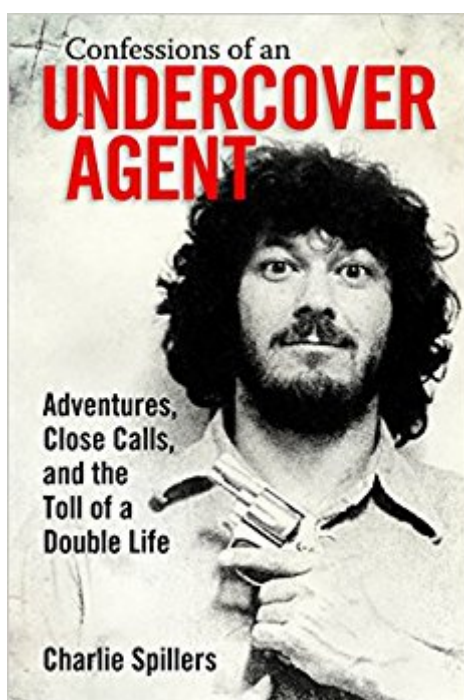


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# Confessions Of An Undercover Agent: Adventures, Close Calls, And The Toll Of A Double Life (Willie Morris Books In Memoir And Biography)



## Synopsis

This true story of an ex-Marine who fought crime as an undercover cop, a narcotics agent, and finally a federal prosecutor spans a decade of crime fighting and narrow escapes. Charlie Spillers dealt with a remarkable variety of career criminals, including heroin traffickers, safecrackers, burglars, auto thieves, and members of Mafia and Mexican drug smuggling operations. In this riveting tale, the author recounts fascinating experiences and the creative methods he used to succeed and survive in a difficult and sometimes extremely dangerous underworld life. As a young officer with the Baton Rouge Police Department, ex-Marine Charlie Spillers first went undercover to infiltrate criminal groups to gather intelligence. Working alone and often unarmed, he constantly attempted to walk the thin line between triumph and disaster. When on the hunt, his closest associates were safecrackers, prostitutes, and burglars. His abilities propelled him into years of undercover work inside drug trafficking rings. But the longer he worked, the greater the risks. His final and perhaps most significant action in Baton Rouge was leading a battle against corruption in the police department itself. After Baton Rouge, he joined the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics and for the next five years continued working undercover, from the Gulf Coast to Memphis; and from New Orleans to Houston, Texas. He capped off a unique career by becoming a federal prosecutor and the justice attaché for Iraq. In this book, he shares his most intriguing exploits and exciting undercover stings, putting readers in the middle of the action.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Confessions of an Undercover Agent stands on the author’s skill as an observer, his remarkable memory, and his ear for the conversation of criminals, told in long scenes with plenty of colorful dialogue. In a time when the police are getting a bad rap, he’s the kind of guy you want on the side of the law. May his exploits live on in the canon of great Mississippi true-crime literature.”

• Jamie Kornegay, owner of Greenwood’s Turnrow Book Co. and author of the acclaimed novel *Soil*; from his review in *The Clarion-Ledger*, April 3, 2016

“Charlie Spillers is a natural-born storyteller with one hell of a story to tell. This is the real lowdown on southern crime from a man who saw it from the inside. After reading the book, I don’t know if Spillers was brave or just plain crazy. But I loved it. A great read.”

• Ace Atkins, New York Times bestselling author of *The Forsaken* and *The Redeemers*

“Confessions of an Undercover Agent is a dynamic, compelling, hilarious memoir by a talented new writer. Charlie Spillers tells fascinating adventure stories unequalled in any other modern memoir I’ve read. To me, the most telling words on the book’s cover appear within its subtitle, ‘the toll of a double life.’ Spillers delivers with brilliant but painful introspection what living a double life of adventurous deception does to your own character. He shows us how the endless adrenaline rushes of risking your life—and that of your family—change you.”

• John Hailman, author of *From Midnight to Guntown: True Crime Stories* from a Federal Prosecutor in Mississippi and *Return to Guntown: Classic Trials of the Outlaws and Rogues of Faulkner Country*

“Confessions of an Undercover Agent is one of those real-life books you just can’t put down. It is factual yet exciting. It defines all the principles of undercover work and highlights the dangers faced by our brave men and women who perform undercover duties every day. Confessions of an Undercover Agent will put the reader into the very mindset of an undercover officer. If you have never worked undercover, your heart rate will increase and your blood pressure will rise by reading and imagining being in these situations. For those who have performed undercover work, you will relive and remember your own stories with excitement as you read this excellent book. It will be mandatory reading for all future undercover class students at the Department of Defense’s Regional Counterdrug Training Academy.”

• Tim Rutledge, director of training at the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA), Naval Air Station, Meridian, Mississippi

Charlie Spillers, Oxford, Mississippi, was an assistant US attorney for twenty-three years, which included volunteering and serving three tours in Iraq for the Department of Justice as the justice attaché for Iraq and as an attorney-advisor to the Iraqi High Tribunal. He was an adjunct professor

at the University of Mississippi and currently serves as an instructor in continuing legal education courses.

Confessions of an Undercover Agent is one of those books that should come with a warning, e.g., "DO NOT BEGIN READING AT BEDTIME." I did begin reading it at that time, fully intending on putting it down after a few paragraphs, with a full chapter being the absolute limit. Well, four chapters later I put it down, only to finish the book the following day. It's well written and it reaches out and grabs you, however Charlie didn't stop there. He pulls you in; you become a ride-along with him on every subsequent adventure. And even though you know he wrote the book and is obviously safe, you still find yourself sitting on pins and needles awaiting the outcome! And there is what makes this a GREAT read. Anytime an author can draw you in to being one of the players, then they have not only done their job, they have done it well. Congratulations Charlie Spillers and on this Memorial Day weekend, I include a sincere, heartfelt thank you for your service to our country and community. Job well done, on all fronts.

I am seldom moved to review a book, but in the case of Confessions of an Undercover Agent, I find myself eager to do so. I was absolutely riveted! I read the book in one sitting, as I simply could not put it down. Confessions of an Undercover Agent is a first-hand account of life in the drug underworld experienced by Charlie Spillers, a former Marine living and working in the deep South. Spillers' description of his undercover operations was so realistic, I felt like I was there along with him. The conversation between characters was very authentic, steeped in jargon of the drug trade and patois of the region. I could hear the characters' voices in my head. I was intrigued by Spillers' description of the challenges of conducting clandestine investigations in the 70's and 80's, without the conveniences of modern technology. I had never thought about the implications of an undercover agent with a wife and young child at home having to use his house phone to communicate with hardened criminals. It was chilling. A surprising feature of the book was its humorous moments - something I did not expect in a gritty, true-crime memoir. One minute I was on the edge of my seat, nervously awaiting the outcome of an undercover operation, and the next, I was chuckling at the antics of the agents and their informants. The dichotomy makes for a very entertaining read, indeed. Confessions of an Undercover Agent is a book that promises to be enjoyed greatly by law enforcement and civilians alike.

The author's Cajun French heritage, early life deep in the heart of Louisiana's Cajun

country, teen years in Mississippi, and military training as a Marine with service in Vietnam, all served to equip and empower Charlie Spillers for the unique challenges of undercover work. An accomplished and gifted story teller, the author writes convincingly of a world thrumming beneath the surface of everyday life in a unique style that draws his reader completely into the drama of the moment. His good ole boy southern charm and confidence allowed him to become part of a criminal world where the veneer of normal life was tenuous and could be shattered in an instant. This highly entertaining book should come with a warning that it will cause increased heart rate, anxiety, a sense of being on a roller coaster ride, and bouts of laughter. The author's candor, reflected in the Epilogue, as he reveals some of the price he and his family paid as a result of his years undercover, will endear him to his readers. Charlie Spillers' first book serves as a tribute to, and recognition of, undercover agents and all law enforcement personnel. I look forward to many more books by this author based on his vast experiences.

I am very impressed by this new author. A friend of mine recommended this book as an exciting read and it definitely is. To know that these stories in this book are true, makes reading it even more exciting. I couldn't put it down, I had company come and I was dying to finish it but, had to wait until they left. The stories in this book make you really aware of what out law enforcement goes through every day, and we, the public, are oblivious. I guess I have just taken my safety in my life for granted, never really knowing what goes on in the lives of our protectors. Charlie Spillers, the author, did an amazing job in presenting the facts to us, the readers. He told the stories in a spell binding way, with humor scattered all through the book. If I had to pick a favorite story, it would be of the sisters; Sadie and Patty and their relationship with the author. I love how gutsy the sisters are, and also the way they tried to help Mr. Spillers. It is hard to pick one story because they were all thrilling. The author tell his story without being boastful, but in a truthful, exciting and scary way. I hope to see more work from this amazing new author, Charlie Spillers!

This book was very interesting and entertaining. I enjoyed reading the many stories of the amazing work that the author and other law enforcement officers were involved in. I also enjoyed his book signing at Square Books in Oxford and hearing him tell some stories. He is an awesome storyteller and it comes through in the book, too. Since that time I've ordered 4 more books for family and friends. It will make a great gift and I'm sure they'll enjoy the book as much as I did. I'm excited to know he is working on another book and will be looking for it in the future.

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