

CALL FOR THE DEAD

After a routine security check by George Smiley, civil servant Samuel Fennan apparently kills himself. When Smiley finds Circus head Maston is trying to blame him for the man's death, he begins his own investigation, meeting with Fennan's widow...



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Call for the Dead

Author	John le Carré
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Peek Inside the Book

But gossip must see its characters in black and white, equip them with sins and motives easily conveyed in the shorthand of conversation. John le Carré, *Call for the Dead*

They had brought him in during the war, the professional civil servant from an orthodox department, a man to handle paper and integrate the brilliance of his staff with the cumbersome machine of bureaucracy. It comforted the Great to deal with a man they knew, a man who could reduce...

Reader's Opinions

Hmmm. I've heard so much about John le Carré; perhaps this wasn't a good place to start, but I have a thing about being chronological. (I read *The Magician's Nephew* first, in the Narnia series. Really.) It's a decent spy-thriller/mystery, but it didn't have...

If I had known that LeCarre's *Call for the Dead* was the introduction of George Smiley, I would have read this book eons ago. This one was published in 1961, and the copy I came across is an ancient paperback that sold new for 95 cents. It had been languishing in one of our bookcases for decades, passed over time after time in favor...