Advisory* "Lifflander's excellent comic memoir...should resonate with history buffs interested in a first-hand account of how the greatest arms-control agreement was implemented, but it is more importantly one that holds universal appeal to any expat in Russia and anyone who wants to "scratch beneath the surface" of Russians and Americans." - Matthew Bodner, *The Moscow Times* "It's a good story that made me smile a lot and laugh outright more than once. Justin has written a better history of the VPMF than OSIA did and it brought back a lot of happy memories." - George Connell, Colonel USMC, former Site Commander in Votkinsk and Director for Portal Monitoring, OSIA. "The book should resonate with history buffs interested in a first-hand account of how the greatest arms-control agreement was implemented, but it is more importantly one that holds universal appeal to any expat in Russia and anyone who wants to "scratch beneath the surface" of Russians and Americans." --The *St. Petersburg Times*

About the Author After majoring in Soviet Government at university, Justin Lifflander arrived in Russia in 1987 as a driver-mechanic for the US embassy in Moscow. A year later, he moved to Votkinsk in the foothills of the Ural Mountains, where he inspected missiles at a production plant as part of the INF nuclear disarmament treaty between

the US and the USSR. There he met a young woman assigned to keep an eye on him for the local KGB. After his stint as a weapons inspector, Lifflander moved back to Moscow, got married, and worked as an executive for Hewlett-Packard Russia for twenty years. He then served as the business editor for the Moscow Times daily newspaper from 2010 to 2014 and authored several articles about Russian-American relations, the tragicomedy of life in Russia, and cigars. He now holds American and Russian citizenships and resides in Moscow with his wife, son, and mother-in-law.