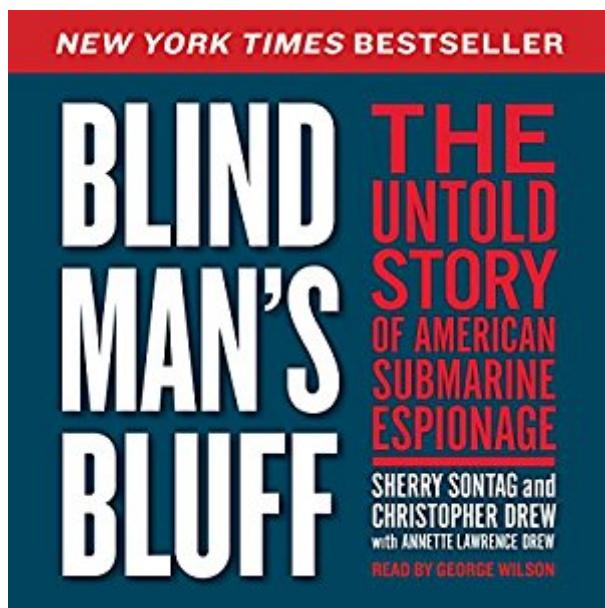


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# Blind Man's Bluff: The Untold Story Of American Submarine Espionage



## Synopsis

No espionage missions have been kept more secret than those involving American submarines. Now, *Blind Man's Bluff* shows for the first time how the navy sent submarines wired with self-destruct charges into the heart of Soviet seas to tap crucial underwater telephone cables. It unveils how the navy's own negligence might have been responsible for the loss of the USS *Scorpion*, a submarine that disappeared, all hands lost, 30 years ago. It tells the complete story of the audacious attempt to steal a Soviet submarine with the help of eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes and how it was doomed from the start. And it reveals how the navy used the comforting notion of deep-sea rescue vehicles to hide operations that were more James Bond than Jacques Cousteau. *Blind Man's Bluff* contains an unforgettable array of characters, including the cowboy sub commander who brazenly outraced torpedoes and couldn't resist sneaking up to within feet of unaware enemy subs. It takes us inside clandestine Washington meetings where top submarine captains briefed presidents and where the espionage war was planned one sub and one dangerous encounter at a time. Stretching from the years immediately after World War II to the operations of the Clinton administration, it is an epic story of daring and deception. A magnificent achievement in investigative reporting, it feels like a spy thriller but with one important difference: Everything in it is true.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a kid who grew up watching *The Hunt For Red October* as

the Cold War was ending, I have always had a love for the idea of the silent hunters that patrol beneath the waves. As I have gotten older, I have tried to find stories about the Cold War days of sub jousting, only to find that a lot of books are far too concerned with the technical side of the equation. I appreciate the level of research, but if I want a schematic I will go to Jane's. What I enjoy far more is hearing the tales of skill and daring that defined the Cold War sub captains. So far, *Blind Man's Bluff* has hit the mark more accurately than anything else I have read. The book covers the use of subs in the Cold War through to the (relatively) modern day. There are some really great moments of tension and bravery to be found, including an escape from a sub on fire that is harrowing to read. The true nature of being stuck in a metal tube in the middle of nowhere gets hammered home more than once, and the risk of massive vessels dancing around each other is a constant threat in the background. Even a story that doesn't seem that tense, where the only real attack is merciless pinging by Russian ships, takes on a new dimension when you factor in how far from safety these sailors were. It is actually a bit astonishing how much of this was able to go on without a major incident or full out war. If you are a sub hound like I am, you will find a lot to like in *Blind Man's Bluff*. This is really a snapshot that shows the submarine in a way we will likely never see again.

Sontag and Drew - what an amazing job of reporting and investigational reporting. Some say they are traitors for publicizing the raw courage and guts of America's special project boats (submarines) throughout the Cold War, others think they are heroes. No matter which side of the coin you call, the stories in this book are riveting and make the point that the courage of our submariners and the skills of the crews who qualify to wear American Navy Dolphins are superb. For added enjoyment, head to Spotify and look for the albums of submarine songs by Tommy Cox (who is mentioned in the book), and Booby Reed who is not. Their ballads will add a dimension to the book that is unique and should be included with it. Tommy Cox was a 'spook' on the special projects boats - listen to the ballad "Tango Charlie" to get the idea. Look for his albums 'Take Her Deep' and 'In Honor Of.' He served for 21 years in the U.S. Navy and composed the theme song 'Blind Man's Bluff' for the PBS special on Sontag and Drew's book. Bobby Reed, now an electrical engineer, partnered with Tommy Cox to put out 'Brothers of the Dolphin' which captures the humor and intensity of submarine missions. Bobby was on 'Boomers' (Missile Boats) for 6 years. When you get done with this book, you will understand that there is just about nothing a U.S. Fast Attack Crew can't make

their boat do. When you pick the book up to read it, you'll hear two klaxon 'Oooogas' and the call to 'Take Her Deep.' Dive, Dive!

Great book. I read it cover to cover, on a kindle, using an external battery that i am now ever so grateful doesn't require a diesel engine to recharge. Have lived close to keyport and bangor all my life, new found respect for the work they all do.

I have no idea how the authors found this data but I'm so happy they did. Exceptionally well written to put these heroes into the light! I'm looking forward to their next book/revelation of hidden stories about real heroes and selfless patriots.

As a qualified Submariner and Submarine Reactor Operator during the Cold War, I was/am fascinated by Blind Mans Bluff. As an Enlisted Man, I had no idea about all the things that were being done by Our Amazing Submarine service. All of our activities were top secret, that I knew - BUT all of the things that were going on around me were totally unknown to me. I was/am a technical wizard but the overview of how this all fit into the world of the Cold War - for some reason it did not even occur to me. I am thankful to now, all these years later, have just a glimpse into the world of value for the USA we were creating. I cannot recommend this book highly enough - guess that sums it up.

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