ReadingGroupGuides
The online community for reading groups

The Munich Affair

by James Patterson and David Ellis



About the Book

A suspenseful thriller from #1 *New York Times* bestselling authors James Patterson and David Ellis that spans a century --- set in motion by the murder of Adolf Hitler's young lover by his own hand.

A determined detective, Thomas Bauer, obsessively pursues Hitler --- putting Bauer?s Jewish wife and children in grave danger.

A courageous journalist, Fritz Gerlich, writes story after story detailing the murder --- making Gerlich a target for Hitler?s Gestapo.

An American professor, Eleanor Robbins, picks up the trail of evidence from present-day Neo-Nazis guarding the Führer?s long-held secrets to the death.

Discussion Guide

1. Detective Thomas Bauer pursues the truth about Geli Raubal's death even though it puts his Jewish wife and children in direct danger under a rising Nazi regime. What does his choice say about the cost of moral courage, and would you have made the same decision in his position?

2. Share something in your own life you've pushed hard for even when it wasn't the "safe" choice.

3. Journalist Fritz Gerlich risks everything to report the truth despite Gestapo surveillance and intimidation. What does the novel suggest about the role of a free press in the face of authoritarian power? Does that theme feel like commentary on anything happening today?

4. The story jumps between 1931 Munich and the present day. Did you find yourself looking forward to one timeline more than the other, and why?

5. The book blends a real historical rumor with fictional characters and plot. Did you find yourself fact-checking as you read, or afterwards?

6. If THE MUNICH AFFAIR was adapted into a movie or television series, who would you cast as Thomas Bauer, Fritz Gerlich and Eleanor Robbins?

7. Which supporting character did you wish had gotten more page time?

8. Did you find the ending of THE MUNICH AFFAIR satisfying? Why or why not?

9. If you had to describe this book to a friend in one sentence to get them to read it, what would you say?

10. This is a James Patterson/David Ellis collaboration. Have you read other books from this writing pairing? If so, how did this one compare?

Author Bio

James Patterson is the most popular storyteller of our time. He is the creator of unforgettable characters and series, including Alex Cross, the *Women?s Murder Club*, Jane Effing Smith and *Maximum Ride*, and of breathtaking true stories about the Kennedys, John Lennon and Princess Diana, as well as our military heroes, police officers and ER nurses. He has coauthored #1 bestselling novels with Bill Clinton and Dolly Parton, told the story of his own life in JAMES PATTERSON BY JAMES PATTERSON, and received an Edgar Award, 10 Emmy Awards, the Literarian Award from the National Book Foundation, and the National Humanities Medal.

The Munich Affair

by James Patterson and David Ellis

Publication Date: September 21, 2026
Genres: Fiction, Historical Fiction, Historical Thriller, Suspense, Thriller
Hardcover: 528 pages
Publisher: Little, Brown and Company
ISBN-10: 0316404098
ISBN-13: 9780316404099