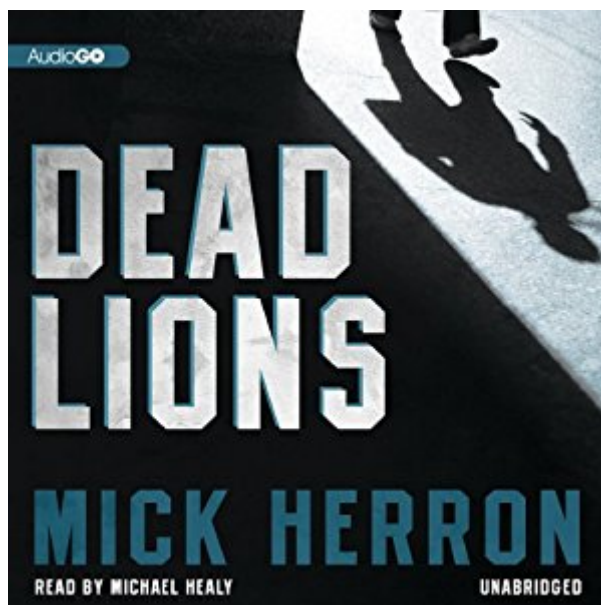## The book was found

Dead Lions

Synopsis

London's Slough House is where the washed-up MI5 spies go to while away what's left of their failed careers. The "slow horses", as they're called, have all disgraced themselves in some way to get relegated here. Maybe they messed up an op badly and can't be trusted anymore. Maybe they got in the way of an ambitious colleague and had the rug yanked out from under them. Maybe they just got too dependent on the bottle - not unusual in this line of work. One thing they all have in common, though, is they all want to be back in the action. And most of them would do anything to get there - even if it means having to collaborate with one another. Now the slow horses have a chance at redemption. An old Cold War-era spy is found dead on a bus outside Oxford, far from his usual haunts. The despicable, irascible Jackson Lamb is convinced Dickie Bow was murdered. As the agents dig into their fallen comrade's circumstances, they uncover a shadowy tangle of ancient Cold War secrets that seem to lead back to a man named Alexander Popov, who is either a Soviet bogeyman or the most dangerous man in the world. How many more people will have to die to keep those secrets buried?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mick Herron is a superb mystery/ spy/ writer. His novels take us to the secret alleys of MI-5. I just finished his latest book, 'No One Walks Away', and was so impressed with his writing and the stories he tells.' Dead Lions ' in the title is a reference to a child's game. In this game the children lie down as still as they can and pretend to be dead. The one child left attempts to get them to move or make a noise, until they suddenly come to life. This is also a reference to a certain group of spies

who settle, become quiet for a period of time, and then awaken suddenly for a certain project. This story revolves around the a Dead Lion.Slough House is a place for wayward MI-5 agents. Those who did somebody wrong, make a bad, bad mistake, had an affair that did not go down well, became an alcoholic, which was a fear they could let secrets out, because really many MI-5 agents drink and smoke a lot. That is a trade mark of sorts. The people sent to Slough House are intelligent and wise, they made a blunder ,but not the kind that could get them fired. They were sent to Slough House to do repetitive work., in hopes they would become so bored, they would quit. Not the present group, they were all looking for the big case, and Jackson Lamb who was the leader of Slough House, had come across a case that needed to be solved quickly. This is a storyline that moves slowly at times and then revs up. I do believe that his present book is one of the best I have read, but this is a wonderful beginning. Getting to know the people who populate the MI-5, is necessary to understand the workings of this agency. Like our CIA, politics runs the day, but if I had a choice, I would go for the MI-5.The author, Mick Herron, either has a background as an agent or knows someone who is, because he is privy to the inner workings of a spy. His characters are wonderfully delicious, all of them with particular inadequacies or peccadilloes. The story lines are all realistic if somewhat overblown, but we can believe them. Once you start reading, don't expect to put the book down.Recommended. prisrob 01-27-15

A long-retired former British secret service officer named Dickie Bow recognizes a face from the past. He impulsively sets out to follow the man on a train from London to Worcester, and later on the bus passengers boarded when the train ground to a halt. Soon, sitting a few rows behind the familiar Russian Ã¢Â Âœhood,Ã¢Â Â• he keels over dead on the back seat. Dickie had never noticed the sharp pain in his thigh that occurred when close behind the man as they crowded onto the bus. Though a routine autopsy ruled DickieÃ¢Â Â™s death the result of a heart attack, Jackson Lamb is convinced otherwise. Dickie was a relic and never much of an operative, but Jackson canÃ¢Â Â™t be persuaded that any former spook could simply die on a bus so many miles from where he was expected to be. Dickie didnÃ¢Â Â™t even have a ticket for the train.Jackson is not your run-of-the-mill spook. Despite his extensive field experience in MI6 and a later career in MI5, he has been put out to pasture running Slough House. This run-down London facility houses a motley collection of Secret Service misfits. Jackson, now fat and slovenly, holds forth from his top-floor office with undisguised ill will toward his hapless charges. Every one of them has been exiled to Slough House because of some disastrous misstep. Ã¢Â ÂœThey called them the slow horses. The screw-ups. The losers.Ã¢Â Â• Now Ã¢Â Âœthey belonged to Jackson Lamb.Ã¢Â Â•

And no one at Slough House has ever been reassigned to Regent's Park, where MI5 is headquartered.Screw-ups they may be. But the slow horses still possess the advantages that brought them to MI5. There's Roderick Ho, a misanthrope to be sure, but a computer hacker of unsurpassed skill. River Cartwright, with his unfailing memory—and a grandfather who was a legend in the agency. Catherine Standish, who virtually ran MI5 as assistant to the late former managing director. Min Harper, an otherwise talented officer who had mislaid a computer disk containing top-secret material on an underground train, only to wake up to a discussion of its contents on the morning BBC news. He's sleeping with Louisa Guy, who is very tough indeed, an ability that no doubt explains her presence at Slough House in some undesirable way. Two newcomers round out the crew, replacing two who died in Slow Horses, the first volume in Mick Herron's beautifully executed series of espionage novels.Now, in the second book, Dead Lions, the misfits are drawn into the investigation of Dickie Bow's death and a seemingly unrelated assignment to provide protection for a visiting Russian oligarch. Since this is fiction, we will not be surprised to learn that the two assignments will turn out to be related. They both involve a surprising collection of Russian sleeper agents (the "dead lions" of the title). But there's a great deal of fun to be had in the telling. Oh, by the way, all this work—these "assignments"—are off the books. Slow horses are expected to expire of terminal boredom at their desks or move on to other jobs.Dead Lions, like its prequel, is a thoroughly successful espionage novel. It's very funny, too.

I'm a FAN of this series since it never disappoints. Mick Herron is a master of language, pacing, complex characterization and believable detailed background from the world of counter-intelligence. DEAD LIONS stands out for its complex plotting. What seems like one plot morphs into another and another and another--well, some are interrelated. This one is full of surprises! The only thing that is not surprising is that the 'Fast Horses' at Regents Park have once again let personal ambition get in the way of sound counter-intelligence...and the 'Slow Horses' have to stave off disaster as best they can.

Liked the interweaving of the plot in here and the symmetry. Jackson Lamb, the grungy boss, even does some sleuthing in this book instead of sitting behind his dusty desk, ordering takeout, spilling on himself and stinking up his office with tobacco and bodily emissions. The plot grabs you when a low-level spook spot someone he knows on a train, and ends up dead.The agents at Slough House are called into action, and they're hoping they can prove themselves and get back into good graces

of MI-5. You would think the computer genius of Roddy Ho would make him indispensable, but everyone is dispensable at Slough House. And some get dispensed with in a not too kindly way.The plotting hangs together in this story in a believable and complex way. It was a very enjoyable read, and look forward to reading the next in the series ASAP.

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