

# [PDF] A Covert Affair: Julia Child And Paul Child In The OSS

Jan Maxwell, Jennet Conant - pdf download free book

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## Books Details:

Title: A Covert Affair: Julia Child

Author: Jan Maxwell, Jennet Conant

Released: 2011-04-05

Language:

Pages:

ISBN: 1442341912

ISBN13: 978-1442341913

ASIN: 1442341912



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## Description:

**From Publishers Weekly** Julia Child's passion for French cuisine began when she and her husband, Paul, moved to Paris in 1948. The couple met in Ceylon in 1944 when both were in the Office of Strategic Services, precursor to the CIA, and they married two years later. To tell their story, Conant (The Irregulars) combed through numerous archives to fill in the deep backgrounds of their OSS friends. Opening with OSS origins and the 1943 OSS recruits, the narrative follows the WWII trajectory of Julia Child, who volunteered for a post at the OSS base in India. At Mountbatten's mountaintop headquarters, the team included Julia, Paul, and the flamboyant Jane Foster. With the end of WWII, Jane flew to Java to record the war crimes testimonies of American POWs, while Paul and Julia's romance heated up in China and France. The couple fell under suspicion when Jane was

targeted with accusations of espionage, having "left a trail of Communist ties the FBI followed like breadcrumbs" (though Conant found no conclusive evidence that Jane was a Soviet spy). The bulk of this book is mostly about Jane, making the title somewhat misleading, but Conant's vivid tapestry of the 1940s skillfully interweaves interviews, oral histories, memoirs, and recently unclassified OSS and FBI documents with unpublished diaries and letters. The adventurous young OSS recruits spring to life throughout this meticulously researched, authoritative history. (Apr.)

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**Review** "Conant has written a book full of fascinating material about wartime and postwar America and how they intersected....Conant doesn't disappoint in her picture of the whirlwind life of the OSS, created very much in the image of its founder, the maverick William J. Donovan. Her glimpses of how he overcame bureaucratic rivalries and turf wars are as exciting as her picture of life in the field, complete with dengue fever, cobras and scorpions." —**Los Angeles Times**

"A *Covert Affair* is a skillfully told tale of espionage, combining just enough background information with the right amount of boisterous anecdote to make the reader feel simultaneously amused and informed." —**Salon.com**

"The value of Conant's anecdotal approach is... in its depiction of ordinary relationships in extraordinary circumstances--of the way friendships, feuds and romances develop in strange and secretive settings." —**The New York Times Book Review**

"Thoroughly researched, fluid and compelling" —**Kirkus**

"A well-researched, entertaining, and fast-paced read" —**Library Journal**

"It is a wallop of a story, people engaging in the sorts of international dangers that is the stuff of the movies... all jungles and cities and intrigue and risk, with an exquisite attention to detail that illuminates the OSS and its players." —**Portland Oregonian**

"A brilliantly researched and written account... a well-researched and well-written account of this period in American history....Conant, a terrific writer, conducted voluminous research and crafted a fascinating story that reads as though she was actually there." —**The Seattle Times** --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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