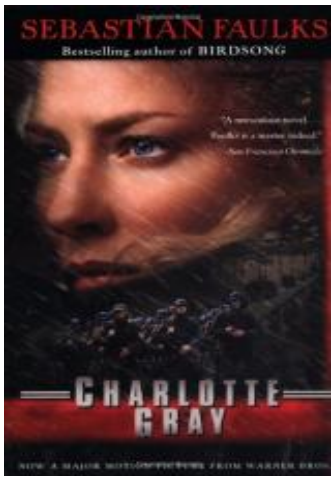
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Charlotte Gray

by Sebastian Faulks



About the Book

From the bestselling author of **Birdsong** comes **Charlotte Gray**, the remarkable story of a young Scottish woman who becomes caught up in the effort to liberate Occupied France from the Nazis while pursuing a perilous mission of her own.

In blacked-out, wartime London, Charlotte Gray develops a dangerous passion for a battle-weary RAF pilot, and when he fails to return from a daring flight into France she is determined to find him. In the service of the Resistance, she travels to the village of Lavaurette, dyeing her hair and changing her name to conceal her identity. Here she will come face-to-face with the harrowing truth of what took place during Europe's darkest years, and will confront a terrifying secret that threatens to cast its shadow over the remainder of her days. Vividly rendered, tremendously moving, and with a narrative sweep and power reminiscent of his novel **Birdsong**, **Charlotte Gray** confirms Sebastian Faulks as one of the finest novelists working today.

Discussion Guide

1. The author described his motivation for writing **Charlotte Gray** in this way: "I wanted to look at the insidious way that war affects individual lives." War has an obvious effect on the love affair between Charlotte and Peter Gregory--it interrupts it. But what deeper effect does the war have on them as individuals, and how does it change the course of their relationship? How has war effected relationships around you?

2. Many reviewers have praised Faulks' strengths as an historical novelist, particularly his skill with details and his ability to bring his period settings to life. What scenes and settings in Charlotte Gray are especially touching or memorable to you and why?

3. When Charlotte is living in France working for the Resistance she becomes increasingly attracted to the elderly Jewish artist, Levade, and, for different reasons, to his son, Julian. What do these men represent to her, and what is she

searching for in her relationship with them? Are they simply replacements for her father and lover or is it more complicated than that?

4. Although **Charlotte Gray** is set during World War II, the memory and legacy of the First World War infuses the novel. In what ways does Faulks accomplish this, and why do you think he has done so? Does it change the way you think of the First and Second World War? (There is an example on page 107 which describes a town and the effects the two wars have had on it.)

5. Faulks uses the same verb, "disappear," along with other parallels in describing the fates of the young Duguay brothers (page 370) and of Charlotte and Gregory (page 399). What point do you think he is trying to make by doing this?

Author Bio

Sebastian Faulks is the internationally bestselling author of 11 novels, including CHARLOTTE GRAY, which was made into a film starring Cate Blanchett, and the #1 international bestseller and classic BIRDSONG, which has sold more than three million copies and has been adapted for the stage, for television (starring Eddie Redmayne) and is now in development as a feature film. In 2008, Faulks was invited to write a James Bond novel, DEVIL MAY CARE, to mark the centenary of Ian Fleming. In 2011, he presented the four-part television series "Faulks on Fiction" for the BBC. He lives in London.

Critical Praise

"A miraculous novel. . . . Faulks is a master indeed. "

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