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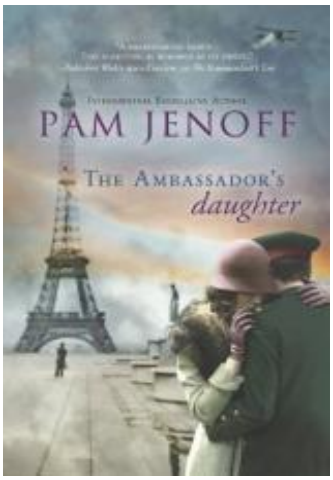
The Ambassador's Daughter

by Pam Jenoff



About the Book

Paris, 1919.

The world?s leaders have gathered to rebuild from the ashes of the Great War.

But for one woman, the City of Light harbors dark secrets and dangerous liaisons, for which many could pay dearly.

Brought to the peace conference by her father, a German diplomat, Margot Rosenthal initially resents being trapped in the congested French capital, where she is still looked upon as the enemy. But as she contemplates returning to Berlin and a life with Stefan, the wounded fiancé she hardly knows anymore, she decides that being in Paris is not so bad after all.

Bored and torn between duty and the desire to be free, Margot strikes up unlikely alliances: with Krysia, an accomplished musician with radical acquaintances and a secret to protect; and with Georg, the handsome, damaged naval officer who gives Margot a job?and also a reason to question everything she thought she knew about where her true loyalties should lie.

Against the backdrop of one of the most significant events of the century, a delicate web of lies obscures the line between the casualties of war and of the heart, making trust a luxury that no one can afford.

Discussion Guide

1. As the story opened, Margot appeared to be an independent and confident young woman. How do you think her character changed throughout the story, and what caused those changes? What do you feel was her greatest strength and weakness?

2. How do you think the loss of her mother affected Margot? How did this change throughout the book, particularly when she learned the truth?

3. Georg and Margot developed feelings for one another after mere days. What did you see in their time together that attracted them so powerfully? Do you believe it is possible to fall in love so quickly and for such a relationship to last?

4. How was it possible for Margot to keep secrets from those she professed to love most? How did it affect her relationships with her father, with Georg? Do you think that Margot?s choices were justified by her intentions?

5. Margot and Krysia became such close friends despite significant differences in age and circumstances. What do you think it was that drew them together, and what did each of them provide for the other? Have you ever found yourself in such a close but unlikely friendship?

6. Margot was a very young woman dealing with situations that most of us today would find completely over whelming at age twenty. What do you think it was that Margot really wanted out of life?

7. What did you think about Margot?s relationship with Stefan? Could you sympathize with her, being torn by an old promise to a man she didn?t know anymore and her love for a man that offered her a promising future? What would you have done in her shoes?

8. Margot experienced anti-German sentiment from those around her who saw her as the enemy. Do you think this was a fair judgment, given the political climate of the time? Do you think this type of mentality still exists today?

9. The post-WWI era is less familiar to some readers than WWII and other historical time periods. What did you like about a novel set during this time? Did you identify with any symbolic items, people or places throughout the book? What did they represent to you?

10. Do you agree that Margot?s relationship with her father improved over the course of the novel? How so, or how not?

11. What do you think happens six months after the end of the book? Six years?

12. The Ambassador?s Daughteris the prequel to two of Pam Jenoff?s other novels, **The Kommandant?s Girl**and **The Diplomat?s Wife**. If you have read those, how did you feel this book compared? Did knowing what happens twenty years down the line color your reading of this book?

Author Bio

Pam Jenoff was born in Maryland and raised outside Philadelphia. She attended George Washington University in

Washington, D.C. and Cambridge University in England. Upon receiving her master?s in history from Cambridge, she accepted an appointment as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. The position provided a unique opportunity to witness and participate in operations at the most senior levels of government, including helping the families of the Pan Am Flight 103 victims secure their memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, observing recovery efforts at the site of the Oklahoma City bombing and attending ceremonies to commemorate the 50th anniversary of World War II at sites such as Bastogne and Corregidor.

Following her work at the Pentagon, Pam moved to the State Department. In 1996 she was assigned to the U.S. Consulate in Krakow, Poland. It was during this period that Pam developed her expertise in Polish-Jewish relations and the Holocaust. Working on matters such as preservation of Auschwitz and the restitution of Jewish property in Poland, Pam developed close relations with the surviving Jewish community.

Pam left the Foreign Service in 1998 to attend law school and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. She worked for several years as a labor and employment attorney both at a firm and in-house in Philadelphia and now teaches law school at Rutgers.

Pam is the *New York Times* bestselling author of LAST TWILIGHT IN PARIS, THE LAST SUMMER AT CHELSEA BEACH, CODE NAME SAPPHIRE, THE WOMAN WITH THE BLUE STAR, THE LOST GIRLS OF PARIS, THE ORPHAN?S TALE, THE KOMMANDANT?S GIRL, THE DIPLOMAT?S WIFE, THE AMBASSADOR?S DAUGHTER, THE WINTER GUEST, THE THINGS WE CHERISHED, ALMOST HOME and A HIDDEN AFFAIR. She also authored short stories in the anthology GRAND CENTRAL: Original Postwar Stories of Love and Reunion and in the *Blaze* collection for Amazon Original Stories. She lives outside Philadelphia with her husband, three children, dog, two cats, lizard and bird.

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