ReadingGroupGuides
The online community for reading groups

Moonlight Over Paris

by Jennifer Robson



About the Book

Spring, 1924:

Recovering from a broken wartime engagement and a serious illness that left her near death, Lady Helena Montagu-Douglas-Parr vows that for once she will live life on her own terms. Breaking free from the stifling social constraints of the aristocratic society in which she was raised, she travels to France to stay with her free spirited aunt. For one year, she will simply be Miss Parr. She will explore the picturesque streets of Paris, meet people who know nothing of her past --- and pursue her dream of becoming an artist.

A few years after the Great War?s end, the City of Light is a bohemian paradise teeming with actors, painters, writers and a lively coterie of American expatriates who welcome Helena into their romantic and exciting circle. Among them is Sam Howard, an irascible and infuriatingly honest correspondent for the *Chicago Tribune*. Dangerously attractive and deeply scarred by the horror and carnage of the war, Sam is unlike any man she has ever encountered. He calls her Ellie, sees her as no one has before, and offers her a glimpse of a future that is both irresistible and impossible.

As Paris rises phoenix-like from the ashes of the Great War, so too does Helena. Though she?s shed her old self, she?s still uncertain of what she will become and where she belongs. But is she strong enough to completely let go of the past and follow her heart, no matter where it leads her?

Artfully capturing the Lost Generation and their enchanting city, MOONLIGHT OVER PARIS is the spellbinding story of one young woman?s journey to find herself, and claim the life --- and love --- she truly wants.

Discussion Guide

1. Other cities in Europe --- for instance Rome, Venice, Barcelona, Vienna or London --- are arguably just as beautiful

and historic as Paris. Why, then, are we so drawn to the City of Lights? And what is it about Paris in the 1920s that we find so particularly fascinating?

2. Did you enjoy encountering real-life figures in the pages of MOONLIGHT OVER PARIS? Is it possible to portray such iconic figures as F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway with any degree of accuracy? Or has their fame obscured the real men behind the legends?

3. This novel is set six years after the end of World War I, but even still the characters and Paris itself are affected by those years. How do we see this with our characters? What do we see of this in the city itself?

4. Would a year in Paris, with all the freedom that Helena enjoys, have been possible for most women in that era? Or was it the case that her family?s wealth and status made it more easily achievable for her?

5. If you were able to read the story of one of the other fictional characters in the book, whose would it be? Étienne?s? Aunt Agnes?s? Another of the secondary figures?

6. Music, visual art and the written word play a big role in this story. Why do you think that Paris became such an epicenter for artistic expression during this time? Do you think the aftermath of the war played any part in this?

Author Bio

Jennifer Robson is the *Globe & Mail* and *Toronto Star* #1 bestselling author of seven novels, among them THE GOWN and SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE. She holds a doctorate in British history from the University of Oxford and lives in Toronto, Canada, with her husband and children.

Critical Praise

?Returns with mastery once more to the World War I era?. This is a moving and memorable book.?

Moonlight Over Paris
by Jennifer Robson

Publication Date: January 19, 2016
Genres: Fiction, Historical Fiction
Paperback: 352 pages
Publisher: William Morrow Paperbacks
ISBN-10: 0062389823
ISBN-13: 9780062389824