Amazon Best of the Month, September 2008: Long before Willy Wonka sent out those five Golden Tickets, Roald Dahl lived a life that was more James Bond than James and the Giant Peach. After blinding headaches cut short his distinguished career as a Royal Air Force fighter pilot, Dahl became part of an elite group of British spies working against the United States neutrality at the onset of World War II. The Irregulars is a brilliant profile of Dahls lesser-known profession, embracing a real-life storyline of suave debauchery, clandestine motives, and afternoon cocktails. If this sounds oddly familiar, its no coincidence: both Ian Fleming (the creator of 007) and Bill Stephenson (the legendary spymaster rumored to be the inspiration for Bond) were members of the same outfit. Although Dahl...Roald Dahl doesnt quite carry the same debonair ring, there is no
discrediting this fascinating look at the British authors covert service to the Allied cause during WWII. --Dave Callanan

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**Personal Review: The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington by Jennet Conant**
A well written and fascinating piece of World War II history with a cast that includes future children's author Roald Dahl and James Bond creator Ian Fleming. The British spy ring Washington was not put in place for sabotage, but to gage and influence policy in Washington. As a matter of course, the spys mixed in high society with some very interesting results. Roald Dahl, then in his twenties, ended up having an affair with Clare Booth Luce, then in her forties. When Dahl complained about the affair to London, he was told to close his eyes and think of England. Overall, a great addition to anyone's library on World War II.

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