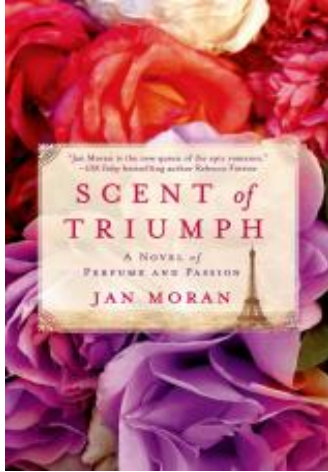


Scent of Triumph: A Novel of Perfume and Passion

by Jan Moran



About the Book

When French perfumer Danielle Bretancourt steps aboard a luxury ocean liner, leaving her son behind in Poland with his grandmother, she has no idea that her life is about to change forever. The year is 1939, and the declaration of war on the European continent soon threatens her beloved family, scattered across many countries. Traveling through London and Paris into occupied Poland, Danielle searches desperately for the remains of her family, relying on the strength and support of Jonathan Newell-Grey, a young captain. Finally, she is forced to gather the fragments of her impoverished family and flee to America. There she vows to begin life anew, in 1940s Los Angeles.

There, through determination and talent, she rises high from meager jobs in her quest for success as a perfumer and fashion designer to Hollywood elite. Set between privileged lifestyles and gritty realities, SCENT OF TRIUMPH by commanding newcomer Jan Moran is one woman's story of courage, spirit and resilience.

Discussion Guide

1. In the beginning of the story, Danielle is constrained by societal values, but as the story progresses, she shuns convention. Why do you think her beliefs and behavior changed?
2. Women's career roles in history underwent seismic shifts during World War II. Do you think that Danielle's motivation for business was external, internal, or both? Why?
3. How would today's modern communications of mobile phones, email and satellite media have changed this story? The relationship between Danielle and Jon? The war itself?

4. Danielle experienced many scenes through her sense of smell. What are your favorite olfactory observations in this story?
5. How does Danielle's keen sense of smell add to setting and characterization?
6. Danielle and Max make the distinction between Germany and the Nazi party. How does this conflict affect their relationship? How do politics affect other relationships in the families?
7. When Danielle is launching her perfume line at Bullock's Wilshire in Los Angeles, she realizes she feels like an American. What do you think she meant by that? Do you have any stories of immigration in your own family?
8. Do you know what year women in your country gained the right to vote? The right to own property? Can you imagine how having new access to these rights might have motivated women? Why or why not?
9. Danielle never gives up hope of finding her son, and senses that he still lives. Do you think parents have a sixth sense about the well-being of their children?
10. As an entrepreneur, what were Danielle's challenges and keys to success? Do you have any entrepreneurial ambitions, or have you ever started a new venture? Do you know where might you find business advice in your community or network?

Enhance Your Discussion

Visit www.janmoran.com to discover more details about this book, learn about Jan's upcoming new books, and follow Jan's blog. Please join the reader's club list, too!

Author Bio

Jan Moran is a Rizzoli bestselling and award winning author. She writes historical women's fiction for St. Martin's Press, contemporary women's fiction and nonfiction books. Her stories are smart and stylish, and written with emotional depth. Jan often draws on her international travel and business experiences, infusing her books with realistic details. The Midwest Book Review, Booklist and Kirkus have recommended her books, calling her heroines strong, complex and resourceful.

Jan has been featured in numerous prestigious media outlets, including *CNN*, *Women's Wear Daily*, *Allure*, *InStyle* and *O Magazine*. As a writer, she has covered fragrance, beauty and spa travel for a variety of publications such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle*, *Costco Connection* and *Porthole Cruise*.

She has spoken before Fashion Group International, The Fragrance Foundation and The American Society of Perfumers, San Diego State University, and the San Diego Writers Conference. She loves to visit book clubs and can connect via Skype or FaceTime.

Critical Praise

?A well-spun and sweeping debut novel about a fearless, headstrong woman. Spanning multiple continents and set against the backdrop of World War II, Jan Moran deftly weaves plotlines and tackles tough issues, all to a satisfying conclusion. Add in glimpses of the high-end fragrance trade, and SCENT OF TRIUMPH offers a thoroughly engaging tale, rich in all five senses.?

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