SPY THRILLERS

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Spy Thrillers

From Buchan to le Carré

Edited by

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This one for Lesley – with love as always

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Preface and Acknowledgements

This volume presents thirteen essays on the Spy Thriller in the twentieth century including a critical introduction to the subject. Each essay combines in a clear and understandable way formal, historical and aesthetic theory with sound practical criticism. Authors covered range from past masters such as Joseph Conrad and John Buchan to present masters such as Ian Fleming, Len Deighton and John le Carré, while subjects range widely from discussion of the formal characteristics of the genre to the conditions governing modern state surveillance and control of which the spy novel is not only a symptom but also a warning. The book, which combines a comprehensive range of literary approaches is the companion volume to *Nineteenth-Century Suspense: From Poe to Conan Doyle*, *Twentieth-Century Suspense: The Thriller Comes of Age, Literature and Imperialism* and *American Crime Fiction: Studies in the Genre*, all available in the Insights Series.

Thanks are due to Sarah Roberts-West who saw the value of such a book, to John Simons, Michael Hayes, Dudley Jones and Bob Lee for stepping into the breach, to Anne Rafique for her work on the manuscript and to Lesley for her patience and support.

C.B.

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