

The Paris agent

By Kelly, Rimmer

First published in 2023



Genre and Subject

Spy fiction

World War, 1939-1945 -- Fiction

Fathers and daughters -- Fiction

Special operations (Military science) -- Fiction

Synopsis

Twenty-five years after the end of the war, ageing British SOE operative Noah Ainsworth is reflecting on the secret agent who saved his life when a mission went wrong during his perilous, exhilarating years in occupied France. He never knew her real name, nor whether she survived the war. His daughter Charlotte begins a search for answers. What follows is the story of Fleur and Chloe, two otherwise ordinary women who in 1943 are called up by the SOE for deployment in France. Taking enormous risks with very little information or resources, the women have no idea they're at the mercy of a double agent within their ranks who's causing chaos. As Charlotte's search for answers continues, new suspicions are raised about the identity of the double agent, with unsettling clues pointing to her father.

Author Biography

Sophie Green is an author and publisher who lives in Sydney. She has written several fiction and non-fiction books, some under other names. In her spare time she writes about country music on her website, Sunburnt Country Music.

She has been practising yoga since 1993 and teaching since 2002. Sophie's debut novel, THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE FAIRVALE LADIES BOOK CLUB, was a Top Ten bestseller and was shortlisted for the Australian Book Industry Awards for General Fiction Book of the Year 2018, and longlisted for both the Matt Richell Award for New Writer of the Year 2018 and the Indie Book Award for Debut Fiction 2018. Sophie Green is internationally published and THE SHELLY BAY LADIES SWIMMING CIRCLE, THURSDAYS AT ORANGE BLOSSOM HOUSE and THE BELLBIRD RIVER COUNTRY CHOIR were also Top Ten bestsellers.

Discussion Starters

1. Were you aware of the Special Operations Executive before you read this book?
2. SOE agents were often recruited as civilians and sent into occupied territory with only a few months' immersive training. Do you think you could be trained to survive and succeed under such conditions, in such a short space of time? What do you think you might do if you were approached for such a role at a time when the world was in such chaos?
3. Josie is a young woman with a chronic illness, managing her health at a time when that illness was poorly understood. Had you ever considered what life might have been like for the chronically ill during wartime?
4. Eloise makes the choice to leave her young son behind, first in the care of her mother, but later in the care of strangers. She's motivated by a desire for revenge and later, by a desire to do what she could to ensure her son grew up in a world at peace. Did she make the right choice to leave Hughie?
5. Geraldine hid Professor Read's attempts to contact Noah for decades. What was her ultimate motivation for this? Do you agree with Charlotte that had she survived, Geraldine would eventually have made peace with Noah's need to better understand his own past?
6. Josie has a fraught relationship with Drusilla. What was at the heart of that tension? Did it seem a realistic dynamic to you?
7. Gerard makes terrible decisions throughout the war but perceives himself to be helplessly trapped. Even so, he does try to help Josie once she is arrested. Did you feel sympathy for him at all?
8. Which characters in this book did you like best? Which did you like least? Why?
9. Which scene in *The Paris Agent* affected you the most, and why? What emotions did that scene elicit?
10. Were you satisfied with the ending? What do you think happened next for Noah, and for Charlotte and Theo?
11. Was there an aspect of the history in this novel that surprised you?
12. What will you remember most about *The Paris Agent*?
13. Who would you recommend this book to? 14. Was this your first Kelly Rimmer book? If you've read any of her other titles, which did you prefer?
14. Was this your first Kelly Rimmer book? If you've read any of her other titles, which did you prefer?

If you liked this book, you may also like...

- *The Keeper of Hidden Books* by Madeline, Martine.
- *The Briar Club* by Kate, Quinn.

Author biography from <https://www.hachette.com.au/kelly-rimmer/the-paris-agent-inspired-by-true-events-a-gripping-tale-of-family-secrets>

Discussion starters from <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f046251681e60444afa7552/t/649a83d7d688ec0002f2c624/1687847898538/Discussion+Guide+-+The+Paris+Agent+%281%29.pdf>

Read-a-likes from www.bookbrowse.com