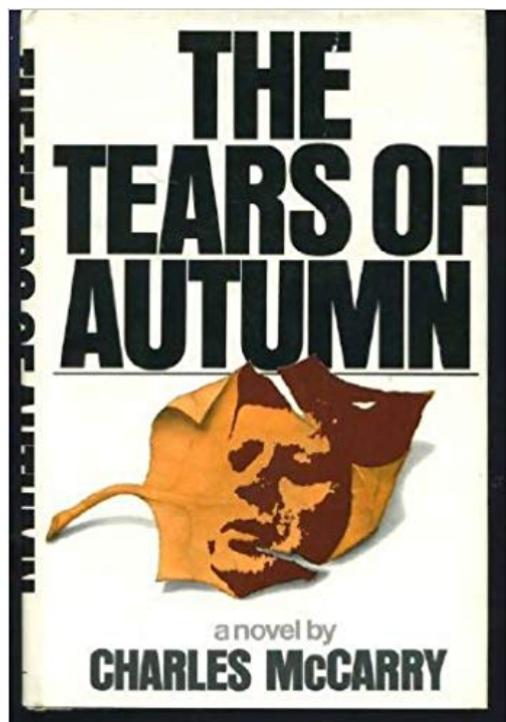


## The Tears of Autumn. *by* Charles McCarry



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**Author:** Charles McCarry

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A re-release of the best-selling thriller originally published twenty years ago finds influential secret agent Paul Christopher pursuing a dangerous theory about the assassination of JFK, an investigation that threatens American foreign policy. By the author of Old Boys. 20,000 first printing.



## Reviews of the *The Tears of Autumn.* *by* Charles McCarry

Levion

Charles McCarry is a less well-known spy novelist than le Carre or Deighton, but belongs in the same conversation even if "Tears of Autumn" was the only book he published. McCarry's protagonist Paul Christopher is somewhere between super human (e.g. ability to pick up almost any language--even tonal ones--in a month or two) and all-too-human (e.g. his feelings for his Australian lover). The pace is fast, the settings described in sufficient detail to convince the reader that McCarry knows them firsthand and JFK's assassination is the number one conspiracy of modern times.

Where McCarry really shines is in the nuanced plotting and layered reveals that keep the reader riveted even if the basics of Christopher's take on Kennedy's murder have been known almost from the outset.

"Tears of Autumn" stands alongside the best of spy novels of the modern era.

Qucid

I was looking for a "new" (to me) espionage author, and a good friend whose book judgment I highly respect suggested McCarry, with the caveat that I start with "Tears of Autumn." Recently I've been skimming Amazon reviews before tackling new authors, and was overwhelmed by the high praise for McCarry - and also greatly excited to be exposed to a superb new author with so many books to his credit. I fear that my enthusiasm led to a slight letdown. Not that I didn't enjoy "Tears." But I didn't find it as riveting as so many other readers.

What I especially liked about the book was development of the theory (not a plot spoiler, as so many other readers have already revealed the theme) that JFK was assassinated as payback for the assassination of the Vietnamese Diem brothers three weeks earlier. I've often wondered about the assassinations, the American one occurring so soon after the Vietnamese version, but I'm just naïve enough to have believed what the Warren Commission found - and also I'm not interested in getting bogged down in conspiracy theories - so didn't give it much thought at the time.

McCarry/Christopher build a plausible case, which is a plus. Also I enjoyed the historical background. It's always interesting to read about times you've lived through, although sometimes rather unsettling to realize how much more there was to think about than you actually absorbed at the time.

Paul Christopher is an interesting guy, somewhat out of the mainstream of espionage agents. And the supporting characters also have a lot to offer. But what I couldn't get into was the detail about how Paul pieced together the evidence. Maybe too many Asians with confusing names - :- ) - but what is highly unusual for me is that I started skipping through some of the later chapters without my usual obsession with nailing down every character and her/his role in the book at hand. Chaque a son gout? Often I frantically search for the consensus on a book, then fall reverently into line with the common view. But in this case a stubborn streak must have reared its ugly head. I didn't find this book the best thing since sliced bread. (Maybe that's not an apt depiction, since my preference is decidedly for whole loaves of whole wheat.) Meanwhile, I'll try McCarry again, hoping for the ultimate experience.

hardy

Thanks Amazon for suggesting I might like books by Charles McCarry, you sure got this one right. I just devoured "The Tears of Autumn" and would have given it 6 stars if I were allowed to, but for some plotting details which I thought jarred a little with the otherwise ultra clever story. In addition to being a top drawer espionage thriller, it is beautifully written and politically very informed. McCarry uses all his CIA undercover experience to develop a very credible narrative with a novel account of why JFK was assassinated. Why this hasn't been made into a movie beats me. Paul Gregory must be the genre's most intellectual spy and he is no slouch when it comes to the rough stuff either. Following his further adventures is a must for anyone who enjoys a well written, fast paced thriller where the author demonstrates real trade craft and close attention to detail. Forty years after publication, "The Tears of Autumn" remains a fresh and fascinating read.

Tar

Thank you to the great Otto Penzler, for singling out McCarry in a recent NYT Books interview as the best international espionage/thriller writer. New to this reader, McCarry fully lives up to Penzler's ultimate compliment, in this spellbinding, gripping riff on the JFK assassination. When, at the end, the White House forces the protagonist to connect the incredible dots that are his findings, and you, the reader, find yourself three feet ahead of the pols, the feeling of reading satisfaction is immense.

Hate&love

Reading the synopsis of this novel I nearly skipped it because I didn't want to read another crackpot Kennedy assassination theory. However, I have recently become a fan of Charles McCarry's Paul Christopher novels so I gave it a go anyway. I have to say I didn't read this as quickly as is my wont, and it is a dense novel with many characters. However, the end result is a very credible story of who might have been behind the murder; but more than that, it read true as to the background of characters and settings from Italy to Viet Nam to the Congo in that period.

I only recently became aware of some of the revisionist history being written concerning the assassinations of the Ngo brothers in Viet Nam and how that was a real turning point in the war, with everything downhill from that point on. McCarry was writing a lot of this as fiction 30 odd years ago. Interesting. He presents an understanding of Vietnamese culture I had never encountered before, and it was very enlightening.

Filled with nefarious characters, a "rendition" kidnapping, revolutionaries, double agents and intrigue aplenty, there is also a nicely detailed love story of Paul Christopher and his Molly that fills out a tale that has the feel of real people and places and real history being made. I am working my way through the series, and although what was recent history when written in 1975 is now almost ancient history, it is a good starting place to enter the world of Paul Christopher and Charles McCarry. Well worthwhile.

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