

An Affair of Spies, is Ronald Balson's remarkable new novel. The plot is packed with intriguing characters and Balson's entertaining writing style doesn't disappoint. As the United States works to develop a nuclear bomb, it is confirmed that Nazi Germany is on the same track. American intelligence needs to quickly ascertain how close Hitler is to achieving that goal. In November of 1943 Sergeant Nathan Silverman, a Jewish soldier stationed at Camp Ritchie, is told to report to Army Headquarters. Nathan, a German national, was forced to leave his family behind in Berlin and has not heard from them in years. His father is renowned physicist, Josef Silverman. Josef may be working (under duress) on Germany's nuclear bomb alongside his colleague and friend Dr. Gunther Snyder. American authorities have been notified that Gunther wants to defect and that he is willing to reveal Germany's nuclear secrets to them. Nathan will be sent to Germany to decide if Gunther can provide the information Army intelligence desperately seeks. Although he is an inexperienced spy, Nathan has almost the perfect credentials for this assignment. He is familiar with Berlin, speaks German and is acquainted with Gunther. However, he is not a scientist. Enter Dr. Allison Fisher. Allison is a brilliant young physicist who works in Enrico Fermi's lab at the University of Chicago. Nathan is told that he and Allison will travel together to Germany via Paris. Nathan will meet with Gunther in Berlin. Once Nathan is convinced of Gunther's motives, he will bring him to Allison at their safe house for further questioning. If Allison is satisfied with the information Gunther provides the three will immediately leave and return to the United States. Complicating this already dangerous mission is that Nathan wants to find out the fates of the family members he left behind in Berlin.

Balson sends Nathan and Allison on a harrowing journey that will keep readers riveted to this novel. Although the characters are new, the author's suspenseful storytelling and engaging characters are both familiar and better than ever. ***An Affair of Spies*** is Balson at his best.