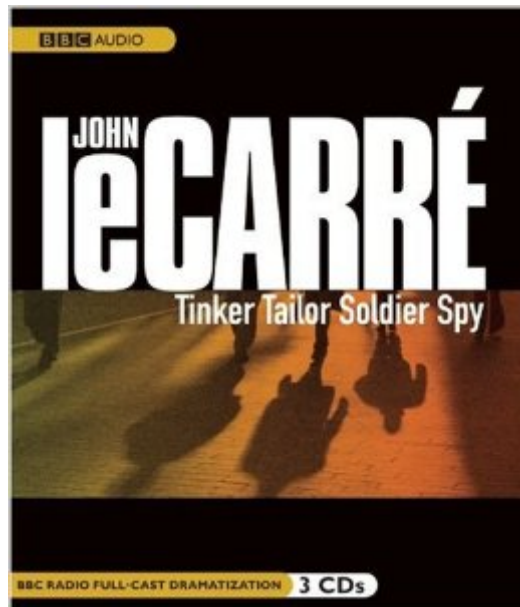


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# Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy (BBC Radio Full-Cast Dramatization)



## Synopsis

George Smiley is one of the most brilliantly realized characters in British fiction. Bespectacled, tubby, eternally middle-aged and deceptively ordinary, he has a mind like a steel trap and is said to possess the cunning of Satan and the conscience of a virgin. This BBC Radio full cast dramatization of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, stars Simon Russell Beale as George Smiley. -- Smiley, wrestling with retirement and disillusionment, is summoned to a secret meeting with a member of the cabinet office. Evidence has emerged that the Circus has been infiltrated at the highest level by a Russian agent -- and it's more than likely that the perpetrator is Karla, his old adversary. When Smiley is offered the job of catching the mole, it becomes a long and bitter battle of deception and treachery. Find the mole, George. Clean the stables. Do whatever is necessary. Reluctantly Smiley agrees, and so embarks on a dark journey into his past -- a past filled with love, duplicity, and betrayal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

First I have to say a couple things: I love the story of *TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY*. I've read the book, seen the Alec Guinness version and enjoyed the Bernard Hepton version that BBC Radio did in the late 1980s. Each has been special in it's own way while still telling the same story. The book is the high water mark of spy fiction. I believe it's Le Carre's best book, and George Smiley is his best character. When I heard that the BBC were going to dramatize all the Smiley stories I was very happy. When I heard Simon Russel-Beale as Smiley I knew they'd made an inspired choice; he really is wonderful as the "anti-Bond." I'd listened to *CALL FOR THE DEAD* and *THE HONORABLE SCHOOLBOY* before buying *TINKER*, both of which were very well done. Then I

listened to TINKER and found myself less impressed. I found myself missing scenes that I thought were important. I found the structure confusing, though (if memory serves) it follows the books structure more closely than other adaptations. By the end I found myself missing Bernard Hepton. Now this is strange because Mr. Russel-Beale is fantastic as Smiley. His performance is wonderful. I think what I was missing was the ensemble from the older show. The characters in the older program were more idiosyncratic, especially Charles Kay as Toby Esterhase. Bill Haydon is hardly in the story until the final episode, and Lady Ann Smiley is only here as Smiley's imagination. In fact, all of the potential moles, Tinker, Tailor, Soldier and Poor Man, make no appearance before episode 3. They are all mentioned by Peter Guillam, who again, narrates the story, but are hardly there. I may be wrong about Tinker, but I don't think so. Most of Smiley's detective work is missing from this drama too.

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