The Director by David Ignatius

Graham Weber has been director of the CIA for less than a week when a Swiss kid in a dirty T-shirt walks into the American consulate in Hamburg and says the agency has been hacked, and he has the list of agents’ names to prove it. Like the new world of cyber-espionage from which it’s drawn, The Director is a maze of double dealing, about a world where everything is written in zeroes and ones—and nothing can be trusted.

Why you'll like it: National intelligence. 21st Century espionage. Roman à clef

About the Author: David Ignatius was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on May 26, 1950. He received a B.A. from Harvard University in 1963 and a diploma in economics from Kings College, Cambridge, England, in 1975. He has worked as a reporter for the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times Magazine, and the Washington Post, where he is an associate editor. In 1985, he received the Edward Weintal Prize for diplomatic reporting from the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy. He is the author of several novels including Agents of Innocence, Siro, The Bank of Fear, A Firing Offense, Body of Lies, The Increment, and The Director. (Bowker Author Biography)

Questions for Discussion

1. Were you immediately drawn into The Director or did it take a while?
2. What is the significance of the title?
3. What was unique about the setting in The Director? Did the setting take away or enhance the story?
4. Do the characters of The Director seem real and believable? Can you relate to their predicaments?
5. Did any of the characters remind you of yourself or someone you know? How?
6. Did certain parts of the book make you uncomfortable? If so, why did you feel that way?
7. How credible is the story, The Director?
8. What surprised you the most about the book?
9. Were there moments where you disagreed with the choices of any of the characters? What would you have done differently?
10. Did you think the ending was appropriate? How would you have liked to have seen the ending go?