

P-Cleaver, Jim
P-Greenlee, Sam
Sec. 4.01.2 The Spook
Who Sat by The Door

ABOUT BOOKS

'The Spook Who Sat By The Door' Exposes Black Tokenism in the CIA

• Sam Greenlee is the "Spook Who Sat By The Door." This is the title of his newly published book. A former member of the USIA, Greenlee wrote this book in a period of about three months and spent the next three years trying to get it published.

Because it dealt with Black men in the CIA, and a rebellion of sorts, it would be opinioned that most publishers would not want to touch it with a 10-foot pole, but our English friends saw the book in the proper light and made good use of the manuscript.

• A HIGHLY intelligent man, who reeks of intellect, Greenlee is perhaps the only man who could have written a book like this one and gotten away with it. A Chicagoan, who grew up in the midst of big (local) gangs, he understands the thinking of the youth of today and is totally in sympathy.

In "Spook", Greenlee tells the story of a highly ambitious black man who managed to get past the built-in barriers and become a part of the CIA. Here he remains until he decides to make a move on his own, and becomes the director of a social agency in southside Chicago.

This is where the scene changes. Greenlee begins to tell a story that is so real that it becomes unreal in parts. During his days of training for the CIA, the hero made it a point to become extremely proficient at all aspects of the program and once he built his facade of respectability, he was believed to be beyond reproach.

The story is quick and fast-paced and reads well. To tell more than this would detract from the plot of the book, since the suspense and mystery of what is the ultimate plan, is what makes the book

GREENLEE has done himself proud. He has proven himself to have the kind of understanding of the youth of today for which many agency directors would give their eye teeth, and will never have.

"THE SPOOK Who Sat By The Door" is one of the most compelling books in the country today. Whatever a reader may feel about the book, it



SAM GREENLEE

must be taken for granted that he or she will feel something and it won't be a feeling of complacency.

Sam Greenlee has put into words what most young Negroes are feeling today, and it was not an accident.

THE INCIDENTS which take place in the latter stages of the book will be oddly reminiscent of some recent days in Chicago, Detroit and Watts, only much more successful, and the reader should be cautioned to remember this is a work of fic-

tion and not a statement of fact.

• ABOUT THE book Greenlee said, "The cat who planted the seed in my mind was a guy named Abdul Kharrim Kassim, who was a brigadier and planned the coup in Baghdad in 1957. When he took power, he said, that 21 years before, when he was second lieutenant on a training course at Sandhurst in England, he decided he was going to overthrow the Iraqul Government, and that cat kept undercover and organized and planned and plotted for 21 years.

"And I said, 'What kind of man is that?' and out of that came Freeman, who is the principal character in 'Spook'. And Freeman subordinated everything to his one cause."

• Hero Freeman is NOT Sam Greenlee, but a beautiful figment of his imagination. There are flaws in the plot of the book. Many flaws, but it is entirely readable and advised for all readers who would read about warfare at its best.

JIM CLEAVER