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DARK WANTON

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Peter Cheyney



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COMPLETE AND UNABRIDGED

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About this book



DARK WANTON is a tense novel, set primarily in London's West End, which hinges upon the disappearance of two vital lists containing the names of secondary war criminals wanted by the Allied authorities. Their recovery is the responsibility of poker-faced Everard Peter Quayle and his oddly assorted team of secret agents. Who has the lists? Is it Kospovic, international spy, trickster, and thief? Kiernan, the former British agent? Aurora Francis, Kiernan's beautiful girl-friend? Or Vincente, the suave leader of the rumba band at the Cockatoo? Two are quickly eliminated. Kospovic is found dead in a woodland clearing. Callao is shot aboard a boat heading for France. By now the reader is more than half in the secret, but the lists themselves are still missing, and a dangerous game of double double-cross is being played among both suspects and seekers. Both excitement and mystery grow until, in the inimitable Cheyney manner, the action reaches a dramatic climax in the bedroom of Aurora's suite in a Paris hotel.

Peter Cheyney, born in London, started work in a lawyer's office, but at the age of sixteen went on the stage. He acted in many plays, was stage manager and had a part in one of the first English films. At this time he commenced his writing career with one-act plays, poetry and short stories. After service in the First World War he entered journalism and for a few months was News Editor of a Sunday newspaper. His intense interest in crime led him to set up a private organisation to keep abreast of the latest developments in the perpetual war between criminals and society. He died in June 1951 after a long illness.

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