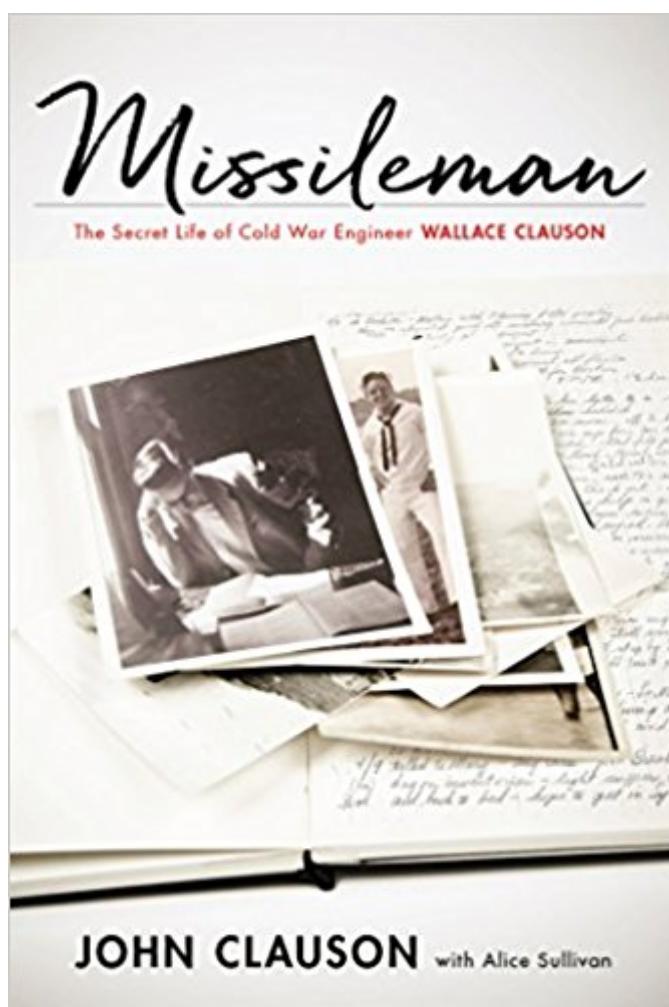


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Missileman: The Secret Life Of Cold War Engineer Wallace Clauson



Synopsis

John Clauson grew up believing he was the son of an IBM salesman. Though the family moved often and John's father, Wallace Clauson, rarely spoke of his work, his family never questioned him nor seemed to notice the inconsistencies and oddities apparent in their daily life. Only decades later, while in his mid-30s, did John finally learn the truth from his father as he was dying of cancer. For over forty years, being an IBM salesman was just a cover. Wallace's real job was with IBM's covert Federal Systems Group where, as a mathematical and mechanical savant, he took his orders from the Department of Defense and was charged with ensuring America's arsenal of nuclear missiles hit their targets. Over the span of three days, as he and his father built a backyard fence, John learned his father's hidden story how Wallace Clauson has been recruited from an Iowa farm due to an error in a high school textbook. He learned of a meeting with Einstein, and about his father's role in the Cold War, and NASA and Iranian missiles. Stunned into silence and left to question the entire fabric of his youth, John wanted only to forget his father's words. In fact, for the next fifteen years, he never spoke about what his father had confessed over that weekend. But he couldn't truly forget. Upon his father's death, John was given his father's workbench, which contained a hidden packet of business cards Wallace's final plea to have his story told. Thus the journey toward discovering the extraordinary clandestine life and career of Wallace Clauson began. *Missileman* is the story of that journey. It is the true account of how Wallace Clauson kept his real work hidden from his family and his neighbors for fifty years. Moving every few years, even living for a period Zurich, Switzerland, Clauson led a life full of anxiety and suspicion. *Missileman* tells how Clauson would always check flight manifests before flying and would be the last one on the plane to make sure no unregistered passenger had embarked. How he always backed into his driveway to ensure a quick getaway if necessary. How he had his son's car fitted with a GPS transmitter in the 1970s! How in Switzerland they lived in a house with a secret passageway leading to an underground meeting room. And how the family was always watched by multiple agents to ensure their safety. *Missileman* is a story of intrigue and wonder and discovery as son John Clauson reveals how his father, a stealth government agent working against the Russians during the Cold War, somehow managed to maintain a double life and keep his family safe and sheltered from the many dangers inherent in his secret life as a missileman.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This captivating book is about the author's father, Wallace Clauson. He is now being recognized as one of the most outstanding and valuable citizens in our country during the The Cold War period and the development period relating to nuclear weapons and their delivery. As a neighbor, I knew Wallace Clauson and his family very well. We had similar family backgrounds and many unique similar interests. However, during the years of acquaintance, his second life as an undercover person working at the highest level in top governmental operations were never revealed to me and I simply did not have a clue as to his true job. This fascinating book by John is accurate in terms of people, facts, times, and places. All I can state further is- WOW. This book has opened up a vast area of inquiry about Wallace Clauson - a genius and an almost unknown servant to this country.

--Robert J. Moore E.D.D., Emeritus Dean and Professor San Jose State University

John Clauson is a retired medical device executive, who started as a salesman selling everything from Band-Aids to vascular stents, and eventually became corporate VP, and chief operating officer.

I liked this book. Well written, easy to read and engrossing.

So great to finally be able to read this on my Kindle. John would stop by Cesco Medical and give us bits and pieces of what he was working on and my late dad and I were so intrigued and could not wait till this all came together. The years of research and travel were well spent. We started hearing the story about 12 years ago. This book is well written and the timing is perfect. John is a good friend and we all wish him the best. His Dad was a true American Hero, didn't have to talk about

how intelligent he was, he just did what he was asked to do to protect the USA.

We'll never know the whole story of the Cold War. To have a spotlight shown on events that are now vague memories makes for a riveting page turner. Who knew? What else don't we know? Will this book cause others to tell their stories? I can hardly wait.

What a wonderful story; how this man was able to keep his work so secret shows his commitment not only to his country but to the safe keeping of his family. What an amazing story of an amazing man who gave his entire life to keep this country safe; we could all learn from his dedication and love of country.

Really loved reading this book, amazing story about family, love, trust, history and the cold war! Loved the lengths a man goes to that keeps his family safe during trying times, a different world back then! Interesting read. Lyda Cordova Larsen

I gave this rating because of it's subject matter and the family life revealed. Some parts of chapters are repeated several times. It's an excellent read for me in that the author gives us his love of his family and most men truly love their Father!

great story. Happens to be my father-in-law who I really never knew.

I couldn't put it down. What a great story of Cold War history that sheds light on the abruptness of the end of the Cold War.

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