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These twenty tales of botched and bungled espionage make for entertaining and interesting reading. The book is “brilliantly bunched into 5 bungling chapters” covering tales of bad luck, miscommunication, incompetence, overconfidence and betrayal. Each of the twenty tales includes an introduction written in a casual style, followed by illustrated panels that tell the story graphically. Each graphic tale is generally from four to five pages long, and Holdcroft’s illustrations are bright and visually appealing. The range of failed espionage stories is impressive, from the ants that revealed a spy tunnel to be used for an assassination attempt in the Maurya Empire over 2300 years ago to the American paratroopers that landed on German soldiers enjoying an outdoor movie during World War II. The introduction to each tale provides important contextual material that informs the graphic narrative. When Holdcroft uses a term that might be unfamiliar, such as “monopoly,” she explains its meaning. Two pages of sources that were used to research the spy stories, including books, documents and websites, are listed at the end.

This book will appeal to those readers interested in tales of espionage and anyone who wants to read short, visually appealing, entertaining stories of failed spy attempts.

*Thematic Links:* Spies, Espionage, History

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