



Secret Protocols

PETER VANSITTART

FICTION

121,000 WORDS

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'This is a book like no other: grandly powerful, illumined by knowledge, insight, originality, evocative of the depths and elation bought upon the individuals by the instigators of history and the quirks of chance. Let us celebrate Peter Vansittart as a literary treasure of our time.'
– Sybille Bedford

Erich's odyssey begins when his Estonian childhood is ended by the outbreak of the Second World War. He arrives in Paris, where in 1945 his life seems full of promise. But a love affair drives him to England to work for the Estonian government-in-exile. His imagined island of monarchs, Churchill and 'gentlemen' evaporates into one of scornful youth, insular adults and an underground of spies, political crooks and fanatics. Sojourns in Europe further underline that war and corruption are not extinct and that, in his own life, the most profound shocks are those of friendship and love. Beneath the drift towards a united Europe Erich realises that treaties do not always end war, that solemn rites cannot guarantee love and that the inevitable can fail to happen.

Acclaim for Peter Vansittart:

'One of our most ingenious, daring and brilliant novelists' – Alan Massie

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'One of very few novelists who can bring our history vigorously and originally to life.'

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'He may well be the best English historical novelist now writing.' – Martin Seymour Smith

'A teeming, vivid, unruly fairground of experience, jostling with brilliant detail and palpable immediacy.' – Alan Hollinghurst

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'Vansittart commands an armoury of curious facts which he wields spellbindingly.'

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'An extraordinary and glittering eye' – Barbara Trapido

'Vansittart writes with the intellect of a historian and and the imagination of a poet.'

– Douglas Dunn

'His prose shimmers like a mosaic . . . Peter Vansittart has a genuine historical imagination.'

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'The most intelligent of our historical novelists' – Miranda Seymour

'Unsurpassed at rendering with compelling immediacy the terrors and furies of catastrophic change.' – Mary Renault