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Last Call at the Savoy

by Brisa Carleton

About the Book

Set amongst the glittering backdrop of London's iconic Savoy hotel, a young woman is forced to confront her troubled past as she uncovers the story of the hotel?s first female bartender who has been erased from the history books --- "an exhilarating, tender read that will leave you smiling" (Fiona Davis, bestselling author).

Six years ago, Cinnamon Scott was a young writer on the rise in New York City. But since the sudden loss of her parents, she's been stuck in place, retreating to a life of endless partying --- made possible by the massive fortune she's inherited. Despite their tragic loss, she and her older sister, Rosemary, have always had each other to lean on. But now, with Rosie living in London and about to give birth to twins, Cinnamon feels more lost than ever.

When Rosie is put on bedrest, Cinnamon flies to her sister's side, where she's temporarily living at The Savoy. Immediately swept away by the beauty and history of the legendary hotel and its famed American Bar, Cinnamon finds ample opportunity to distract herself. When the late-shift bartender tells her the story of Ada Coleman, the woman who crafted the cocktail recipes The Savoy popularized in its famous handbook a century ago, Cinnamon is inspired by the bartender's vivid stories of Ada's fearlessness and can't understand why Ada's name is nowhere to be found.

After meeting a handsome historian researching the hotel and realizing that Ada is likely to be once again overlooked, Cinnamon must decide if she can overcome her demons and stand up for Ada's story. And, along the way, she just might save her own story too.

Discussion Guide

1. At the start of the novel, Cinnamon is a party girl --- she lives for the moment. What parallels and contrasts do you notice between the cast of characters frequenting the Savoy hotel during the early 20th century and the lifestyle of Cinnamon, Kit, Piper and Lisa 100 years later? Do you have any other favorite books, movies or TV shows that show

characters in lavish, decadent settings?

2. Cinnamon is not only grieving her parents but haunted by guilt over the circumstances of their death. Have you ever been held back from pursuing a dream because of something in your past? Or can you think of an example of a negative experience that you?ve successfully overcome, enabling you to pursue a new goal?

3. Ada?s story is one for the history books, and yet, not much is written about her. Instead, her legacy was overtaken by a man, and this is a common occurrence in history, and even still today. Have you ever felt like your accomplishments were overshadowed by someone else or credit wasn?t properly given? What did you do about that?

4. Cinnamon flies to London to be with her sister, Rosemary, in the final days of a difficult pregnancy, but she finds plenty of distractions once she arrives at The Savoy. What are the sources of conflict between the sisters? And how do they ultimately show up for each other?

5. Kit is a historian in search of cold hard facts about the Savoy Hotel for his book, while Cinnamon is enthralled with the mystery of Ada Coleman and the *Savoy Cocktail Book*. At the end, she tells Kit, ?Perhaps it?s not about finding the clues but finding the holes.? In what ways do you think historical fiction plays a role in reintroducing women?s stories even when scant facts have been previously documented in the history books? Can you think of other books or movies that reintroduced formerly forgotten female figures?

6. If you could go back in time to any decade, which would you choose and why? What is it about the culture, the fashion or the famous figures of that era that appeal to you the most?

Author Bio

Brisa Carleton grew up in the Pacific Northwest before moving to Midtown Manhattan to turn her passion for musicals and ?flare for the dramatic? into an award-winning career as a Broadway producer. Three Tonys later, she?s worked on numerous productions, including *Hamilton*, *Beautiful* and *Moulin Rouge*. In 2019, at the request of HSH Prince Albert of Monaco, Brisa joined his foundation to lead philanthropy efforts in theater, dance and film on behalf of his mother, Princess Grace Kelly.

Most recently she turned her entrepreneurial spirit to actual ?spirits,? launching Literati Spirits, a premium vodka created by book lovers for book lovers. She now spends her days traveling to literary destinations with a martini in one hand and a manuscript in the other, collecting stories with her husband, Mark, and her long-haired chihuahua, Mister Big.

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