



# Ike's Mystery Man: The Secret Lives of Robert Cutler

*Peter Shinkle*

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## **Ike's Mystery Man: The Secret Lives of Robert Cutler** Peter Shinkle

The Cold War, The Lavender Scare and the Untold Story of Eisenhower's First National Security Advisor.

"An extraordinary story. . . a gripping, moving tale." -- Evan Thomas, author of *Ike's Bluff: President Eisenhower's Secret Battle to Save the World*

"A historical treasure unearthed . . . A must-read for all Cold War scholars, it is a great read for everyone else." -- Martin J. Sherwin, Pulitzer-Prize-winning co-author of *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*

"This is a book that deserves, and is sure to get, a wide audience." -- Michael Isikoff, co-author of *Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War on America and the Election of Donald Trump*

President Eisenhower's National Security Advisor Robert "Bobby" Cutler shaped US Cold War strategy in far more consequential ways than previously understood. A lifelong Republican, Cutler also served three Democratic presidents. The life of any party, he was a tight-lipped loyalist who worked behind the scenes to get things done. While Cutler's contributions to the public sphere may not have received, until now, the consideration they deserve, the story of his private life has never before been told.

Cutler struggled throughout his years in the White House to discover and embrace his own sexual identity and orientation, and he was in love with a man half his age, NSC staffer Skip Koons. Cutler poured his emotions into a six-volume diary and dozens of letters that have been hidden from history. Steve Benedict, who was White House security officer, Cutler's friend and Koons' friend and former lover, preserved Cutler's papers. All three men served Eisenhower at a time when anyone suspected of "sexual perversion", i.e. homosexuality, was banned from federal employment and vulnerable to security sweeps by the FBI.

## **Ike's Mystery Man: The Secret Lives of Robert Cutler Details**

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## **From Reader Review Ike's Mystery Man: The Secret Lives of Robert Cutler for online ebook**

**willowdog says**

The life of Robert Cutler, a confidant of President Eisenhower, who compartmentalized his gay life for 40 years, is wonderfully told. If one is looking for a gay life during the 1930's through 1960's, one will be disappointed. After an experience in his youth, he seems to have buried these feelings, only to have them awoken in his later life. However, in this very complete biography, one gets the life of a man who is intimately involved in some of the most fascinating issues of these days. The revelations of the work of the Ike administration, the background issues involved, the individuals in the administration and Cutler's many friends surprised me. Here was a gay man, who many felt was gay, yet was able to walk the tightrope in this very repressive era.

Thanks to Net Galley and the publisher for providing this Kindle edition.

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**Chris Carson says**

A terrific read. If you're interested in IKE's presidency, the Cold War, or what it was like to live as a gay man in the 50's closet, this is a terrific story. Well worth the read.

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