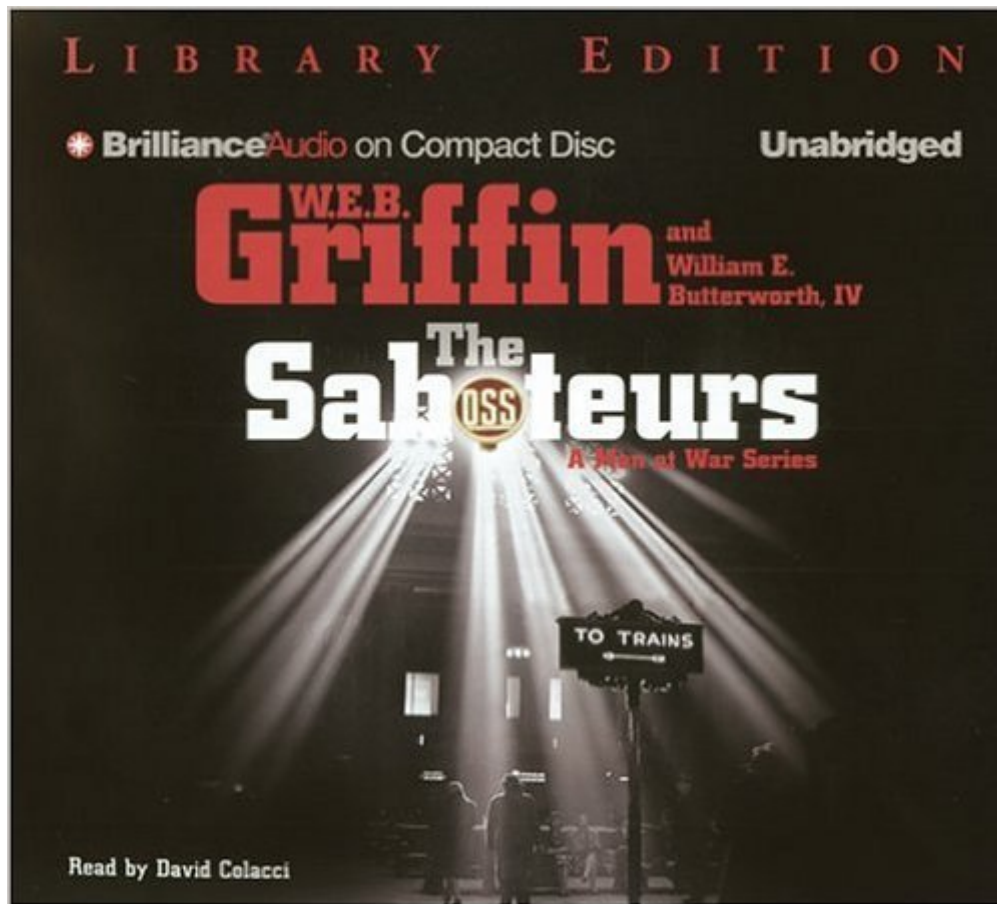


The book was found

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 a 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, a Wild Bill Donovan's 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

I have read and in many cases reread 28 W.E.B. Griffin novels. I've grown accustomed to his usually marvelous blending of historical fact and pure fiction, tight plots, believable characters, powerful narrative: thrillers in every sense of the word. Thus I am saddened to report that "The Saboteurs" possesses none of the qualities listed above. It is, in fact, boring. Griffin has excelled at

running several stories at once in his various military series. Such simultaneity helped push breath and life into his characters. In "The Saboteurs," co-authored with his son, William E. Butterworth IV, there are only three primary plot lines and each of them fails. There is the Major Richard Canidy, an unbelievable hotshot OSS operative who is supposed to rescue atomic scientists from various parts of Europe. Gone is the vitality of earlier Griffin military characters. Instead Canidy isn't even a cartoon character. The authors apparently kept running into brick walls, so they used a simple plot device when they lacked a bridge: Canidy goes to the bathroom. Eight times, by my count, within 130 pages. (I stopped counting.) Perhaps there is a hidden message here: Canidy has an overactive bladder; he drinks too many diuretics. Whatever, his visits serve no purpose and are, to put it mildly, puzzling. Trying to add historical color, Canidy becomes involved with the 1940s Mafia with a backstory about J. Edgar Hoover. Here, Griffin makes a major error when he claims that Hoover made his reputation battling "mobsters" in the 1920s and 30s. Not so. Hoover wouldn't even admit to the existence of the organized crime (the "Mafia") until the late 1950s.

I am a great W.E.B Griffin fan. I have enjoyed most every book up until now. It was difficult to follow at first when the time line went from Feb to Mar then back to Feb without any real reason but to follow the two story lines. When my wife mentioned that this book must not be as good as all the others because I keep putting it down, I had to agree. Most of the others kept my interest and they were real hard to put down. The plots could have been more exciting. The Germans could have been more interesting. Fulmar could have started back at the beach where the young man Coast Guard man went missing. Then at the bar when the bar tender/friend was killed after thinking things were not right. But this was once stated and moved on. Investigation into the crime was not started it was just assumed they were out there doing bad things and that the FBI or the OSS would catch up with them. Then to have two blow up in a train and two shot by the Mafia because they didn't pay... boo hiss the OSS didn't have anything to do. Then to start with the Sicily thing and the yellow fever but then don't say too much about it once Canidy got there, then throw in the nerve gas right at the last, that was lame. What happened to Oh whatsher name in England???? Ann or is this where the next story picks up. She is safe and Canidy meets up with her again and bangs her again and leaves and she gets blown up again.... (what a future plot) Then meeting up with the Mafia in Sicily, after all the research and worrying that there would be trouble, Canidy walks in get the professor and walks out. Not too much of a plot there. Why not some adventure, some misunderstanding... and then let Frank come into the picture and help. Geeeee I almost want to change my name to Butterworth so I can help W.E.

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