

A-1 Thriller

THE COOLER—By George Markstein; Doubleday; \$4.95; 296 pp.

The Cooler was an English mansion where "flawed" spies were sent to sit out World War II. They were highly trained specialists, some in possession of secrets so dangerous they could turn the tide of war against the Allies. They were privy to the secrets before the flaws surfaced, and the Cooler was actually a prison, albeit a luxurious one.

British Secret Intelligence was aghast to learn that one of the Cooler inmates was a traitor and was radioing secrets to the Germans. And if he happened to

be privy to the facts of the Normandy invasion, the outcome of the war was in jeopardy.

Was the traitor Capt. James Leach, confined to the Cooler because he was a sexual deviate—a sadist. Or was it the girl, Clare, who during a practice session, broke the rules when she broke a fellow trainee's arm? Intelligence had to find out in a hurry.

This short novel packs a wallop like a punch to the jaw—and all the stars are deserved. A taut, literate, beautifully plotted, impossible-to-put-down spy tale. Markstein is a British TV writer and this is his first novel. Bravo!

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