



## The Cairo Affair: A Novel

By Olen Steinhauer



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Sophie Kohl is living her worst nightmare. Minutes after she confesses to her husband, a mid-level diplomat at the American embassy in Hungary, that she had an affair while they were in Cairo, he is shot in the head and killed.

Stan Bertolli, a Cairo-based CIA agent, has fielded his share of midnight calls. But his heart skips a beat when he hears the voice of the only woman he ever truly loved, calling to ask why her husband has been assassinated.

Omar Halawi has worked in Egyptian intelligence for years, and he knows how to play the game. Foreign agents pass him occasional information, he returns the favor, and everyone's happy. But the murder of a diplomat in Hungary has ripples all the way to Cairo, and Omar must follow the fall-out wherever it leads.

American analyst Jibril Aziz knows more about Stumbler, a covert operation rejected by the CIA, than anyone. So when it appears someone else has obtained a copy of the blueprints, Jibril alone knows the danger it represents.

As these players converge in Cairo in *The Cairo Affair*, Olen Steinhauer's masterful manipulations slowly unveil a portrait of a marriage, a jigsaw puzzle of loyalty and betrayal, against a dangerous world of political games where allegiances are never clear and outcomes are never guaranteed.

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## The Cairo Affair: A Novel By Olen Steinhauer Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**An Amazon Best Book of the Month, March 2014:** At a time when brutal Norwegian murder mysteries are still in fashion, it's nice to get lost in a brainy, page-turner of a spy story, one that feels both classic and fresh. This is Steinhauer's ninth novel, the first since his successful *Tourist* trilogy. A standalone, *The Cairo Affair* feels timely and relevant, cleverly relying on recent world events--a Wikileaks transcript, Gaddafi's overthrow, the Arab Spring. More than an espionage thriller, this is a complicated geo-political story and, at its core, the story of a flawed marriage, full of betrayals and dangerous lies. It's also an ambitious undertaking for Steinhauer. While his *Tourist* series featured rogue CIA agent Milo Weaver, *The Cairo Affair* is a complex narrative, entwining the stories of multiple characters, primarily a disloyal wife, her ex-lover, an Egyptian intelligence agent, and a CIA analyst. Pinballing across time and place, from Hungary to Libya, Yugoslavia to Egypt, featuring spooks named Rainman, Stumbler, and Sledgehammer, the puzzle pieces come together in a moody, low-tech, and unpredictable reveal. Having followed Steinhauer's trajectory over the years, it's a pleasure to experience a writer pushing himself--into le Carre territory, no less. --Neal Thompson

From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* One of the two best espionage novelists working today, Steinhauer follows his acclaimed Milo Weaver trilogy with a stunning stand-alone that is as emotionally rich as it is layered with intrigue. Budapest, March 2011: career diplomat Emmett Kohl is shot dead in a restaurant, in front of his disbelieving wife, Sophie. Determined to find out why, she follows a trail that leads to the American embassy in a tumultuous Cairo; to the revolution under way in neighboring Libya; to Langley, Virginia; and to her own ill-fated honeymoon in Eastern Europe. It has something to do with "Stumbler," a CIA plan for regime change, but, as we shadow a half-dozen key players, the hows and whys prove maddeningly elusive—and, in the words of a veteran spy: "When you live in a house of mirrors, the only way to stay alive is to believe that every reflection is real." A complex tale of the Arab Spring, WikiLeaks, the CIA, and a marriage, this leaves us with the unsettling feeling that, despite all the information won, lost, hoarded, and put to use, the world of intelligence is no stronger than the fragile, fallible humans who navigate it. It has become de rigeur to compare Steinhauer to le Carré, but it's nearly time to pass the torch: for the next generation, it's Steinhauer who will become the standard by which others are measured. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Given the success of Steinhauer's last three books, the publisher is backing this one with a six-figure marketing campaign and a 150,000-copy print run. Patrons will be asking for it. --Keir Graff

Review

Praise for "The Cairo Affair"

"A genuine page turner--cleverly conceived and intricately plotted. Steinhauer juggles political and personal loyalties with a master storyteller's sleight of hand."--Joseph Kanon

""The Cairo Affair" is the espionage novel at its best, packed with betrayals, double-crosses, hidden agendas, moral conflicts, international relations, and even a delectable double-entendre of a title."--Chris Pavone

More Praise for Olen Steinhauer:

"Not since le Carre has a writer so vividly evoked the multilayered, multifaceted, deeply paranoid world of espionage, in which identities and allegiances are malleable and ever shifting, the mirrors of loyalty and betrayal reflecting one another to infinity."--"The New York Times

""This ambitious, complex story spans the globe. Even when the intricacies of its plot are most challenging, we are fascinated and swept forward...Olen Steinhauer's Milo Weaver novels are must-reads for lovers of the genre."--"The Washington Post

""Stunning."--"USA Today

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"Dazzling."--"Booklist "(starred review)

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"Mesmerizing."--"Library Journal"

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"Elaborate, sophisticated...A long, twisty road full of cleverly placed potholes and unexpected turns...Mr. Steinhauer draws his spies as flesh-and-blood characters in whom his readers invest both attention and emotion."--Janet Maslin, "The New York Times

""A stunning stand-alone that is as emotionally rich as it is layered with intrigue."--"Booklist" (starred review)

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## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Carol Rodgers:**

The book The Cairo Affair: A Novel make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make examining a book The Cairo Affair: A Novel being your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like start and read a publication The Cairo Affair: A Novel. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this reserve?

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### **Christina Bishop:**

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