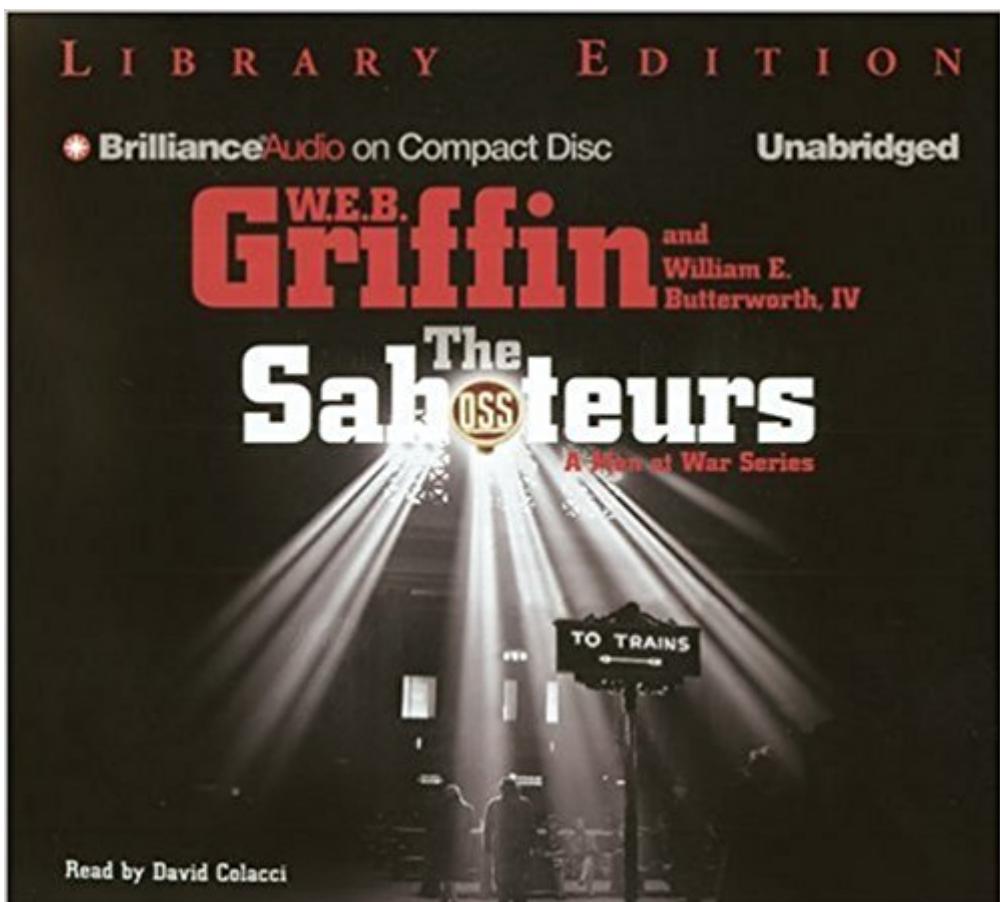


The book was found

The Saboteurs (Men At War Series)



Synopsis

If coincidence had thrown these men together in any normal military organization, and if, improbably, they had become buddies there, any commanding officer with enough sense would have broken up the gang as threats to "good military order and discipline." But they weren't in any normal military organization. They were in the Office of Strategic Services. The Battle of the Atlantic is at its peak. Packs of German U-boats are hunting and sinking U.S. supply ships. Ships are burning at their moorings in U.S. ports, and a series of explosions has afflicted trains and train stations around the country—is it all accidental or is it sabotage? Meanwhile, Allied forces are secretly preparing to invade first Sicily and then Italy, and there is a lot of work that needs to be done beforehand, some with the most unlikely of helping hands. As the war heats up, "Wild Bill" Donovan, agents Dick Canidy, Eric Fulmar, Stan Fine, and the rest of the crew, answerable only to Donovan and the president—suddenly find themselves battling on two fronts at once...and fate is just about to deal them a few surprises.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bestseller Griffin and his son, Butterworth, resuscitate Griffin's Men at War series, first published in paperback during the 1980s under the pseudonym Alex Baldwin and featuring the Office of

Strategic Services; its fabled chief, Col. William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan; and OSS agent Maj. Richard M. Canidy. Two primary plot lines drive this new adventure: the U.S. preparation for the invasion of Sicily and mainland Italy in 1943, and the tale of four German saboteurs who have landed in America. The authors are heavily invested in their research, meticulously describing almost every element of life in the 1940s, to the detriment of the action. The German saboteurs are eventually dealt with, but the behind-the-lines Sicilian operation led by Canidy is only hastily outlined after a long buildup. One supposes that the Sicilian story that's promised but never delivered will appear in future installments. This is pretty much all show and no go, but readers who have a strong interest in WWII home-front history should be satisfied. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Griffin's fans will welcome his thirty-seventh novel, this one the fifth in the Men at War series, which is about the OSS during World War II. (His coauthor here is his son.) The rich plot deals with the Battle of the Atlantic, during which German U-Boats were sinking American supply ships. In this fictionalized account, ships are set on fire in American ports and explosions have sabotaged trains and train stations across the country. As Allied forces prepare to invade Sicily and Italy, enter "Wild Bill" Donovan and three of his agents, assigned to stop the mayhem and help win the war. As always, the locales range worldwide, including Florida, London, Sicily, New York City, Newark, Algiers, and Washington, D.C. Some characters drink a lot, some purportedly "for medicinal purposes." Indelicate language peppers the dialogue, and many close calls threaten lives. From the beginning, readers will surmise that the good guys win, but they will want to read all the way through--just to make sure. George CohenCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

I've been reading Griffin for many years; I just realized this series was available on Kindle and I am working through the series. This one is just about the best so far of the series. Yes, the writing is a bit hackneyed - it's brain candy. But the story, even as improbable as it is, moves quickly and keeps your interest. This series started several years ago under another name and was picked up with book 3 in the series. Unless you read them in order, none of it is going to make much sense, but.....there is a lot of backstory exposition to try to bring the reader up to date.

As I read this book, it seemed like the general theme was the fight between the OSS and the FBI,

rather than about Sabateurs. A good part of the story centered on the connections between the Mafia and the FBI and the Mafia's connection to the Mediterranean which would be important in the next book about Double Agents, but a great deal of that story was background and I would have liked to have read a bit more about the actual activities of the Sicilian and Italian Americans on the docks and shipping in helping to win the war rather than the politics that occurred prior to the war. As for the German Sabateurs operating in the United States blowing up train stations, power stations and getting involved with hookers, that seemed to be just background to highlight the power struggle between the two enforcement divisions rather than to inform the reader of the serious effect it had on the general population in the US or exactly how extensive it really was. And I would have liked to have had Eric actually infiltrate the Bund and learn if they were a real threat or not rather than just beat up the FBI guy and then disappear from the story.

This novel is a story about the O S S (Office of Strategic Services (predecessor to the C I A) and one of its most important agents, U S Army Major Richard Canidy who, with various O S S associates, the FBI and members of the Mafia, travel over most of Europe and the U. S. on missions to find and kill or capture spies and saboteurs early in WWII. Were it not for the many detrimental factors, such as, but not necessarily limited to; extended descriptions of mundane activities and events, persistent usage of first and last names and titles, confusing changes from one activity and location to another, and explicit descriptions of sexual activities between lovers of Canidy, his associates and saboteurs, This would have been an excellent read. Instead, it was just O K.

I like the "Men at War" series about the OSS a lot, so it surprises me to be giving this one a two-star review, but that is what it deserves. The plot is listless, and very hard to follow at times. The characterizations are one-dimensional and dull. If the whole series was like this one I would never have made it to Book 5. I am not sure what happened here, but I can only hope that Book 6 restores the usual complexity and zippity-do-dah that this series usually has. RJB.

I'm a Griffin fan and, so far, love all his books. I find they are redundant from book to book but that suites me fine as it refreshes my memory from book to book.

A good read, if you like this series you will want to read this one. But start with the first book in the series and read through them all. You can find the list in order here:

http://www.webgriffin.com/series_menatwar.html

As the professional writers have already spilled the beans, I'm giving nothing away to say that the two parallel plots :German spy/saboteurs at work in the U.S. and American agents setting up the invasion of Sicily by means of co-opting members of the mob is the core of this book. Griffin again falls back onto the FBI OSS rivalry and the old boy net of FDR's government. The vision of the military and intelligence services as a playground of the rich and well connected, which has some grounding in actuality, is again overplayed. Those unfamiliar with the history may be a bit confused - but WEB fans are familiar with this internal conflict by now. The problem with this novel is that it stops abruptly half way through the central events. I fear what we have here is a set up for numerous shenanigans as Patton and Monty race to Palermo in a forthcoming "Invaders" or some such novel. Ah well, if the tale had been finished, this would have been a great beach book. I'll wait until then and give it two stars for now, but reserve the right to add some more when I see the next half. Meanwhile, if you are going to buy this book, and if you are a WEB fan you probably will, try to negotiate half price.

I have been a fan of W.E.B. Griffin for many years and generally buy the hardcover rather than waiting for the paperback. This time I made a mistake. Griffin is obviously trying to pass the baton and the income from his franchise to his son. However, while Griffin is good at character and story development his son is not. In this book the German sabatours in the U.S., who should be the cream of the German intelligence operation, do stupid things so they conveniently get killed off. There are a number of instances of happenings which beg to be developed which just aren't. Particularly, the hero facilitates the escape of a number of Italians from the clutches of the Germans. This just happens with no associated story development. Needless to say I was disappointed.

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