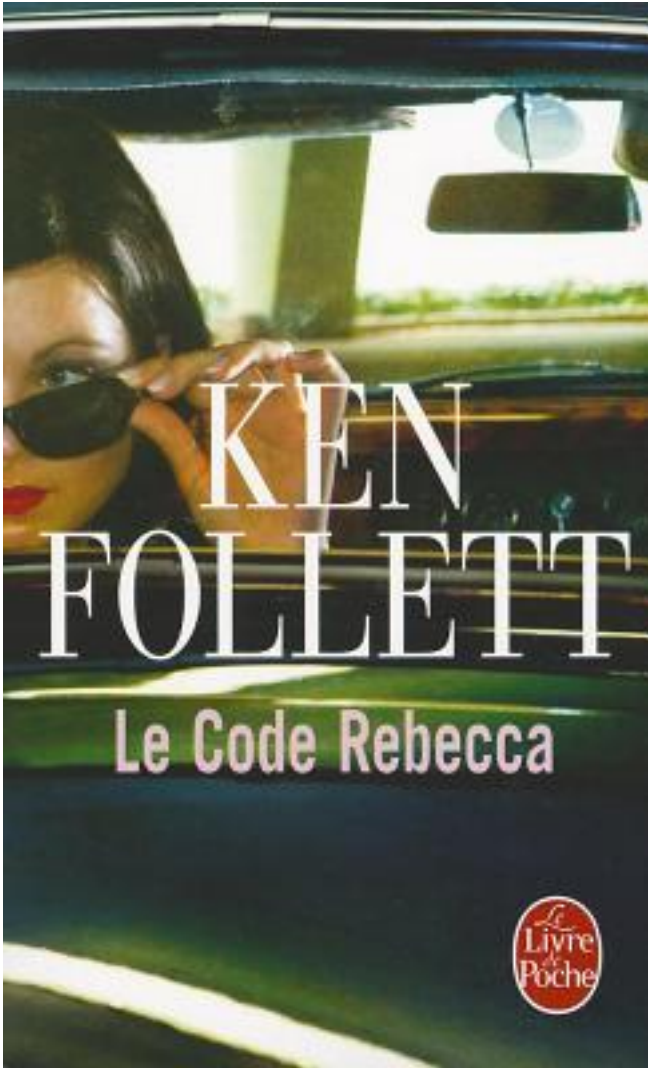

Ken Follett

Le Code Rebecca



Title: Le Code Rebecca

Author: Ken Follett

Format: Poche

Language: French

Pages: 384

Publisher: , 0

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Download: allowed

Description

En 1942, l'Africakorps du général Rommel vient d'investir Tobrouk. À son tour, l'Égypte est menacée par les Nazis qui disposent au Caire d'une "taupe" chargée de les renseigner sur les défenses britanniques. Cet espion allemand, Alex Wolff, caché chez Sonja El-Aram, une danseuse égyptienne devenue sa maîtresse, adresse quotidiennement des messages par radio à Rommel en utilisant un code secret contenu dans un exemplaire de *Rebecca*, le roman de Daphné du Maurier. Un major du contre-espionnage britannique, décidé à neutraliser définitivement l'espion nazi, se lance à sa recherche en compagnie d'une jeune et belle juive égyptienne. Une formidable course poursuite s'engage.

Insightful reviews

jzhunagev:

A Spy Novel that Reads Like a Good Alternate History Fiction

(A Book Review of Ken Follett's *The Key to Rebecca*)

The last camel collapsed at noon.

So begins Ken Follett's intriguing World War II thriller set in 1942 Cairo, a city holding its breath. The German army is poised for a strike in Egypt, and the British seems powerless to stop it; powerless, too, to catch the master spy with the codename Sphinx who is stealing their military secrets and transmitting them to Field Marshall Rommel. Just who is he? And what is the code hidden in the pages of Daphne du Maurier's famous novel? Only one man, a British intelligence officer, could thwart him. But to get the key in his hands and uncover Germany's secret weapon, he must risk losing all he holds dear.

At the age of 29, Ken Follett doesn't want himself to be categorized to write or identified with a single genre, and asserts early on with his publishers that he's going to write whatever caught his fancy and his readers. However, while researching for *The Eye of the Needle* he chanced upon an incident in history that became the building block of what will become *The Key to Rebecca* that made him drew back and exclaim, *hmm...*

A few chapters in Follett's third book, another novel set during the unfolding drama that is World War II, it structurally reminded me of his break out best seller, *The Eye of the Needle*. Yes, it is formulaic, but it is formulaic at best, for Follett writes in his prime and in his prowess. Alex Wolf is just another Henry Faber being the ruthless and cunning Nazi spy, but the beauty with which Follett creates these anti-heroes is in how he can squeeze out sympathy in the reader one eventually roots for him that in the end you so badly want him to triumph despite the fact that he's the bad guy. Along with a cast of carefully and perfectly rounded out characters with psychological depth, self-awareness and absorbing female lead often lacking in spy novels and thrillers, the reader is not only privy to what they think and feel, but drawn in as well of their whims and sexual desires. And if I may add, Follett's sex scenes, generous and detailed as

they are, are not mere add-on to the chapters not only, and perhaps, to titillate the reader, but to add more nuance and can sometimes reveal vulnerabilities of heroes and villains alike.

The action is steadily paced and the tension builds like a tightening noose it's almost hard to turn away and put the book down, and it sometimes made me scream at every unexpected twist. In this book Follett seamlessly combined history and fiction using historical detail to further the plot, especially in how he use the real-life Nazi spy Johannes Eppler in attributing the character of Alex Wolf and particularly by setting it in Africa, a place scarcely mentioned in WWII books, it's hard to believe that fierce battle also occurred in this continent besides Europe. Adopting a credible narrator's voice as that of a historian, Ken Follett managed to convey a wealth of information with his descriptions about war-time Cairo, the desert, nomadic life, the rise of Egyptian Nationalism and the gripping events of the Battle of Tobruk.

The Key to Rebecca is an impressive cloak and dagger book that pits together two men in whose hands lies the outcome of the war and the fate of a seething nation. Readers who loved Ken Follett's brand of fiction will find in here trademarks that made his novels such brilliant best sellers. There's an incredible chase scene of motorcycles hurtling thru blacked-out Cairo; the clever spy who's always ahead and narrowly escapes his hunter; and a harrowing race against death and a speeding train. Nevertheless, it also showcases something new to the table for good ole fans and new readers to feast on.

Book Details: Book **#25** for 2011
Published by William Morrow & Co.
(Hardcover, 1985 First Edition)
381 pages
Started: June 13, 2011
Finished: June 19, 2011
My Rating: ????

[See this review on my book blog [Dark Chest of Wonders](#) and for many others.]

Beetru: Follett is excellent with his character development. This book is a complete shift from Pillars of the Earth. Follett is so talented in his different writing styles.

Fun things I learned from reading this book:

- 1) don't become a spy
- 2) if I do become a spy, don't use my real name
- 3) don't go back to my home town where they can track down my real identity
- 4) it's always better to be on the good team

Ankit Hawk: It was another historical fiction relating to World War II. It was another spy story. It was actually very similar to "Eye of the Needle" which I reviewed last week except this time things are happening in Cairo with different action of World War II, with very different stakes and with different German spy.

When Field Marshal Erwin Rommel required a spy in Cairo he wanted to go local but having some German Linkage. The spy could easily camouflage with local and have loyalty towards Germany. He finally finds one but little he knew that the spy would become his biggest asset, would win Battles for him and would make him Field Marshal.

Egypt was British Colony during those days and their local military have to support them during the war and accept the orders from the masters in Britain. So Spy had an upper hand; he was local – he could arrange resources easily, many Egyptian needed freedom – he could very easily get additional support from locals. While British Intelligence were in foreign land, far from home and clearly lacked local support. It had exact opposite setting from “Eye of the Needle” and may be reason for writing this novel was to bring the entirely new Imagination and challenges readers might have experience from reading “Eye of the Needle” which was written in 1978 while “The Key to Rebecca” in 1980. Though this novel didn’t bring any novelty but is a fantastic read.

Read the Complete Review at [Critichawk](#)

Kari: After analyzing The Pillars of the Earth (book 1 and 2) i used to be desirous to learn extra books through Ken Follett. I loved the fascinating standpoint into Egypt in the course of WWII. one of many extra attention-grabbing points of this e-book is that one of many major characters is a Nazi Spy. even if you recognize he's evil and intends to do damage you continue to root for him (for a part of the book) simply because his personality used to be built so thoroughly. while you are a lover of ancient fiction than it is a needs to read.

Alasandra Alawine: William Vandam is in pursuit of a Nazi secret agent whose Arab ties make it effortless to mixture in with the neighborhood populace. Alex Wolff (aka Achmed)is smart and unscrupulous and made up our minds to assemble key info for the Nazis. With the aid of Sonja, his former girlfriend, Wolff manages to allude the gurus and run a honey catch on Sandy Smith, whose eagerness to mattress Sonja has him leaving his briefcase jam-packed with delicate files in Wolff's reach. the knowledge Wolff is ready to get from Smith permits the Nazis to win a number of battles. Vandam recruits Elene, an Egyptian Jew, to aid him locate Wolff. a chain of traps that Vandam lays for Wolff move awry leaving Elene at Wolff's mercy. With the gurus remaining in Wolff kidnaps Vandam's son Billy and takes Billy and Elene into the desert. Vandam follows and a last determined conflict ensues that may not purely confirm if Billy and Elene live, yet who will win the War. i discovered the 1st twenty chapters fairly sluggish going however the rest of the e-book was once fast-paced and most unlikely to place down. I do imagine it used to be particularly fantastic that rather than sending the main info in his ownership alongside to his handlers Wolff decide to spend the evening in mattress with Elene and Sonja, giving Vandam an opportunity to forestall him from sending the information.

Stacie Pittard: i am prepared to assert I loved this book, even though i would not be speedy to suggest it to anyone. Follett looked to be reasonably researched on the earth struggle center East, and total the tale was once interesting. It was once a simple read, and used to be sufficiently entertaining. However, there have been a couple of difficulties I had with this book, which saved me from actually having fun with it. For one thing, the tale used to be tremendous

predictable. not only the general outcome, yet each plot twist and occasion a standard path. there has been a serious loss of mind's eye and creativity. The different factor I take is directed extra towards Ken Follett than this actual novel. I learn Pillars of the Earth, and whereas I enjoyed the story, it used to be thoroughly ruined by means of Follett's writing style. figuring out to offer him one other chance, I picked up the major To Rebecca, which did not anything yet turn out my preliminary lawsuits opposed to Follett's writing. His characters are too black and white. The heroes are too perfect, and the villains are approach too evil to be believable. not just that, yet i have spotted that Follett has a behavior of making evil characters with unusual and unsightly sexual desires...to the purpose of the place i ponder if his writing is a few method to dwell out own fetishes of his. As I stated before, the publication was once enjoyable enough. If I needed to sum up my feeling for the publication in precisely a number of words, it is going to be: "I want a unique writer had written it".

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