The Golden Doves

by Martha Hall Kelly



About the Book

Two former female spies, bound together by their past, risk everything to hunt down an infamous Nazi doctor in the aftermath of World War II --- a pulse-pounding novel inspired by true events from the *New York Times* bestselling author of LILAC GIRLS.

American Josie Anderson and Parisian Arlette LaRue are thrilled to be working in the French resistance, stealing so many Nazi secrets that they become known as the Golden Doves, renowned across France and hunted by the Gestapo. Their courage will cost them everything. When they are finally arrested and taken to the Ravensbrück concentration camp, along with their loved ones, a reclusive Nazi doctor does unspeakable things to Josie?s mother, a celebrated Jewish singer who joined her daughter in Paris when the world seemed bright. And Arlette?s son is stolen from her, never to be seen again.

A decade later, the Doves fall headlong into a dangerous dual mission: Josie is working for U.S. Army Intelligence and accepts an assignment to hunt down the infamous doctor, while a mysterious man tells Arlette he may have found her son. The Golden Doves embark on a quest across Europe and ultimately to French Guiana, discovering a web of terrible secrets, and must put themselves in grave danger to finally secure justice and protect the ones they love.

Martha Hall Kelly has garnered acclaim for her stunning combination of empathy and research into the stories of women throughout history and for exploring the terrors of Ravensbrück. With THE GOLDEN DOVES, she has crafted an unforgettable story about the fates of Nazi fugitives in the wake of World War II --- and the unsung female spies who risked it all to bring them to justice.

Discussion Guide

1. Historical fiction, which often weaves real-life figures into the narrative, can deepen a reader?s interest in a subject.

Did you look up any names or topics while reading THE GOLDEN DOVES? Which ones, and why?

2. How much did you know about the Nazi Occupation of Paris before reading THE GOLDEN DOVES? What did you learn?

3. Discuss Operation Paperclip, the secret intelligence program in the United States that recruited more than a thousand scientists, engineers and technicians from Nazi Germany. Was such a plan justified, or were ethical lines crossed? What were the ramifications?

4. Martha Hall Kelly is an expert at writing parallel storylines and weaving them together. What about Josie and Arlette?s arcs did you find most compelling?

5. How do you think Arlette?s grief box helped her deal with her missing son, Willie?

6. When the young women first meet, Josie notes that Arlette is ?perhaps my complete opposite.... While my French mother was more bohemian in her taste, Arlette understood haute couture.? Which style best represents you, and why?

7. ?Out in the field, it?s safer to blend in as French. So learn to move like a European.? Based on your reading of THE GOLDEN DOVES, what qualities did a person need to have in order to work in the Resistance, to be an undercover agent, during World War II?

8. During the occupation of Paris, Josie?s grandmother Mimi laments the Nazi propaganda. ?Truth and trust are gone. Replaced with fear, and hatred.? How does this further the aim of Fascist regimes?

9. Was what happened to Arlette?s aunt justified? How or why do you think she became an ardent supporter of Hitler?

10. What were your first impressions of Camp Hope once Arlette arrived in French Guiana?

11. How did you feel about the proposal at the Hope Home gala? A nice surprise or a shocking ambush? Did Arlette make the right choice?

12. Which parts of the novel were most tense, most suspenseful?

13. Did you suspect who Snow was before his identify was revealed? Share your thought process.

14. Were you satisfied with the book?s ending? What kind of futures do you imagine for Arlette and Josie beyond the chapters of this book?

15. Did you read the ?Author?s Note? at the end of the novel? Discuss its significance in relation to the narrative. What do you think inspired Martha Hall Kelly to tell this story?

16. If THE GOLDEN DOVES were made into a movie, who would you cast in the roles of Josie and Arlette, and why?

Author Bio

Martha Hall Kelly is the *New York Times* bestselling author of?LILAC GIRLS, LOST ROSES,?SUNFLOWER SISTERS, THE GOLDEN DOVES and THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD BEACH AND BOOK CLUB. Born and raised in Massachusetts, she was inspired to write this novel by her mother?s family, the Smiths, who settled on Martha?s Vineyard in 1891. She received journalism degrees from both Syracuse and Northwestern universities and worked as an advertising copywriter for many years before becoming a novelist. With more than two million copies of her books sold? and translated in 50 countries, Martha Hall Kelly lives in Litchfield, Connecticut, and Hobe Sound, Florida.

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