

One of Our Agents Is Missing, Pacifica commentary on this Hunt book HW 2/1/74

JDW's partial tape of the commentary is accurately summarized in "Hunt's one book where he did everything wrong...at one point, anyway, he actually flirted with Reality."

No matter what he calls himself, Hunt is always SuperBond. I think this book might be worth close attention because it is so different and because of the reasons it is, if they can be determined.

One might conjecture he had a belly full of criticism of the self-casting by wife and friends.

Perhaps remorse at having failed in an assignment, if we knew what the assignment of that period (published 1967) might have been. Anti-books? He was in domestic work then. Probably had been for a while, with an assignment in Tokyo intervening.

One possibility may be a Helms opinion.

There seems to be little doubt that there was no official objection to his output, and it does appear that he had to have done some of this work on the job. Meaning he was paid by CIA, as they'd see it, for his writing. The story that Helms had the books on display in his office and showed (gave?) them to others is relevant.

They were pro-CIA propaganda.

But did CIA want it believe that its men never failed? Did not need help? Not good for appropriations.

Helms also may have wanted some propaganda showing the need for spooks to work as a team. He may not have wanted the great flow of one indispensable man novels about his agency.

JL:when you get into second-hand stores, would you please see if one can be had?

Or a library copy xeroxed?

If not the first, this has to be one of Hunt's first novels after Helms became DCI, which was 1966. Whether or not the timing is relevant, it can't be ignored.