

NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

August 2017 Selection

***The Last Goodbye* by Howard Blum**

Betty Pack was charming, beautiful, and intelligent—and she knew it. As an agent for Britain’s MI-6 and then America’s OSS during World War II, these qualities proved crucial to her success. This is the remarkable story of this “Mata Hari from Minnesota” (Time) and the passions that ruled her tempestuous life—a life filled with dangerous liaisons and death-defying missions vital to the Allied Victory.

For decades, much of Betty’s career working for MI-6 and the OSS remained classified. Through access to recently unclassified files, Howard Blum discovers the truth about the attractive blond, codenamed “Cynthia,” who seduced diplomats and military attaches across the globe in exchange for ciphers and secrets; cracked embassy safes to steal codes; and obtained the Polish notebooks that proved key to Alan Turing’s success with Operation Ultra.

Beneath Betty’s cool, professional determinations, Blum reveals a troubled woman conflicted by the very traits that made her successful: her lack of deep emotional connections and her readiness to risk everything. *The Last Goodbye* is a mesmerizing, provocative, and moving portrait of an exceptional heroine whose undaunted courage helped to save the world.

ISBN 9780062307804

Discussion Questions:

1. What made Betty the perfect spy?
2. What was her most important mission?
3. What was her most dangerous mission?
4. Do you approve of Betty's behavior?
5. If a man acted that way, would you be more likely to approve?
6. Do you think the CIA today should use female agents to seduce enemy targets?
7. What in Betty's childhood prepared her to be a spy?
8. Should she have married Arthur Pack?
9. Do you think she did the right thing by running off with Hartford Montgomery Hyde?
10. Do you think Charles Brousse should have taken her back?
11. What do you think was Betty's great gift?
12. What was her greatest personal failing?
13. Do you like Betty Pack?
14. Can you forgive her for the mother she was and how she treated her children?
15. Do you think Betty's life was a life well lived?



Help others with their decision to read this book by simply leaving your comments and reviews online at <http://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780062307804>

Recommendations:

- If you liked *The Last Goodbye*, you might like *The Billion Dollar Spy* (<http://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780345805973>)
- You might also enjoy *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy* (<http://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780062092908>)