

INFAMOUS SPIES

An
Espionage
Series



ANA MONTES



SPY BY NIGHT

In 1984, Ana Belén Montes (b. 1957) was working at the Department of Justice when Cuban intelligence agents, drawn to her known ideological sympathies for their country, recruited her as a spy. In 1986, they helped Montes obtain a more valuable position in the federal government as an intelligence analyst specializing in Cuba at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

For the next 16 years, Montes operated as a highly regarded DIA analyst by day and Cuban spy by night. To evade detection, rather than removing sensitive documents, she memorized their contents during the workday and then in the evenings typed them at home before surreptitiously transferring the materials to the Cubans.

In the mid-1990s, a suspicious DIA colleague began collaborating with the FBI to investigate and create a case against Montes. Just as she was about to be reassigned to work on US war plans at DIA after 9/11, Montes was arrested on September 21, 2001. She pled guilty in 2002 and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.



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