

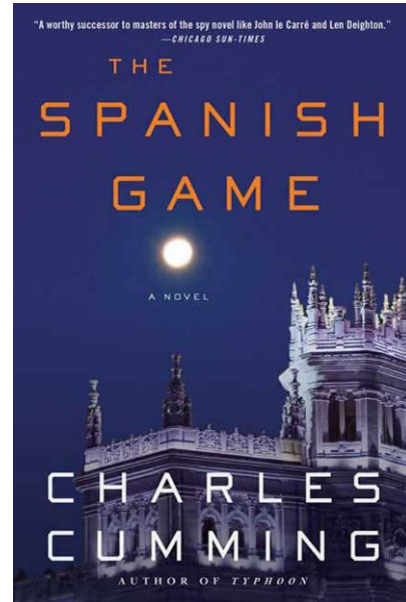
# READING GROUP GUIDE

## The Spanish Game

By Charles Cumming

ISBN 13: 978-1-4299-5154-8

ISBN 10: 1-4299-5154-0



### About this Guide

The following author biography and list of questions about *The Spanish Game* are intended as resources to aid individual readers and book groups who would like to learn more about the author and this book. We hope that this guide will provide you a starting place for discussion, and suggest a variety of perspectives from which you might approach *The Spanish Game*.

### About the Book

Six years ago, Alec Milius got out of the spy game after unbearably great personal cost and being drummed out by MI5. Now living in exile in Madrid, quietly and as far under the radar as possible, Milius keeps a constant eye out for the enemies he made, hoping to avoid any future involvement. Yet when a prominent politician goes missing, the urge that drove Milius to originally enter the spy game comes roaring back, and soon Alec finds himself in the midst of another international conspiracy in which he finds himself in the middle of a brutal power struggle.

A compelling, modern espionage novel from a writer who, from his debut novel on, has been widely acclaimed as a modern master of the form.

### About the Author

Charles Cumming is the author of international bestseller, *A Spy by Nature*. A former British Secret Service recruit, he is a contributing editor to *The Week* magazine and lives in London.



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## Discussion Questions

1. Did you like Alec Milius as a central character? If not, did your opinion of Alec affect your enjoyment of the book?
2. Did the setting of the story - Spain, particularly Madrid - affect your enjoyment of the novel? What did you like about it? Dislike?
3. The Spanish Game is written in the first person. What are the advantages and disadvantages of telling the story this way?
4. Charles Cumming is a British author. Do you think American authors take a different approach to writing spy fiction?
5. The issue of Basque separatism is central to the novel. Does this issue feel more, or less, relevant to you given the current state of international affairs?

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