

FICTION BOOK CLUB

April 2019 Selection

***The Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff**

1946, Manhattan

Grace Healy is rebuilding her life after losing her husband during the war. One morning while passing through Grand Central Terminal on her way to work, she finds an abandoned suitcase tucked beneath a bench. Unable to resist her own curiosity, Grace opens the suitcase, where she discovers a dozen photographs—each of a different woman. In a moment of impulse, Grace takes the photographs and quickly leaves the station.

Grace soon learns that the suitcase belonged to a woman named Eleanor Trigg, leader of a ring of female secret agents who were deployed out of London during the war. Twelve of these women were sent to Occupied Europe as couriers and radio operators to aid the resistance, but they never returned home, their fates a mystery. Setting out to learn the truth behind the women in the photographs, Grace finds herself drawn to a young mother turned agent named Marie, whose daring mission overseas reveals a remarkable story of friendship, valor and betrayal.

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Discussion Questions:

1. The title *The Lost Girls of Paris* refers to twelve female intelligence agents who disappeared while on their missions overseas. But the title has greater significance as well. In what ways are the three lead characters—Grace, Marie, and Eleanor—lost, and how are they ultimately found?



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2. The women in the novel defied common conventions about gender during the 1940s. How do you think the characters' experiences might have been different if they lived in today's world? In what ways might their experiences be similar?
3. Grace, Marie and Eleanor have very different backgrounds and come from very different worlds. But what are some commonalities between them and their stories? Which of the three women did you relate to most closely, and why?
4. Bravery and sacrifice are important themes throughout the book. In what ways did you see these themes playing out in each of the storylines?
5. Why do you think the mystery of the suitcase and its contents resonated so powerfully with Grace? If you found a mysterious suitcase abandoned in a train station, like Grace does, what would you do?
6. War makes ordinary people do extraordinary things—whether it's going to great lengths to survive, or sacrificing one's own life to save others. What impacts does the war have on the characters in the book? How might the characters' lives have unfolded differently had the war not happened?
7. Each of the women in the book are put in a position of having to make a choice. Were there things you wished the women had done differently throughout the book, or did you agree with their decisions?



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Recommendations:

- If you liked *The Lost Girls of Paris*, you might like *The Orphan's Tale* (<http://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780778319818>)
- You might also enjoy *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* (<http://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780062797155>)