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Real Tigers



Synopsis

The next installment in Mick Herron's wry, clever CWA Gold Dagger-winning Slough House series. The Bond-esque River Cartwright and his group of defunct MI5 spies, headed by the irascible Jackson Lamb, will do anything to get back into the game. When a member of London's Slough House - MI5's stable for disgraced spies, so-called "slow horses" - is kidnapped by a former soldier bent on revenge, the agents must risk treason and breach Regent's Park to steal intel in exchange for their comrade's safety. But the kidnapping is only the tip of the iceberg as they are caught in a conspiracy that threatens the future not only of Slough House but of MI5 itself. Mick Herron's previous Slough House novel, *Dead Lions*, won the 2013 CWA Gold Dagger, garnering attention both in the US and UK. These thrillers are complex and contemporary, with an unexpected dose of sly humor. Herron is steadily gaining traction each year in the US, and the film rights to this series have been optioned.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 58 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: January 21, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01AV4M5V6

Best Sellers Rank: #142 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Espionage

#153 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > British Detectives #726 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > International Mystery & Crime

Customer Reviews

Machiavellian office politics blend with the humorous side of espionage in the third Slough House novel. The slow horses are British spies who have been relegated to Slough House because they abused alcohol or drugs or had a gambling problem or just screwed up an assignment and are no longer trusted to run with the fast horses. They are minor league players in the intelligence community, relegated to meaningless tasks with the hope and expectation that they will become frustrated and quit. In *Real Tigers*, as in the first two novels in this series, the slow horses turn out to be surprisingly resourceful -- when they aren't screwing up. Catherine Standish, an efficient PA

who has never been a field operative, is snatched off the street. Her fate seems to rest in the hands of slow horse River Cartwright, when the snatchers ask him to acquire and exchange a confidential file for Standish. But an equally pressing question is the fate of Slough House, and whether it can survive the machinations of Peter Judd, the devious new Home Secretary who has his sights set on the Prime Minister's office. Two other political players complete a triangle of backstabbing as they follow devious plans to maneuver themselves into better positions. Jackson Lamb, the spy in charge of Slough House, is rude, crude, and lewd. He is so repulsive as to be loveable -- or at least laugh-out-loud funny. His only redeeming feature is a rather selfish dedication to his subordinates -- selfish in the sense that he takes it personally if the enemy (or the British government, the two being difficult to distinguish at times) try to harm or kidnap them. A droll sense of humor that manages to be at once understated and outrageous is one of the things I love about British writers.

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