

[BVP9]
[Sadness of Paul]

Mark, Vanessa likes you because you are not a horrible spy like me.

I catch women with money. But, being a spy doesn't allow you to be able to love someone.

I'm sorry Vanessa, I know, My job is horrible, I don't know how I begun.

My impression: if you are sufficiently flexible, creative and childlike in your curiosity, enthusiastically interested in the way human beings think to become a good spy, then how can you not become sad and cynical in the end?

And I cannot imagine that someone who hoped to become a hero as a youth will be all that happy about remaining anonymous, not even being able to divulge to his wife or his own mother what he is doing professionally (and even were he permitted to do so, who will guarantee that his family would not turn away from him, disgusted?).

Two alternating realities, one in the "real" world, living under a false name, having to betray persons you have come to know and like, the other in the virtual reality of espionage, where you have even less of an identity, because you are just a function-holder in a hierarchy.

And if you spend your years abroad, having to forsake your wife and children ... or never even having a chance to found a family.

Just sad, grey lives ending in bitterness, isolation, old-boys networks notwithstanding: just think about it: the only people you can talk to are retired spooks? Alcohol and the occasional suicide.

If I ever were to write a book, I think it wouldn't be about me, but more about the tristesse of that stupid profession, which wastes so many lives, by ruining the lives and potential happiness of young foolish idealist romantics... and all the people on the "other side of the fence" that eventually have to die, just to preserve the sense of purpose of poor, foolish spies who have regrettably become murderous because of the nomothetic and dehumanising nature of their profession.

Nothing is so dangerous as a idealist constantly nagged by his conscience, because he is not really convinced anymore that the values he has been fighting for were the right ones.