



Spy in Chancery

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Edward I of England and Philip IV of France are at war. Philip, by devious means, has managed to seize control of the English duchy of Aquitaine in France, and is now determined to crush Edward. King Edward suspects that his enemy is being aided by a spy in the English court and commissions his chancery clerk, Hugh Corbett, to trace and, if possible, destroy the traitor. Corbett's mission brings him into danger on both land and at sea, and takes him to Paris, and its dangerous underworld, and then to hostile Wales. Unwillingly he is drawn into the murky undercurrents of international politics in the last decade of the thirteenth century.

Spy in Chancery Details

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Author : Paul Doherty

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From Reader Review *Spy in Chancery* for online ebook

Sharon says

Based on historical fact, but highly novelized medieval mystery.

Dominic McLoughlin says

Given his doctorate in the subject, Paul Doherty knows the early fourteenth century extremely well - an enjoyable read!

K.L. says

Here Hugh travels to France and Wales to uncover a traitor in the councils of King Edward. We meet Maeve for the first time as well.

Atmospheric and as usual very descriptive of the time period

Andrew Doohan says

This third edition of the *Hugh Corbett* series sees our eponymous hero thrust from his quiet life as a clerk of the Chancery of Edward of England (he'd been promoted since the events of the previous adventure) into the lofty realms of political and diplomatic intrigue, treason and betrayal, and affairs of the heart.

The tensions between Edward I of England and Philip IV of France have escalated to just short of general war, and the situation is made significantly worse because of the discovery of an unidentified French spy privy to the deliberations and decisions of Edward's royal council. The task of discovering the identity of the betrayer is entrusted to Hugh Corbett by the direct command of Edward himself. And this leads Corbett to Wales, to France, and to danger.

Another masterful marrying of historical reality and fictional narrative by Paul Doherty, whose efforts and skill in this artform I am coming to admire significantly. A wonderful narrative is intertwined with historical events, and the reader is left almost to the end to discover the identity of the spy (assuming they, like I, have no grasp of the intricacies of English history).

Highly recommended.

James Saunders says

Spy in Chancery

I believe that Paul Doherty is one of the best authors. I have enjoyed every one of the books that I have read. I have really enjoyed this book.

Ingrid says

It had some interesting history facts.

Christine Jago says

A good story about political intrigue

It took me a long time to take to Hugh Corbett, but gradually his character is becoming more rounded. As usual, a well researched story well written.

Jessica says

I usually love mysteries set during this time period, however the first half of the book was filled with so many distracting grammatical errors (mostly punctuation) I kept being dragged out of the story trying to figure out what the author was actually trying to say.

Like a knife that cuts both ways, the redeeming quality of this book is that it is based on an actual historical event. This was also a handicap as it seemed the author felt their task was to gradually reveal all of the facts dressed up with a little romance and suspense instead of constructing a well crafted mystery.

I'm glad I did not pick this book up early in Doherty's career, or I might never have read another title by him. However, I was concurrently reading one of his mysteries set in ancient Egypt and am finding it much more to my liking.

Tracey Allen at Carpe Librum says

An easy read over Christmas was Spy in Chancery by Paul Doherty. This is another book in the Hugh Corbett series of medieval mysteries, and I really enjoyed it.

I was thrilled to notice that Paul Doherty has a new book out this month, and it's going to take a LOT of self discipline not to skip the next 8 or so books in the series to get to the new one...

Martina Sartor says

Paul Doherty, alias Paul Harding, alias C.L. Grace, è ormai uno specialista del giallo storico, medievale e non.

Anche la serie che ha per protagonista il Cancelliere Hugh Corbett ed è ambientata ai tempi di re Edoardo 1° è a ottimi livelli: personaggi molto ben caratterizzati, ambientazioni curate, fedeltà storica mantenuta, trama gialla comunque di spessore e intrigante, ben amalgamata con le vicende storiche. In quest'avventura Corbett deve scoprire chi fra gli alti funzionari della corte di re Edoardo è la spia al soldo dei francesi e del loro re Filippo il Bello.

Hristina Ivanova says

Another short story, but still very interesting and full of suspense. Doherty never fails to impress me.

Kalendra Dee says

Edward I is convinced that Philip IV of France is plotting insurrection in Scotland and Wales against the English throne. Since Philip seems to know the secret decisions made by Edward almost as soon as he makes them, Edward is sure that Philip has planted an informant and traitor in his council. Dispatching agents to Paris, Edward is dismayed when their lifeless bodies are discovered. He commissions Hugh Corbett to take their place and find the traitor before he loses Wales and Scotland to the French king.

John Lee says

Another well researched and enjoyable read. The background description of life during that period is very good and as high up the social ladder as Hugh is, there are still many hardships. Life at that time for us mere peasants would have been unbearable.

Joan says

Corbett is trying to find the spy and traitor in the council of King Edward I. It's an interesting story and Doherty keeps the intrigue going until the very end. Unfortunately, it is not very well written.

Winnie says

Paul Doherty is such a prolific author that you can't quite believe the standard of his books can stay so high - yet another great read.
