



William Boyd

What makes someone become a traitor? My own theory is that there are three basic reasons: a need for money, being blackmailed, or a deep hatred of your country and its values. Blofeld's book makes me inclined to add a fourth. When Blunt was asked, during his interrogation in 1964, why he became a traitor, he replied, "cowboys and indians". It sounds facetious but I think there's a truth there. Spying, being a double agent and living that life of permanent subterfuge becomes a kind of dangerous, exciting game, and it's intoxicating, highly addictive. It applies to Blunt – and Philby, also, I believe. At the end of the day, they simply relished the secret that they had outsmarted everyone.

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