



## Loitering with Intent (New Directions Paperback)

By Muriel Spark

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**Where does art start or reality end?**

Happily loitering about London, c. 1949, with the intent of gathering material for her writing, Fleur Talbot finds a job “on the grubby edge of the literary world” at the very peculiar Autobiographical Association. Mad egomaniacs writing their memoirs in advance ? or poor fools ensnared by a blackmailer? When the association’s pompous director steals Fleur’s manuscript, fiction begins to appropriate life.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Art, reality and the strange ways the two imitate one another are at the core of Muriel Spark's delightful *Loitering with Intent*, first published in 1981. Would-be novelist Fleur Talbot works for the snooty, irascible Sir Quentin Oliver at the Autobiographical Association, whose members are all at work on their memoirs. When her employer gets his hands on Fleur's novel-in-progress, mayhem ensues when its scenes begin coming true. Generating hilarious turns of phrase and larger-than-life characters (especially Sir Quentin's batty mother), Sparks's inimitable style make this literary joyride thoroughly appealing. ( June 28)

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Review

A delicious conundrum. -- *The New Statesman*

Generating hilarious turns of phrase and larger-than-life characters...Spark's inimitable style make this literary joyride thoroughly appealing. -- *Publishers Weekly*, 18 June 2001

I found it a delight from start to finish—funny, unexpected and compulsively readable...this strange, immensely enjoyable novel. -- *Auberon Waugh, Daily Mail*

One of Spark's very best novels—funny and clever and surprising. -- *The New Republic*

The most intensely Sparkian of her books. -- *The Listener*

Though first published only 20 years ago, Spark's offbeat fiction certainly deserves a place in [ND's] line of contemporary classics. -- *Kirkus Reviews*,, 15 February 2001

Unsurpassable. -- *The Times Literary Supplement [London]*

What a coolly crafted, wickedly funny novel this is! -- *Daily Express*

[A] delirium of delight....robust and full-bodied, a wise and mature work, and a brilliantly mischievous one. - - *The New York Times Book Review Book Review*

[O]ne of Muriel Spark's most accomplished moral fables or puzzles...it provides considerable insight and wit, and no easy answers. -- *A.S. Byatt*

### About the Author

The writer of “some of the best sentences in English” (The New Yorker), Muriel Spark (1918–2006) was the author of dozens of novels including *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Memento Mori*, and *The Driver’s Seat*. She became Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1993.

### Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Matthew Waddell:**

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or read a book allowed Loitering with Intent (New Directions Paperbook)? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other opinion?

**George Thomas:**

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day every day to reading a reserve. The book Loitering with Intent (New Directions Paperbook) it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book features high quality.

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**Bertram Staten:**

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