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Lynn, Denise M. **Where is Juliet Stuart Poyntz?: gender, spycraft, and anti-Stalinism in the early Cold War.** Massachusetts, 2021. 224p bibl index ISBN 9781625345479 cloth, \$90.00; ISBN 9781625345486 pbk, \$24.95; ISBN 9781613767931 ebook, contact publisher for price

Employing a microhistorical approach, Lynn (Univ. of Southern Indiana) expertly weaves together biographical sketches, early Cold War events and ideology, and sociopolitical analyses in her search for Juliet Stuart Poyntz. In the more straightforward quest of answering the physical "where," Lynn re-mines and cross correlates contemporary narratives, archival materials, and other scholarly works to no avail—there remains no physical body of the communist spy. In the more analytical realm, Lynn separates facts from mischaracterizations and fictional accounts, bringing forth a fascinating, gender-focused, Cold War cultural study that reveals "the meaning of what happened" to Poyntz and other female spies. Following physical descriptions of Poyntz by contemporaries, various investigating bodies, handlers, superiors, and fellow travelers in gendered language, Lynn presents Poyntz as a "leading American communist" serving in both the Communist Party USA and the Soviet underground. When the spy, like so many other operatives, questioned Soviet motives, she coincidentally disappeared while Stalin's purges raged on. Lynn's analysis repositions Poyntz, bringing to the fore women's central role in spy craft and in precipitating the shift of many cadres of the political left from Marxism to anti-communism.

Summing Up: ★★★ Highly recommended. All levels.—*G. Donato, Massachusetts Bay Community College*