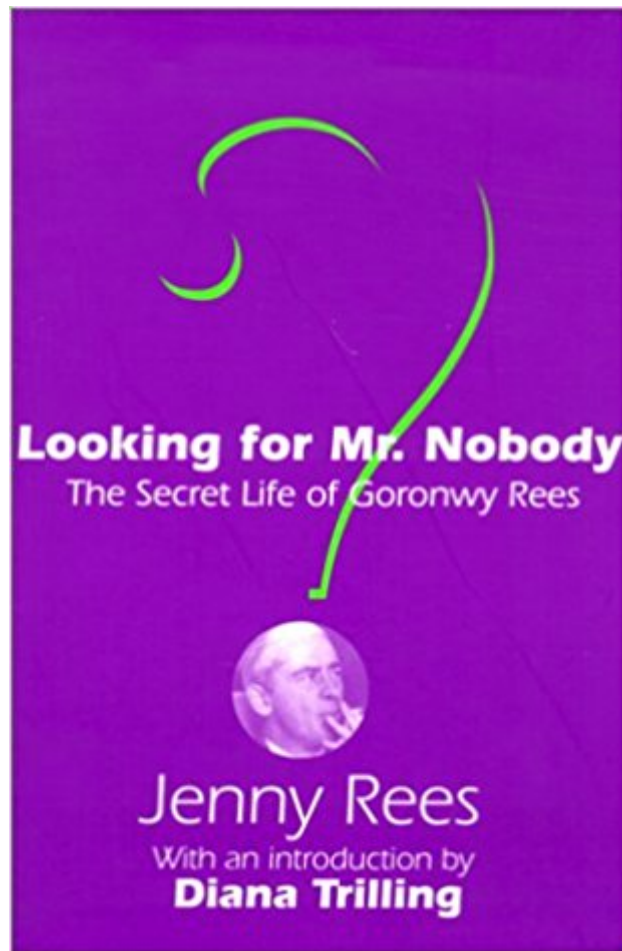




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Looking For Mr. Nobody: The Secret Life Of Goronwy Rees



Synopsis

Goronwy Rees (1909-1979) was one of the most gifted and promising figures in the constellation of British poets, journalists, and intellectuals of the 1930s that included Louis MacNeice, W. H., Auden, C. Day Lewis, Isaiah Berlin, and Anthony Blunt. Like many liberals of his generation, he was shocked by the effects of the Depression and correspondingly sympathetic to the Communist regime in Russia. Guy Burgess, of the Cambridge spies--Burgess, Maclean, Philby, and Blunt, admitted his espionage to Rees. His association with Burgess was to blight the rest of Rees's life. When Burgess defected in 1951, and Rees denounced him to MI5, Rees was viewed more as a spy out to save his own skin than as an honorable citizen. His anonymous, sensationalist articles in *The People*, denouncing Burgess's political activities and all but naming names, condemned him with the British intellectual community--not for his politics but for his betrayal of a friend. Colleagues and acquaintances accused him of trying to initiate a McCarthyite witch-hunt. He lost his job. His academic career was ruined. In *Looking for Mr. Nobody*, Jenny Rees deals with many of the old charges made against her father in her search for the answer to her own question, "Was he, too, a spy?" Had he joined up with Burgess and Blunt and passed secrets to the Soviet Union? Her quest for the truth reveals a fascinating portrait of a brilliant but flawed man of letters, handsome and seductively charming, caught up in the radical, political commitments of the 1930s, Communist Party membership, and his tortured relationship with the notorious Cambridge spies.

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Customer Reviews

"Looking for Mister Nobody" is not a book for the casual general reader. But if you are interested in

the world of British spies, and specifically in the trio of Philby, Burgess, and MacLean, this biographical work supplies some interesting insights on the relationship between the book's subject, Goronwy Rees, and Guy Burgess, the malevolent but fascinating character who epitomized that apparent contradiction: the well-brought-up and socially prominent traitor, the blue blood with a red heart. N.b. The book was written by Mr. Rees's daughter, who was trying to answer the question: Was my father a spy for the Russians?

As Jenny Rees searches for the truth about her father she recaps a lot of information available in previous writings about the Cambridge spy ring from a fresh perspective and introduces a personal element lacking in the other works dealing with his involvement.

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