



## Zoo Station

*By David Downing*

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### **Zoo Station** By David Downing

By 1939, Anglo-American journalist John Russell has spent over a decade in Berlin, where his son lives with his mother. He writes human-interest pieces for British and American papers, avoiding the investigative journalism that could get him deported. But as World War II approaches, he faces having to leave his son as well as his girlfriend of several years, a beautiful German starlet.

When an acquaintance from his old communist days approaches him to do some work for the Soviets, Russell is reluctant, but he is unable to resist the offer. He becomes involved in other dangerous activities, helping a Jewish family and a determined young American reporter. When the British and the Nazis notice his involvement with the Soviets, Russell is dragged into the murky world of warring intelligence services.

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## **Zoo Station** By David Downing Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Set in pre-WWII Berlin, Downing's fine new thriller introduces a clever and honorable hero, British journalist John Russell, who has spent 15 years working in Germany. Despite finding the Nazis despicable and war inevitable, Russell wants to remain in Germany to be near his girlfriend, beautiful actress Effi Koenen, and his son, Paul, from whose mother he's divorced. A mysterious Russian hires Russell to write a series of articles praising Nazi achievements, and though he finds this work odious, he figures out a way to make the job palatable by involving the British consulate and their chief intelligence officer. He's drawn increasingly deeper into the espionage web of not only the Russians and British but also the Germans. How he extricates himself from all three and gets revenge on the Nazis will have readers holding their breath. Fortunately, the satisfying ending suggests Downing (*The Moscow Option*) will bring Russell back in a sequel. (May)

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From [Booklist](#)

As the pivotal year 1939 begins, John Russell, a British expatriate, is eking out an existence in Berlin as a freelance journalist. He is trying to keep his head down and play it safe so he can stay in Nazi Germany to be near his young son and his girlfriend--a glamorous yet cynical German movie actress. One afternoon, a Soviet agent approaches him with a business proposal for Russell to write articles putting a positive slant on Germany and to be published in *Pravda*--ostensibly to prepare the Soviets for a nonaggression pact with Hitler. But soon, both the Nazis and the British become interested in Russell's new business arrangement, and he quickly falls under their hardened scrutiny. After the alleged suicide of a fellow journalist, Russell finds himself in possession of perilous secrets that will tear his peaceful, safe little life apart. This is a quiet but suspenseful tale of an ordinary man living in a dangerous place during a dangerous time who finds within himself the strength to do heroic acts. *Michael Gannon*

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Review

### **Praise for Zoo Station**

"*Zoo Station* is a beautifully crafted and compelling thriller with a heart-stopping ending as John Russell learns the personal faces of good and evil. An unforgettable read."

—**Charles Todd, author of the Inspector Ian Rutledge series**

"*Zoo Station* (book one) hooked me on the first page."

—**Huffington Post UK**

### **Praise for David Downing**

"Epic in scope, Mr. Downing's "Station" cycle creates a fictional universe rich with a historian's expertise but rendered with literary style and heart."

—**The Wall Street Journal**

"Full of striking inventions."

—**Kingsley Amis, author of Lucky Jim**

“One of the most intelligent and persuasive realizations of Germany immediately before the war.”

—*Wall Street Journal*

“John Russell has always been in the thick of things in David Downing’s powerful historical novels set largely in Berlin....Downing provides no platform for debate in this unsentimental novel, leaving his hero to ponder the ethics of his pragmatic choices while surveying the ground level horrors to be seen in Berlin.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

“Downing distinguishes himself by eschewing the easy ways out. He doesn't shy away from portraying the cold brutality of the Third Reich, and his characters are far from stereotypes—they're flawed, confused and real.”

—NPR

“An extraordinary evocation of Nazi Germany on the eve of war, the smell of cruelty seeping through the clean modern surface.”

—**C. J. Sansom, author of *Revelation***

“A beautifully crafted and compelling thriller with a heart-stopping ending as John Russell learns the personal faces of good and evil. An unforgettable read.”

—**Charles Todd, author of the Inspector Ian Rutledge Series**

“Downing is brilliant at weaving history and fiction, and this plot, with its twists and turns—all under the terrible bombardment of Berlin and the Third Reich’s death throes—is as suspenseful as they come. The end, with another twist, is equally clever and unexpected.”

—*Toronto Globe and Mail*

“In the elite company of literary spy masters Alan Furst and Philip Kerr.”

—*Washington Post*

“The echo of the Allied bombings and the crash of the boots of the invading Russians permeate the pages in which David Downing vividly does justice to the drama....The book is a reminder of what happened and those who allowed it to happen....The book lives up to the others in the Russell series, serving as yet one more reminder of a world too many have entirely forgotten.”

—*Washington Times*

“Excellent and evocative....Downing’s strength is his fleshing out of the tense and often dangerous nature of everyday life in a totalitarian state.”

—*The Times (London)*

“The author combines his erudition with an excellent political imagination. He writes well, clearly and has a nice wit.”

—*Sunday Times (UK)*

“Compulsive reading.”

—*Sunday Telegraph (UK)*

“An atmospheric tale.”

—*St. Petersburg Times*

“An elegant rapid-fire spy story.”

—*The Virginian-Pilot*

“An atmospheric thriller...furious pacing.”

—*Booklist*

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Donna Casey:**

Now a day individuals who Living in the era just where everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources included can be true or not require people to be aware of each data they get. How people have to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Examining a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Zoo Station book because this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred % guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

#### **Keith Cochran:**

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#### **Michael Due:**

Zoo Station can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Zoo Station nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource information that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial pondering.

#### **Jason Allen:**

As a university student exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library

in order to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just tiny students that has reading's heart and soul or real their hobby. They just do what the trainer want, like asked to go to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading critically. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring along with can't see colorful pictures on there. Yeah, it is to get complicated. Book is very important in your case. As we know that on this era, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Zoo Station can make you experience more interested to read.

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