

Legends Robert Littell

A award-winning, psychological post-Cold War novel--adapted as a TNT series starring Sean Bean--Legends is the next blockbuster spy novel from Robert Littell. Martin Odum is a onetime CIA field agent turned private detective in Brooklyn, struggling his way through a labyrinth of memories and past identities--"legends" in Agency parlance. But who is Martin Odum? Is he a creation of the Legend Committee at the CIA's Langley headquarters? Is he suffering from multiple personality disorder, brainwashing, or simply exhaustion? Widely considered one of the true grand masters of American spy fiction, Robert Littell shifts focus from the broad Cold War canvas of his international bestseller *The Company* to the life of a single CIA operative caught in a contradictory "wilderness of mirrors" in which remembering the past and forgetting it are both deadly options. From unforgettable opening to astonishing ending, *Legends* again proves Littell's unparalleled prowess as a seductive storyteller.

When Parsifal, a Soviet-era KGB agent who has been living quietly in the United States, is given orders to assassinate someone working in an Apache-run casino, Finn, a disillusioned Gulf War vet, is drawn into the plot

With unprecedented scope and consummate skill, Norman Mailer unfolds a rich and riveting epic of an American spy. Harry Hubbard is the son and godson of CIA legends. His journey to learn the secrets of his society—and his own past—takes him through the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the “momentous catastrophe” of the Kennedy assassination. All the while, Hubbard is haunted by women who were loved by both his godfather and President Kennedy. Featuring a tapestry of unforgettable characters both real and imagined, *Harlot's Ghost* is a panoramic achievement in the tradition of Tolstoy, Melville, and Balzac, a triumph of Mailer's literary prowess. Praise for *Harlot's Ghost* “[Norman Mailer is] the right man to exalt the history of the CIA into something better than history.”—Anthony Burgess, *The Washington Post Book World* “Elegantly written and filled with almost electric tension . . . When I returned from the world of *Harlot's Ghost* to the present I wished to be enveloped again by Mailer's imagination.”—Robert Wilson, *USA Today* “Immense, fascinating, and in large part brilliant.”—Salman Rushdie, *The Independent on Sunday* “A towering creation . . . a fiction as real and as possible as actual history.”—*The New York Times* Praise for Norman Mailer “[Norman Mailer] loomed over American letters longer and larger than any other writer of his generation.”—*The New York Times* “A writer of the greatest and most reckless talent.”—*The New Yorker* “Mailer is indispensable, an American treasure.”—*The Washington Post* “A devastatingly alive and original creative mind.”—*Life* “Mailer is fierce, courageous, and reckless and nearly everything he writes has sections of headlong brilliance.”—*The New York Review of Books* “The largest mind and imagination [in modern] American literature . . . Unlike just about every American writer since Henry James, Mailer has managed to grow and become richer in wisdom with each new book.”—*Chicago Tribune* “Mailer is a master of his craft. His language carries you through the story like a leaf on a stream.”—*The Cincinnati Post*

The New York Times—bestselling author's decades-spanning novel of two Americans in the Soviet Union: “Gripping . . . suspense, danger, [and] adventure” (*Chicago Tribune*). This thrilling historical saga follows two young men who, in 1917, leave the tenements of New York City for revolutionary Russia, while another heads toward Palestine. Covering decades of twists and turns in their lives and in the tumultuous history of the Soviet Union—as well as the dramatic event that will finally reunite these companions—*The Revolutionist* is “a sweeping and well-researched chronicle of a dream gone wrong” (*Library Journal*).

There's been a revolution in American popular fiction. The writers who dominated the bestseller lists a generation ago with blockbuster novels about movie stars and exotic foreign lands have been replaced by a new generation writing a new kind of bestseller, one that hooks readers with crime, suspense, and ever-increasing violence. Patrick Anderson, *The*

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Washington Post's man on the thriller beat, calls this revolution "the triumph of the thriller," and lists among its stars Thomas Harris, Michael Connelly, George Pelecanos, Dennis Lehane, Sue Grafton, and Elmore Leonard. In his provocative, caustic, and often hilarious survey of today's popular fiction, Anderson shows us who the best thriller writers are—and the worst. He shows how Michael Connelly was inspired by Raymond Chandler, how George Pelecanos toiled in obscurity while he mastered his craft, how Sue Grafton created the first great woman private eye, and how Thomas Harris transformed an insane cannibal into the charming man of the world who made FBI agent Clarice Starling his lover. Anderson shows Scott Turow inventing the modern legal thriller and John Grisham translating it into a stunning series of bestsellers. He casts a cold eye on Tom Clancy's militaristic techno-thrillers, and praises Alan Furst and Robert Littell as world-class spy novelists. He examines the pioneering role of Lawrence Sanders, the offbeat appeal of Dean Koontz, the unprecedented success of *The Da Vinci Code*, and the emergence of the literary thriller. Most of all, Anderson demands that the best of these novelists be given their due—not as genre writers, but as some of the most talented men and women at work in American fiction. Don't trust the literary elites to tell you what to read, he warns—make up your own minds. *The Triumph of the Thriller* will convince many readers that we've entered an important new era in popular fiction. This book can be your guide to it.

By national best-selling author, Robert Littell, whose most recent novel *The Company* received rave reviews across the nation, *The Once and Future Spy* is finally back in print. This is Littell at the top of his form, constructing a tale of espionage and counterespionage revealing the dirty tricks and dangerous secrets about the subjects he knows intimately the CIA and American history, past and present. Littell proves beyond all doubt that he is a storyteller of inimitable caliber. As Stephen Coonts put it, "Eric Ambler invented the modern spy novel. Robert Littell perfected it. *The Once and Future Spy* is a classic spy story.†? At the center of Littell's plot is an elite plan, so secret and so dangerous that its existence is known only to a tiny group of specialists within CIA headquarters. There is virtually no paper trail but, somehow, the plan has sprung a leak. The plotters must urgently trace it or face deadly consequences. Meanwhile, at work elsewhere on another highly sensitive project for "the Company" is an operative known as "the Weeder†? a man obsessed with American history and one of its heroes. When the Weeder's and Washington's clandestine worlds collide, the present faces the past and disturbing moral choices are weighed against a shining patriotic dream. What is the truth? Whose truth should be believed?

In March 1953, four women meet in Room 408 of Moscow's deluxe Hotel Metropol. They have gathered to reminisce about Vladimir Mayakovsky, the poet who in death had become a national idol of Soviet Russia. In life, however, he was a much more complicated figure. The ladies, each of whom could claim to have been a muse to the poet, loved or loathed Mayakovsky in the course of his life, and as they piece together their conflicting memories of him, a portrait of the artist as a young idealist emerges. From his early years as a leader of the Futurist movement to his work as a propagandist for the Revolution and on to the censorship battles that turned him against the state (and, more ominously, the state against him), their recollections reveal Mayakovsky as a passionate, complex, sexually obsessed creature trapped in the epicenter of history, struggling to hold onto his ideals in the face of a revolution betrayed. Written by Robert Littell, whom *The Washington Post* called "one of the most talented, most original voices in American fiction today, period," *The Mayakovsky Tapes* is an ambitious, impressive novel that brings to life the tumultuous Stalinist era and the predicament of the artists ensnared in it.

Lemuel Falk, a Russian theoretical chaoticist on the lam from terrestrial chaos, has been applying for permission to leave Russia every year for the past twenty-three years. Because he knows state secrets, he has not been allowed to cross the state's frontiers. Now, suddenly, his

request for an exit visa is approved a sure sign that the situation is even more chaotic than he had imagined. Falk accepts a chair as a visiting professor at the Institute for Advanced Interdisciplinary Chaos-Related Studies in upstate New York. Arriving in the Promised Land under the impression that the streets are paved with Sony Walkmans, he plunges into the heart of another kind of chaos. No sooner has he arrived than he sets off on an academic cat fight, falls in love with a hairdresser half his age, and becomes a self-styled gumshoe tracking a serial killer.

A daring literary masterpiece and winner of the National Book Award In this magnificent work of fiction, acclaimed author William T. Vollmann turns his trenchant eye on the authoritarian cultures of Germany and the USSR in the twentieth century to render a mesmerizing perspective on human experience during wartime. Through interwoven narratives that paint a composite portrait of these two battling leviathans and the monstrous age they defined, Europe Central captures a chorus of voices both real and fictional— a young German who joins the SS to fight its crimes, two generals who collaborate with the enemy for different reasons, the Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich and the Stalinist assaults upon his work and life. Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. We are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the original text and artwork.

Stephen Jones is a shiny new hire at Zephyr Holdings. From the outside, Zephyr is just another bland corporate monolith, but behind its glass doors business is far from usual: the beautiful receptionist is paid twice as much as anybody else to do nothing, the sales reps use self help books as manuals, no one has seen the CEO, no one knows exactly what they are selling, and missing donuts are the cause of office intrigue. While Jones originally wanted to climb the corporate ladder, he now finds himself descending deeper into the irrational rationality of company policy. What he finds is hilarious, shocking, and utterly telling.

When eleven-year-old Jackie meets every kid's greatest nightmare--disfigured hermit Charlie No Face--his life is changed forever. A coming of age story in which a misunderstood recluse and a young boy redeem each other's lives through a most unlikely friendship.

A captivating retelling of the story of Grace O'Malley, the Pirate Queen of Ireland, and her struggle to protect the friends, family, and country that she loved. A true daughter of the fearsome O'Malley clan, Grace spent her life wishing to join the fight to keep Henry VIII's armies from invading her homeland of Ireland -- only to be told again and again that the battlefield is no place for a woman. But after English conspirators brutally murder her husband, Grace can no longer stand idly by. Leading men into battle on the high seas, Grace O'Malley quickly gains a formidable reputation as the Pirate Queen of Ireland with her prowess as a sailor and skill with a sword. But her newfound notoriety puts the lives of Grace and her entire family in danger and eventually leads to a confrontation with the most powerful woman in England: Queen Elizabeth I. With a gripping narrative and vivid, action-packed illustrations, the fourth entry in Tony Lee and Sam Hart's Heroes and Heroines series captures the intensity and passion of one of history's fiercest female warriors.

A young man's destined quest becomes a dance with the devil in a mesmerizing retelling of the Faust legend by the bestselling author of the Hangman's Daughter Tales series. It's the fifteenth century and only heretics are curious about the universe. Germany, 1494. Born under a rare alignment of the stars, Johann Georg Gerlach, "the lucky one" to his mother--is fated for greatness. But Johann's studies and wonder at the sky have made him suspect. Especially in wake of the child disappearances that have left the God-fearing locals trembling and his one true love trapped in terrified catatonia. Her only words: "I have seen the devil..." Banished from Knittlingen as cursed, Johann crosses paths with Tonio del Moravia. The traveling fortune-teller and master of the arcane arts recognizes something extraordinary in the wanderer. Taking Johann under his wing, Tonio promises a new world of knowledge and sensations. But

with it comes a sinister web of deception and a chilling prophecy. The stars are set to align again. Now Johann must draw on the skills of his apprenticeship to solve the dark mystery that grips his village in fear and the deepening mystery of his own destiny.

A republication of a long-unavailable earlier work follows the personal vendetta of cryptographer Charlie Heller against those responsible for murdering his fiancée, an endeavor that pits him against the CIA and takes him behind the Iron Curtain. Reprint.

Robert Littell is the undisputed master of American spy fiction, hailed for his profound grasp of the world of international espionage. His previous novel, *The Company*, an international bestseller, was praised as "one of the best spy novels ever written" (*Chicago Tribune*). For his new novel, *Legends*, Littell focuses on the life of one great agent caught in a "wilderness of mirrors" where both remembering and forgetting his past are deadly options. Martin Odum is a CIA field agent turned private detective, struggling his way through a labyrinth of past identities - "legends" in CIA parlance. Is he really Martin Odum? Or is he Dante Phippen, an IRA explosives maven? Or Lincoln Dittmann, Civil War expert? These men like different foods, speak different languages, have different skills. Is he suffering from multiple personality disorder, brainwashing, or simply exhaustion? Can Odum trust the CIA psychiatrist? Or Stella Kastner, a young Russian woman who engages him to find her brother-in-law so he can give her sister a divorce. As Odum redeploys his dormant tradecraft skills to solve Stella's case, he travels the globe battling mortal danger and psychological disorientation. Part *Three Faces of Eve*, part *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold*, and always pure Robert Littell, *Legends*—from unforgettable opening to astonishing ending—again proves Littell's unparalleled prowess as a seductive storyteller.

Struggling with disjointed memories about his past identities with the CIA, former field agent turned private detective Martin Odum wonders if he can trust his CIA psychiatrist and struggles to retain a hold on his sanity.

In what Christopher Lehmann-Haupt of *The New York Times* called "the plot of plots," Robert Littell has created the CIA "legends" Francis and Carroll, dubbed "The Sisters Death and Night" by their cohorts. But few know what these enigmatic and extremely dangerous operatives do. They plot-and they're plotting the perfect crime. They've located the perfect pawn-the Potter, the exiled ex-head of the KGB sleeper school-and, with artful deception, the Sisters coerce him into betraying his last and best sleeper, the man he considers his son. Once awakened, this sleeper, an assassin living secretly in the U.S., will launch a mission of death-unless the Potter, in a desperate race against time, can stop his protege from committing the Sisters' perfect and world-shattering crime.

A retired Navy admiral with counterintelligence experience and a New York City operative with a passion for history become involved in the CIA's frantic search to find who leaked the plans for a lethal and highly clandestine operation.

Legends A Novel Abrams

Home is where the heat is for disgraced British spy Charlie Muffin, "a marvelous creation" from the multimillion-selling author (*The Daily Mail*). Charlie Muffin has come back to England. The ex-spy, a veteran of twenty-five years' service to the Crown, was last seen in Berlin, where an attempt on his life by his own organization led to international embarrassment. They had expected Charlie—a disheveled, middle-aged survivor of every double cross in the book—to die easily. Instead, he disappeared. But after months on the run, dulling his instincts with

alcohol and laziness, the strain of life in the shadows finally gets to Charlie. By now the heat back home must have died down, and he shouldn't have any trouble sneaking across the Channel. Now, he expects, he can finally be safe in England. Charlie Muffin is dead wrong. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Brian Freemantle including rare photos from the author's personal collection.

A tight, captivating story of a naive child's encounters with a Soviet dictator, the 20th novel by Robert Littell. After the sudden death of his nuclear physicist father and the arrest of his mother during the Stalinist purge of Jewish doctors, young Leon Rozental—intellectually precocious and possessing a disarming candor—is hiding from the NKVD in the secret rooms of the House on the Embankment, a large building in Moscow where many Soviet officials and apparatchiks live and work. One day after following a passageway, Leon meets Koba, an old man whose apartment is protected by several guards. Koba is a high-ranking Soviet officer with troubling insight into the thoughts and machinations of Comrade Stalin. Through encounters between a naive boy and a paranoid tyrant, Robert Littell creates in Comrade Koba a nuanced portrayal of the Soviet dictator, showing his human side and his simultaneous total disregard for and ignorance of the suffering he inflicted on the Russian people. The charm and spontaneity of young Leon make him an irresistible character—and not unlike Holden Caulfield, whom he admits to identifying with—caught in the spider's web of the story woven by this enigmatic old man.

A award-winning, psychological post-Cold War novel—adapted as a TNT series starring Sean Bean—Legends is the next blockbuster spy novel from Robert Littell. Martin Odum is a onetime CIA field agent turned private detective in Brooklyn, struggling his way through a labyrinth of memories and past identities—“legends” in Agency parlance. But who is Martin Odum? Is he a creation of the Legend Committee at the CIA's Langley headquarters? Is he suffering from multiple personality disorder, brainwashing, or simply exhaustion? Widely considered one of the true grand masters of American spy fiction, Robert Littell shifts focus from the broad Cold War canvas of his international bestseller *The Company* to the life of a single CIA operative caught in a contradictory “wilderness of mirrors” in which remembering the past and forgetting it are both deadly options. From unforgettable opening to astonishing ending, *Legends* again proves Littell's unparalleled prowess as a seductive storyteller.

Explore WWII from the front lines in this teen history book. Help history come alive in a way that's easy for teens to connect with and enjoy. *World War II History for Teens* dives deep into the major battles, providing a core, compelling framework that allows teens to better understand what really happened during the war. From the conquest of Europe all the way through the end of the Pacific Theater, they'll get an up-close look at the course of the Second World War and learn how it created the world they live in today. *World War II History for Teens* includes: Key WWII battles--Read through detailed accounts of the most

important battles, the moments that decided their outcomes, and how these results shaped the war. Critical thinking--An exciting narrative engages readers while also providing the information they need to draw their own conclusions about the impact of WWII. Closer looks--World War II History for Teens helps readers go even deeper with special features on military technology, how many of the war's key decisions were made, and more. Show teens how exciting history can be with World War II History for Teens.

Christopher Lehmann-Haupt of The New York Times called it "a perfect little gem, the best Cold War thriller I've read in years," and the praise kept coming with critics hailing Littell as "the American Le Carré" (New York Times) and raving that his books were "as good as thriller writing gets" (The Washington Post). For his fourteenth novel, Robert Littell creates an engrossing, multigenerational, wickedly nostalgic yet utterly candid saga, bringing to life through a host of characters-historical and imagined-the over 40 years of the CIA-"the Company" to insiders. At the heart of the novel is a stunningly conceived mole hunt involving such rivals and allies as the MI6, KGB, and Mossad. Racing across a canvas that spans the legendary Berlin Base in the 1950s-the front line of the simmering Cold War-to the Soviet invasion of Hungary, the Bay of Pigs, the Afghan war, the Gorbachev putsch, and other major theatres of operation for the CIA, The Company tells a thrilling story of agents imprisoned in double lives, fighting an enemy that was amoral, elusive, formidable. Littell tells it like it was: CIA agents, fighting not only the good fight, but sometimes the bad one as well. Littell also brilliantly lays bare the warring within the Company to add another dimension to the spy vs. spy game: the battles between the counterintelligence agents in Washington, like the utterly obsessive real-life mole hunter James Angleton, and the covert action boys in the field, like The Company's Harvey Torriti-the Sorcerer-a brilliant and brash rule breaker and dirty tricks expert who fights fire with fire, and his Apprentice, Jack McAuliffe, recruited fresh out of Yale, who learns tradecraft and the hard truths of life in the field. As this dazzling anatomy of the CIA unfolds, nothing less than the world's future in the second half of the twentieth century is at stake. At once a celebration of a long Cold War well fought, an elegy for the end of an era, and a reckoning for a profession in which moral ambiguity created a wilderness of mirrors, The Company is the Cold War's devastating truth, its entertaining tale, its last word.

Like the Arkady Renko novels of Martin Cruz Smith, Robert Littell's masterful Mother Russia transports readers back in time and behind the Iron Curtain to experience the extremes of Soviet society. Robespierre Pravdin is a black marketeer who prowls Moscow's streets and alleys hustling wristwatches. Wishing only to survive in a city suffocated by paranoia and schizophrenia, Robespierre manages to make a tidy profit and stay under the state's radar—until, one day, he meets the woman called "Mother Russia" and becomes ensnared in the Byzantine and profoundly dangerous game of politics. This is another darkly engrossing page-turner from the bestselling author of The

Sisters and The Defection of A. J. Lewinter.

A tale inspired by the life of forefront twentieth-century Russian poet Osip Mandelstam recounts his outspoken criticism of the Stalin regime, the verbal distribution of his famous "Stalin Epigram" that led to his arrest, and his subsequent exile and death in a Siberian transit camp.

Retiring to England after the Cold War, British spymaster Tim Cranmer embarks on a frantic journey across Europe and into the battered landscapes of Moscow and southern Russia when his mistress and lifelong rival disappear. Reprint.

For fans of Elmore Leonard and Robert B. Parker, meet hockey scout turned private detective Brad Shade, from "one of the best sports writers on the continent" Brad Shade has been just about everywhere hockey is played. He has ridden the buses in the minors, shared dressing rooms with the legends of the game, closed bars with guys destined for the Hall of Fame, and dropped the gloves with journeymen like himself who'll never get near it. And even though he's retired after fourteen years of bouncing around the league with more losses than wins and his net worth eroding, he's still living out of a suitcase and still taking numbers. That's his day job—scout for LA, where someone in management owes him a favour from his playing days. But when the brutally murdered body of coaching legend Red Hanratty turns up in the parking lot after an old-timers charity game (Shade goes scoreless, again), Shade's job of scouting the local phenom starts to overlap with investigating the killing of the kid's grizzled old coach. When the killer goes after Shade's girlfriend, he finds out that guys don't stay in the league because they're good—they stick around because they're smart enough to know what needs to get done, and just ornery enough to actually do it. From small-town rinks to the draft tables in the big league, G.B. Joyce introduces us to a character Canadians already love—the fourth-liner with a self-deprecating sense of humour and an oversized will to win—and weaves a story out of strands of resentment, greed, and fear that span generations and build to a surprising, thrilling conclusion.

Hailed as "an extraordinary novel of men at war" (The Washington Post) this is the book that inspired the TNT television series starring Eric Dane, Rhona Mitra, Adam Baldwin and Michael Bay as Executive Producer. The unimaginable has happened. The world has been plunged into all-out nuclear war. Sailing near the Arctic Circle, the U.S.S. Nathan James is relatively unscathed, but the future is grim and Captain Thomas is facing mutiny from the tattered remnants of his crew. With civilization in ruins, he urges those that remain—one-hundred-and-fifty-two men and twenty-six women—to pull together in search of land. Once they reach safety, however, the men and women on board realize that they are earth's last remaining survivors—and they've all been exposed to radiation. When none of the women seems able to conceive, fear sets in. Will this be the end of humankind?

The Cold War is over, but in the Pentagon there are some who refuse to give up the struggle with the Soviets. Ben Bassett is sent to Moscow by the shadowy

organization known as Intelligence Sport Activity and gets to the heart of the Soviet system. The author also wrote *The Once and Future Spy*.

The New York Times bestselling spy novel *The Company* lays bare the history and inner workings of the CIA. This critically acclaimed blockbuster from internationally renowned novelist Robert Littell seamlessly weaves together history and fiction to create a multigenerational, wickedly nostalgic saga of the CIA—known as “the Company” to insiders. Racing across a landscape spanning the legendary Berlin Base of the '50s, the Soviet invasion of Hungary, the Bay of Pigs, Afghanistan, and the Gorbachev putsch, *The Company* tells the thrilling story of agents imprisoned in double lives, fighting an amoral, elusive, formidable enemy—and each other—in an internecine battle within the Company itself. A brilliant, stunningly conceived epic thriller, adapted as a TNT miniseries starring Chris O'Donnell, Alfred Molina, and Michael Keaton, *The Company* confirms Littell's place among the genre's elite.

During one of history's darkest chapters, one man is determined to make a difference. In the tradition of *Schindler's List* comes a thrilling novel based on the heroic true story of Fritz Kolbe, a widowed civil servant in Adolf Hitler's foreign ministry. Recognizing that millions of lives are at stake, Kolbe uses his position to pass information to the Americans--risking himself and the people he holds most dear--and embarks on a dangerous double life as the Allies' most important spy. Summoned from his South African post to return to Nazi Germany, Kolbe leaves behind his beloved fourteen-year-old daughter, a decision made for her safety that nonetheless torments him. And as he lives under the constant threat of arrest, he wrestles with the guilt of putting Marlene Wiese, a married nurse and the love of his life, in danger as they collaborate on Kolbe's clandestine work. But no matter the personal cost, Kolbe will not be deterred. In scenes that pulse with suspense, he emerges as a towering figure who risked everything to save innocent lives--and Germany from itself.

Somewhere off the coast of Southeast Asia, the U.S.S. Eugene F. Ebersole—a rusted World War II relic whose best days are far past—patrols the waters on a mission to protect American values in this suddenly-not-so-Cold War. The decrepit destroyer's mission is to apprehend or annihilate anything suspicious, but someone on board is preaching peace and the ship's motley crew is not quite as motivated as its ambitious commander.

Who is Martin Odum? A retired spy or a 'legend', a false identity, created by the CIA? This is the story of Martin Odum, a one-time CIA field agent, now a discharged spy turned private detective in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, struggling through a labyrinth of memories of past identities - 'legends' in CIA parlance.

When a potentially significant Russian defector is brought to America handcuffed to a sealed diplomatic pouch, Stone, the head of an elite Joint Chiefs of Staff task force and a master debriefer, travels between the U.S. and Moscow to find out if the defector is telling the truth. 10,000 first printing.

A republication of a long-unavailable earlier work follows the personal vendetta of cryptographer Charlie Heller against those responsible for murdering his fiancée, an endeavor that pits him against the CIA and takes him behind the Iron Curtain. 12,500 first printing.

Unremarkable American scientist A.J. Lewinter triggers a series of high-stakes events when, during an academic conference in Tokyo, he contacts the KGB with an offer to defect, a proposal neither country can be sure is genuine.

This harrowing Cold War thriller from the New York Times–bestselling author of *The Company* is “a brave, ambitious, and most worthy book” (*The Washington Post*). Connoisseurs of the literary spy thriller rank Robert Littell up there with John le Carré, Graham Greene, and Alan

Furst in the first tier of the genre's pantheon. Set against the backdrop of the Russian invasion of Prague, *The October Circle* is one of Littell's most riveting early works. "Littell is our best exponent of the real Realpolitikal thriller—this one taking place in Sofia in 1968, in a thin, gray 'present ridiculous' after the Russians impose their so-called peaceful counterrevolution on Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia . . . Littell has a graphic command of the 'present ridiculous' while lending here and there, through assorted characters, an inventive sense of the absurd—but then can we quite demarcate the absurd from the heroic? He's also a fine ironist, with lines like 'A Communist is someone who, when he smells roses, looks around for a coffin' branded on the pages of his intensive, involving novel. Littell writes not only above the genre but beyond it—with smoke rings of conjecture and a striking show of courage." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "Exotic setting, constantly surprising . . . and a clockwork plot." —Newsweek "Exciting . . . This author can tell a story!" —Chicago Daily News "A searing, thrilling, intelligent and often blackly funny book . . . [by] the finest American writer of espionage fiction" (John Connolly, #1 internationally bestselling author of *Woman in the Woods*). Under the leadership of a visionary woman president of the United States, the global community brokers a major compromise between Israel and the Palestinian authority in the hopes of snuffing out the violent flash-point that fuels the flames of global terrorism. But then, Isaac Apfulbaum, a well-known fundamentalist rabbi, is taken hostage by Dr. al-Saath, a legendary Palestinian terrorist, who demands the release of several Palestinian prisoners in exchange for his captive. As Israel coaxes Elihu—a former Mossad officer—out of retirement to hunt down the terrorist who motivated his final mission, al-Saath and Apfulbaum find themselves building an extraordinary relationship between hostage taker and hostage: parallels between these two battle-hardened partisans become the bonds that could lead to reconciliation. But the Mossad strike team is closing in . . . Ferociously suspenseful and brilliantly topical, *Vicious Circle* is a thriller that, like *The Company* before it, breaks down an entire culture of violence into the corrupted consciences that embody it. "Muscularly plotted suspense." —The Washington Post "A tale to hold its own with . . . John le Carré's *The Little Drummer Girl* . . . and Robert Stone's *Damascus Gate*." —Booklist (starred review) "[A] suspenseful and serious thriller." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

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