Powerful new novel just published on the Ukrainian freedom struggle against Russian hegemony in the 1970s. Was Chernobyl really an accident?

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Brovary are happy to announce the publication of Gerry Cryer's novel The Masterful Manipulation of George Cove. Available in Paperback (£8.99) at bookshops and Amazon it is also available as an eBook (£2.99) or from sales@gerrycryer.com.

Gerry was a successful businessman who gave it all away to become a novelist.

This book is set in the Ukraine and focuses on the freedom struggle against Russian hegemony in the 1970s. The current unrest in Kiev has an historical perspective.

Extract from the novel The Masterful Manipulation of George Cove

"It starts in the ninth century when two Byzantine brothers from Thessaloniki started a Christian campaign in the Slavic countries. There had been so many changes and the Ukrainians in particular had been subjected to so many different rulers that they always strove for an independence of sorts. It is strong in their character; it is part of their make-up. Their culture has always been at risk.

In December 1845, a certain Mykola Kostomarov founded a secret society with some Christian principles of freedom at its core to free the Slavic countries. So, going back in history, it was right, he thought, that their group should be called after those two monks who nine centuries earlier had similar objectives. So they called themselves the Brotherhood of Saints Cyril and Methodius, or in Ukrainian Kirillo-Mefodievskogo brat stvo.

Unfortunately, the authorities of the day weren't overly impressed and most of the members – around a hundred of them probably – were arrested a couple of years after its formation. But while they were together, they talked of a federation of free Slavic people, although not so free as we might today, because they saw Kiev as the centre of all Slavic nations and not just Ukraine. Well, it's all gone and it is really just a passing footnote in history. Except that we believe there are a number of intellectuals on the Ukraine, Byelorussia and Polish axis that feel the same today as the Brotherhood did over a century ago."

Was the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl a deliberate act of sabotage sponsored by the UK? Just how complicit were the British in the nuclear catastrophe at Chernobyl?

"This is a gripping novel of intrigue, power and complex relationships, showing the havoc caused when the State and the powerful manipulate innocent young lives to achieve their own goals—even when it comes to acts against humanity."

How would you react when you are told that your whole life has been manipulated and orchestrated by another and you have been instrumental in promoting and sponsoring Ukrainian nationalists to sabotage Chernobyl?

Once Professor Aleksandra Ponomarenko had been George Cove's tutor at Oxford but today, twenty years since they last met, she is telling him a life story – his own.

He knew already that one of the greatest human tragedies of the twentieth century, the nuclear incident at Chernobyl in 1986, was deliberate sabotage, but Aleksandra reveals that not only was his role pivotal in the catastrophe, but everything else that mattered in his life – his education, his job, where he lived, how he lived, who he fell in love with, and who he lost – was orchestrated by the unseen hand of Bill Familiant.

"This poignant story tackles important issues about destiny, complicity and personal identity and responsibility."

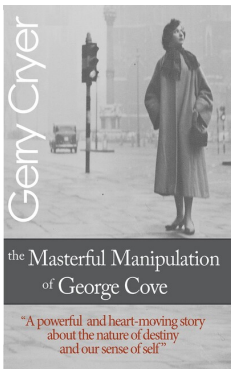
"When fate deals you a hand better than you could possibly imagine, should you trust it unquestioningly? If you do, will fate then find a way to claim back the fortunes it has bestowed on you?"

About the author

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One day two years ago, Gerry Cryer, 62, then a successful international businessman woke, decided enough was enough and without preparation, plan or money stepped away totally from a commercial world to become a novelist. From a luxury life in Dubai to novelist living in a single room in Surrey he has powerful and entertaining stories to tell. The Masterful Manipulation of George Cove, his first novel is now published. His next novel, Blah Blah, will be published in March.

Gerry Cryer says:
It was not planned. I woke and had the urge to write. Business and commerce seemed suddenly very worthless. The story was far from formed. As I started to tell the story each day was a surprise; even to me so much that I remember one night crying at an unforeseen turn of events."

"This isn't a one off and I knew I had to continue into second, third and now my fourth book."

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