

BOOKS

Property Brothers double their work and fun

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Jonathan and Drew Scott really do know how to make a thing go right.

It Takes Two: Our Story (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) is the memoir the twins, aka HGTV's *Property Brothers*, write to share how it hasn't exactly been that easy.

The Scotts, 39, have built a brand that includes home renovation series spinoffs (*Brother vs. Brother*, *Property Brothers at Home*), a home décor collection and now two books, including the best seller *Dream Home: The Property Brothers' Ultimate Guide to Finding & Fixing Your Perfect House*.

Drew got engaged in December and has been renovating a home in Los Angeles with fiancée Linda Phan. Of course, Jonathan is involved. *Property Brothers at Home: Drew's Honeymoon House* premieres in November.

What's on their schedules nowadays? A traveling house party to promote their new book. Stops are set for cities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and more through September. Drew also will be prepping to join pro dancer Emma Slater on Season 25 of ABC's *Dancing With the Stars* beginning Sept. 18.

Like the brothers, the memoir is very busy. *It Takes Two* has a breezy tone with alternating chapters by each twin. Funny, sometimes snarky, notes are scribbled in the margins.

One theme is clear: The Scotts



RICK ROWELL, SCOTT BROS.



Drew, left, and Jonathan Scott are taking their traveling house party on the road.

give fans a glimpse into their lives. Now, they really are an open book.

USA TODAY highlights five fun things to know about Jonathan and Drew from *It Takes Two*:

1 JONATHAN'S MAGICIAN ASPIRATIONS WERE LEGIT

Jonathan: "At 16, I won 3rd Best Stage Performer in the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians magic competition. That's right: I was officially an Olympian of magic. Well, in my head, at least."

2 DREW WOULD LOVE TO PLAY A SUPERHERO

Drew: "Superhero would be my dream screen role for sure. I loved Marvel and DC comics as a kid, so to play out my childhood fantasy of being Superhuman

would be amazing. I'd want one with plenty of white-knuckle stunts. Even better if I could swap out the tights for something cooler from my sock collection."

3 THEY HAD CELEBRITY CRUSHES, TOO

Drew: "My celebrity crushes were Tiffani-Amber Thiessen from *Saved by the Bell* and Sporty Spice. Jonathan leaned more toward Christina Applegate or Tyra Banks, whose posters he kept hidden in his room on the back of his closet door."

4 THEY BOTH BELIEVE IN GHOSTS

Jonathan: "The obsession started when traveling in Scotland as little kids, touring all the castles, cathedrals, and ruins we could

find. We've been to dozens and dozens of publicly advertised paranormal places without seeing a single spook."

5 THEY BOTH LOVE HAGGIS

Jonathan: "Everybody knows we love sushi. Believe it or not, being Scottish, we didn't grow up savoring raw fish. What was the family favorite (except for JD, who is the pickiest eater alive) for us? Haggis! Scotland's national dish — a large, boiled sausage encased in a sheep's stomach, containing minced sheep's heart, liver, and lungs, mixed with oatmeal, onion, and suet, and seasoned with nutmeg and mace. (In the U.S. sheep's lungs are banned, so they use tongue instead.)

"It's amazing. Trust us! Haggis out of a can is delicious, too."

Alice Waters cooks up a tasty memoir with 'Senses'

REVIEW
ASHLEY DAY

When a social activist who enjoys throwing dinner parties becomes an influential restaurateur without formal culinary training or business experience, there's bound to be a good back story, and this one goes way back.

Alice Waters' new memoir recounts the rebellious youth (not unlike that of her male counterparts), college activism and exploration of the arts that evolved into her "counterculture" restaurant, *Chez Panisse*, which would so unexpectedly shape today's dining culture.

Of course, *Coming to My Senses: The Making of a Counterculture Cook* (Clarkson Potter, 292 pp., ★★★★★ out of four) also follows her parents' inevitable influence and credits ex-boyfriends, their eventual spouses and ultimately an entire Berkeley, Calif., community that contributed to Waters' success.

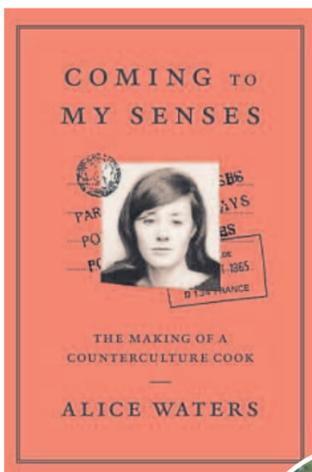
The chef and restaurateur begins her story in childhood, from a middle-class life in the New Jersey suburbs, complete with casseroles and frozen peas, to her high school years in the Midwest, and her formative college experiences in California.

Waters, inspired by the Free Speech Movement of the 1960s, has a way of portraying her misadventures — from a sorority kicking her out to a Montessori school firing her — in an endearing enough light to grab the reader's support, even if she did wear see-through shirts while teaching.

The home cook finds herself enamored with flowers, education, art and film before fully developing her passion for ingredients, sourcing and cooking for dinner parties, all of which make up the recipe for *Chez Panisse*.

Yes, her love for food begins in France, but not at *Le Cordon Bleu* or a coveted apprenticeship.

Reckless collegiate travel abroad broadens Waters' dining discernment and, frankly, knowledge of salad. And a simple, locally sourced meal in Brittany serves



FRED MERTZ

Author and chef Alice Waters

as her first "blueprint" for the restaurant a decade before its realization.

The chef is not shy about sharing memories of the mistakes and embarrassments that preceded her fame.

Without formal training, Waters eventually works her way into the company of icons such as Julia Child and James Beard, who are amused when she uses her hands to toss a salad and mislabels a vegetable on the menu at *Chez Panisse*.

Many of her sentiments about food demonstrate a similar approachability, such as insisting upon simplicity when planning her restaurant. Thus the idea of one fixed-price menu; but even on the first night, the experience promised every attention to detail.

Waters meticulously planned the lighting, aromas, printing and décor as much as the daily changing menu. The wine, on the other hand, was selected for affordability.

In perhaps a brilliant book sales strategy, *Chez Panisse* doesn't open until the final chapter, leaving the culinary icon's dozen other books to answer lingering questions.

After reading this mouthwatering tale of Waters' intrepid youth, you'll be hungry for more anyway.

Le Carré's 'Legacy' revives the Cold War. And Smiley?

Gene Seymour
Special for USA TODAY

REVIEW

Probably the only thing that's as perilous as being a spy is reviewing spy thrillers. So many are counting on you to keep secrets; in the case of the reviewer, it's the author, the publisher and, most especially, the reader. No one wants you to ruin things by disclosing too much. In spying or in reviewing spy novels, revealing "the end" is the very last thing you want to do. So I won't.

But there's a problem with taking on *A Legacy of Spies* (Viking, 264 pp., ★★★★★), the latest thriller by the revered and seemingly unstoppable 85-year-old John le Carré. Your reviewer is obliged to reveal crucial details from his first commercial success, *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold*.

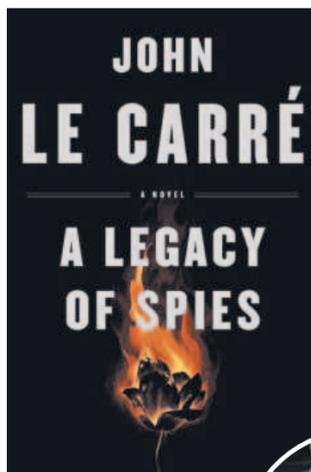
Granted, that groundbreaking 1963 novel was a blockbuster best seller and then a movie. So, given that *Legacy* is a kind of sequel to *Spy*, does this notoriously wily author have anything new to say about its characters?

Legacy is told from the world-weary point of view of Peter Guillam, whom longtime le Carré readers will recognize as the cool, circumspect British secret agent who was the sidekick and sounding board for George Smiley, the stout, owlsh and implacably brilliant spymaster.

Guillam is now a senior citizen living in bucolic retirement. When he is beckoned back to his onetime workplace (in le Carré speak, "The Circus"), he suspects it's not for a happy reunion.

It isn't. The younger folks who now run The Circus inform Peter that their outfit is facing "frivolous civil action or private prosecution" by the children of both Alec Leamas and Liz Gold, who were shot dead decades before at the Berlin Wall because of a Circus operation with morally questionable motives and sordid results.

This is the rumbled, short-tempered Leamas who in *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold* was



NADAV KANDAR
Author John le Carré

used as bait by his bosses — Smiley included — to ruin an East German Stasi chief. Leamas did, except that a) the scheme instead brought down a different, slightly less vile Stasi chief and b) Liz, a librarian with whom he'd fallen in love, was used as an innocent pawn.

Since they can't seem to find Smiley anywhere (wait, he's still alive?), the Circus chiefs compel Peter to go over the files to determine the degree to which the spy service was culpable in Leamas and Gold's deaths. Guillam's search for illumination forces him to face a series of grisly, often heartbreaking consequences.

One wonders at first why le Carré would bother revisiting territory whose possibilities were realized so successfully 50-odd years ago. While *A Legacy of Spies* may not occupy the upper tier of le Carré's work, it's as swift and satisfying as the book it derives from.

Through its beloved characters, *Legacy* also revives old, yet still relevant questions about whether the "ends" compelled by the long-moribund Cold War — or any war — were worth the questionable "means."

But what you all really want to know is whether George Smiley is still alive. You won't find out here. We need to keep some secrets secret, right?