



BOOKS IN A BAG

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THE PARIS AGENT

AUTHOR: Kelly Rimmer

ABOUT THE BOOK

Twenty-five years after the end of the war, ageing British SOE operative Noah Ainsworth can't stop thinking about the secret agent who saved his life in occupied France. He never knew her real name, nor whether she survived the war.

His daughter Charlotte begins a search for answers and discovers the story of Fleur and Chloe: two women called up by the SOE for deployment in France in 1943. But little do they know that they're at the mercy of a double agent within their ranks who is wreaking chaos. As Charlotte's search for answers continues, unsettling clues about the identity of the double agent come to light - and more shocking events are unearthed from the dangerous, dramatic last days of the war that lead to Chloe and Fleur's eventual fates.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kelly Rimmer is the author of 13 historical and contemporary fiction novels, including *The German Wife*, *The Warsaw Orphan*, *The Things We Cannot Say* and *Truths I Never Told You*, with more than 2 million books sold. Her books have been translated into dozens of languages and have appeared on bestseller lists around the world, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*. In 2022, Kelly purchased the Collins Booksellers Orange store. She lives in Mullion Creek with her family and a whole menagerie of badly behaved animals.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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. Josie has a fraught relationship with Drusilla. What was at the heart of that tension? Did it seem a realistic dynamic to you?
6. 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?
7. Which characters in this book did you like best? Which did you like least? Why?
8. Which scene in *The Paris Agent* affected you the most, and why? What emotions did that scene elicit?
9. Were you satisfied with the ending? What do you think happened next for Noah, and for Charlotte and Theo?
10. Was there an aspect of the history in this novel that surprised you?

