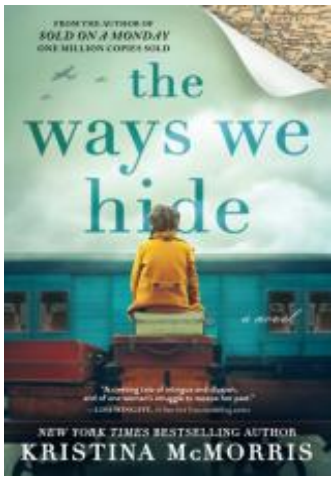
The Ways We Hide

by Kristina McMorris



About the Book

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of SOLD ON A MONDAY --- over a million copies sold! --- comes a sweeping World War II tale of an illusionist whose recruitment by British intelligence sets her on a perilous, heartrending path.

As a little girl raised amid the hardships of Michigan's Copper Country, Fenna Vos learned to focus on her own survival. That ability sustains her even now as the Second World War rages in faraway countries. Though she performs onstage as the assistant to an unruly escape artist, behind the curtain she's the mastermind of their act. Ultimately, controlling her surroundings and eluding traps of every kind helps her keep a lingering trauma at bay.

Yet for all her planning, Fenna doesn't foresee being called upon by British military intelligence. Tasked with designing escape aids to thwart the Germans, MI9 seeks those with specialized skills for a war nearing its breaking point. Fenna reluctantly joins the unconventional team as an inventor. But when a test of her loyalty draws her deep into the fray, she discovers no mission is more treacherous than escaping one's past.

Inspired by stunning true accounts, THE WAYS WE HIDE is a gripping story of love and loss, the wars we fight --- on the battlefields and within ourselves --- and the courage found in unexpected places.

Discussion Guide

1. Did your impression of the child on the cover change by the novel?s end? What about the title? Describe the various meanings it holds throughout the story.

2. From the Italian Hall Disaster and its parallel tragedy at Bethnal Green Station to the efforts of MI9, Houdini, and the Dutch Resistance, plus those of the Engelandvaarders, The Ways We Hide highlights myriad stunning pieces of history.

Which among them fascinated and/or surprised you most?

3. Love, loss, family, and sacrifice are major themes of the novel and the driving force behind many of Fenna?s and Arie?s actions. Did you largely agree or disagree with Fenna?s decisions? What about Arie?s?

4. Several objects throughout the story?including the toy train, buttons, and, most frequently, a ball of string?help forge lasting bonds between characters. Which item was your favorite? Likewise, which possessions in your own life carry deep sentimental value given their link to a person or relationship?

5. Were you familiar with MI9 prior to reading this book? Which gadgets did you enjoy learning about most?

6. From Fenna?s childhood, the stampede on Christmas Eve contributed significantly to shaping her life, even decades later. What childhood experience(s) most altered your own life? Were there resulting obstacles you later learned to overcome?

Author Bio

Kristina McMorris is a *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today* bestselling author of two novellas and eight historical novels, including the million-copy bestseller SOLD ON A MONDAY. The recipient of more than 20 national literary awards, she previously hosted weekly TV shows for Warner Bros. and an ABC affiliate, beginning at age nine with an Emmy Award-winning program, and owned a wedding-and-event-planning company until she had far surpassed her limit of "Y.M.C.A." and chicken dances. Kristina lives near Portland, Oregon, where she somehow manages to be fully deficient of a green thumb and not own a single umbrella.

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