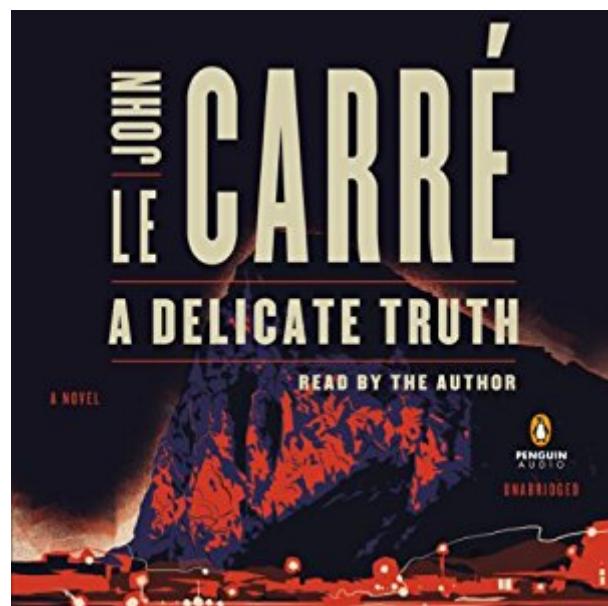


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# A Delicate Truth: A Novel



## Synopsis

A Delicate Truth opens in 2008. A counter-terrorist operation, codenamed Wildlife, is being mounted on the British crown colony of Gibraltar. Its purpose: to capture and abduct a high-value jihadist arms buyer. Its authors: an ambitious Foreign Office Minister, a private defense contractor who is also his bosom friend, and a shady American CIA operative of the evangelical far right. So delicate is the operation that even the Minister's personal private secretary, Toby Bell, is not cleared for it. Cornwall, UK, 2011: A disgraced Special Forces Soldier delivers a message from the dead. Was Operation Wildlife the success it was cracked up to be - or a human tragedy that was ruthlessly covered up? Summoned by Sir Christopher ("Kit") Probyn, retired British diplomat, to his decaying Cornish manor house, and closely observed by Kit's beautiful daughter, Emily, Toby must choose between his conscience and duty to his Service. If the only thing necessary to the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing, how can he keep silent?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From the time le Carre wrote "Call for the Dead" in 1961 he has played the theme of moral ambiguity: good men stepping into the quagmire of murky morality in their fight against evil, resulting often in the death of innocent, naive ideologues. He chronicled the challenges against western civilization for the last five decades, delving into current events that raise moral conundrums, and the decline of British influence in the post-war decades as the UK devolved into another inconsequential European country in "Our Kind of Traitor," le Carre's last book. In "A Delicate Truth," le Carre examines the delicate fragility of democracy, the delicate concepts of personal freedoms

and equity that underlay the foundations of democracy. The author peers through the looking glass and asks the question: are the great democracies of western civilization sliding towards the same corruption of third world, developing countries, corruption in which leaders pursue power and greed with no concerns for moral ambiguity, as long as they avoid personal consequences. Le Carre explores the potential conflicts and entanglements of the modern military and secret service use of contracting traditional services far beyond anything Eisenhower envisioned in his: beware the power of the military-industrial complex. Toby Bell is a young, rapidly rising, mid-level officer in the Foreign Service, a Private Secretary to the overly ambitious Quinn, Assistant Director of the Foreign Office. Quinn launches into a secretive operation, but keeps Toby completely isolated from the action, although he suspects an illegal operation. But his mentors tell him to stay out of the way to protect his career. The story begins with Toby breaking the law in an amateur attempt to expose Quinn.

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