Meet Me in Paris

by Kristin Harmel



About the Book

Kristin Harmel, the *New York Times* bestselling author of THE BOOK OF LOST NAMES and THE WINEMAKER'S WIFE, returns with a captivating new novel about several intertwined stories of love, loss, courage and redemption set over the course of one magical week in Paris.

Nine Americans in Paris. Seven intertwined love stories. One City of Light.

Love Actually meets *The Notebook* in a tale of love, loss and finding your way home, all set over the course of one life-changing week in Paris.

Julia Glover has brought her 23-year-old daughter, Piper, to Paris for the first time --- but they know it also will be their last trip here together. Julia is dying, and as the mother and daughter desperately try to make memories together as the clock ticks down, the world opens up around them. Piper meets a cute French waiter, who just might understand her better than anyone she?s ever met, and Julia meets a man at a dive bar and struggles with how to tell him the truth about her future.

Rock star Jackson Quick?s glory days are behind him. He had a handful of hit songs 30 years ago, but he hasn?t toured in a decade. This week, he?ll launch his reunion tour in Paris, the city where it all began. But he wants more out of life than being defined by fame. When he meets a woman who finally sees him for who he is at his core, the ground shifts beneath his feet.

Henry McGee has been writing hit songs for decades --- including Jackson Quick?s biggest hit, *City of Light*. But his secret is that every love song he?s ever written is for a woman named Celeste, whom he loved a lifetime ago, when they were both teenagers in Paris during World War II. He has spent 80 years believing she died. But when a letter arrives telling him the opposite, he?s on the first flight to France. Can he break through the haze of her dementia, using the

songs he?s written all these years, to remind her of who they once were to each other --- and to tell her he came back for her?

Henry?s granddaughter, Melody, has just discovered that her husband of 20 years, Gilles, a French cosmetics executive, is having an affair. When she confronts him, he tearfully apologizes and begs her to forgive him. But can she? And, perhaps even more importantly, does she *want* to? Or is there a different kind of life out there for her if she chooses to be alone?

These intertwining stories --- plus several others --- unfold over a few breathtaking spring days, as an unforgettable group of Americans in Paris must find their way to their own versions of happily ever after in the City of Light.

Discussion Guide

1. MEET ME IN PARIS opens with 49-year-old Julia Glover and her 23-year-old daughter, Piper, arriving in Paris for one final trip together before Julia --- who has terminal cancer --- begins to go downhill. If you were diagnosed with a life-ending illness and had a short window of time, where you felt like yourself before you began to grow sicker, where would you go? What would you do? And, perhaps most importantly, who would you want by your side?

2. When Henry McGee first tells his granddaughter, Melanie, that he had a great love of his life before marrying Melanie?s grandmother, she?s startled; he has never spoken of this other relationship before. Can you think of an important or formative relationship in your own life that you haven?t talked about in years? How would you feel if you could reunite with this person?

3. We learn early in the book that Melanie?s husband, Gilles, is cheating on her --- but Melanie hasn?t confronted him yet. What would you do if you found a text message that indicated a big betrayal by your significant other, or by a friend?

4. Jackson Quick had a huge hit song in the late 1990s, but he hasn?t toured or recorded new music in years. Over the course of MEET ME IN PARIS, he prepares for and performs the first concert of his comeback tour, which includes an arena full of fans who are thrilled that he?s back. What band or singer would you like to see stage a comeback tour now? What would their reunion concert be like? Who would you choose as their opening act? Where should the first show of their tour take place?

5. Piper visits Shakespeare and Company, the famous bookstore, when she?s in Paris. Do you have a favorite bookstore? What do you like about it?

6. When Henry first visits Celeste, the long-lost love of his life, she doesn?t remember him --- and he?s determined to break through the fog of her dementia to bring her back. Have you had any experience with a friend or loved one who went through similar memory loss? If so, what did you do to connect with them, even if some of their memories were gone?

7. Piper and her mom visit Paris?s Musee d?Orsay and talk about two paintings they saw there: *Starry Night Over the Rhône* and *The Church at Auvers*, both by Vincent Van Gogh. Do you have a favorite painting, or one that you?ve felt particularly moved by?

8. Kayla has come to Paris in hopes of getting to know her estranged father. But when she begins to spend time with him, she realizes, to her dismay, that they actually have very little in common. Have you ever had the experience of trying to get to know someone you think you?ll get along with --- only to discover that the relationship is much more difficult than you anticipated?

9. George has been in love with his best friend, Lou, for many years, but it has taken him until now to summon the courage to say something. And yet we know from the novel that he has, in fact, dated other men. Why do you think it was so difficult with him to be honest with Lou about his feelings?

10. MEET ME IN PARIS is, in many ways, a love letter to the city of Paris itself. As the book unfolds, the characters visit many locations, which play a central role in the story. If you were going to write an ode to a city you love, which city would it be, and why?

Author Bio

Kristin Harmel is the *New York Times* bestselling author of more than a dozen novels, including THE STOLEN LIFE OF COLETTE MARCEAU, THE PARIS DAUGHTER, THE FOREST OF VANISHING STARS and THE BOOK OF LOST NAMES. She is published in more than 30 languages and is the cofounder and cohost of the popular web series, "Friends and Fiction." She lives with her husband and son in Orlando, Florida.

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