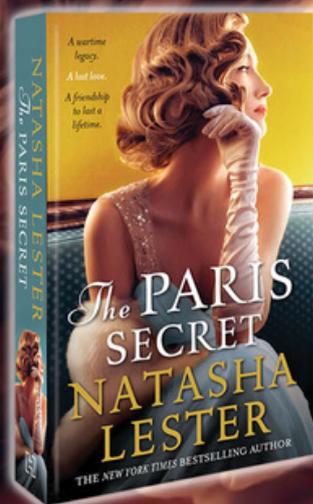


Book Club Questions

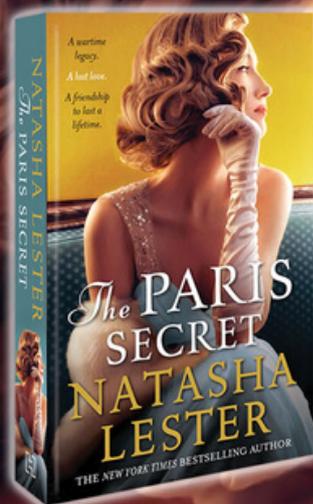
1. Why do you think women like Catherine Dior have been forgotten by history? Is it due to their gender, their reticence to speak about their wartime experiences, the nature of the savagery they endured, or other factors? What can we do to make sure the heroines of today aren't similarly forgotten in the future?
2. How much did you know about Ravensbrück, Hitler's concentration camp for women, before you read *The Paris Secret*? Natasha Lester was especially concerned, in this part of the story, with bringing to light the injustices and terrible acts committed against women in the camp, and in not glossing over any of the horrors of Ravensbrück. But nor did she want to make this section so harrowing that nobody would be able to read it. How difficult was this part of the book for you to read and do you think the author achieved her aim? Why do you think the Nazis established a concentration camp solely for women?
3. Did Skye and Liberty do the "right" thing after the war? Can you understand why neither was in touch with the other afterwards? How might things have changed if they had tried harder to find each other? Is pretending to be someone else ever acceptable, and what did you think of their actions after the war?



*A wartime legacy.
A lost love.
A friendship to
last a lifetime.*

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4. Had you heard of the Air Transport Auxiliary and the women who worked for that organisation before you read this book? Which of their experiences in dealing with the RAF and the male establishment did you find the most deplorable?
5. How would the book have been different if it had been told from Liberty's point of view? In what way would the childhood sections of the book have changed? What did you think of Liberty and did this perception alter as the book progressed? Would you have liked to have seen more from the perspective of any other character?
6. Take a look on the internet and see if you can find pictures of the Dior gowns referenced in *The Paris Secret*. Do you have a favourite? If you do, why do you think the author chose that particular dress for that particular moment in the book? Can fashion be art, and can it, as Margaux says, restore and revive the spirits? Can it have any meaning beyond providing protective covering, or is fashion merely frivolous?



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