

***Restless* by William Boyd**

The story is a spy thriller that begins in the summer of 1976 when Ruth Gilmartin, a postgraduate student at Oxford and a single mother, is handed a buff folder of papers by her mother, Sally Gilmartin. The title page was "The Story of Eva Delectorskaya". Ruth is naturally puzzled and asks "Who's that?" It is the story of Sally's real past. Ruth has always known her mother as Sally Gilmartin, but in reality she was Eva Delectorskaya, a Russian emigré recruited to spy for the British government in the years leading up to and during World War II. She was recruited by the charismatic Lucas Romer and stationed in the United States to plant information to convince them to join the war. She was ultimately betrayed, and now, decades later, she's using her story to exact her revenge. Her story is woven through with Ruth's story in 1976, where she teaches English to Iranians and puts up boarders who might belong to a German terrorist group. Her own life may come under scrutiny of foreign spy services. William Boyd's novel has received positive reviews with

The majority on reviewing the book thought it a good read but without the literary depth provided by other authors. When discussing the book in detail the review was mixed and many thought that the story facile and not always plausible and many aspects raised in the story remaining unresolved. The style varied between the 1st person when told by Ruth and 3rd person when recounting the story of Eva. For me this worked well but some found it irritating. The overall score was 6.