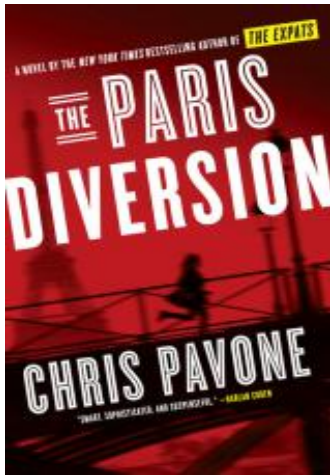


# The Paris Diversion

by Chris Pavone

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## About the Book

**From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *THE EXPATS*. Kate Moore is back in a pulse-pounding thriller to discover that a massive terror attack across Paris is not what it seems --- and that it involves her family.**

American expat Kate Moore drops her kids at the international school, makes her shopping rounds, and meets her husband Dexter at their regular café: a leisurely start to a normal day, St-Germain-des-Prés.

Across the Seine, tech CEO Hunter Forsyth stands on his balcony, perplexed that his police escort just departed, and frustrated that his cell service has cut out; Hunter has important calls to make, not all of them technically legal.

And on the nearby rue de Rivoli, Mahmoud Khalid climbs out of an electrician's van, and elbows his way into the crowded courtyard of the world's largest museum, in the epicenter of Western civilization. He sets down his metal briefcase and removes his windbreaker.

That's when people start to scream.

Everyone has big plans for the day. Dexter is going to make a small fortune, finally digging himself out of a deep financial hole, via an extremely risky investment. Hunter is going to make a huge fortune, with a major corporate acquisition that will send his company's stock soaring. Kate has less ambitious plans: preparations for tonight's dinner party --- one of those homemaker obligations she still hasn't embraced, even after a half-decade of this life --- and an uneventful workday at the Paris Substation, the clandestine cadre of operatives that she's been running, not entirely successfully, increasingly convinced that every day could be the last of her career. But every day is also a fresh chance to prove her own relevance, never more so than during today's momentous events.

And Mahmoud? He is planning to die today. And he won't be the only one.

## Discussion Guide

1. Kate Moore, the protagonist of *THE PARIS DIVERSION*, is also the main character of Chris Pavone's novel *THE EXPATS*. In this book, she once again leads a double life when she returns to work as a spy, this time in Paris. There are moments in which Kate feels conflicted between her devotion to her family and her dedication to her professional life. Have you experienced similar tensions in your life? Would you agree that it is important to reserve parts of ourselves from our families, and to find passion and meaning in other vocations or work? Might doing so make us better partners or parents?
2. *What is the difference between Dexter's sham job and Kate: he's an amateur and she's a pro?* *THE PARIS DIVERSION* and *THE EXPATS* challenge standard power dynamics and gender roles in marriage and in the workplace. How did you find that applied to the characters here? How do Kate and Dexter compare to Susanna and Chris in this respect?
3. At times, Kate and Dexter's relationship is tinged by residual tensions from past betrayals --- and yet their marriage endures. How would you define their partnership and the love that exists between them? What, in your view, makes for a stable relationship or marriage?
4. Hunter Forsyth isn't able to see his relationship with Colette clearly. For such an accomplished businessman who is in general so sharp, why is he so blind to this reality? Do other characters misunderstand their own relationships?
5. The novel touches on important and universal themes of fairness and merit, and how one assesses what one deserves in life. Do you think any characters get what they deserve? Did you find other characters' fates undeserved or unjust?
6. Pavone challenges readers to question their assumptions about terrorism: who are the terrorists, what are the forces at work behind their acts, what are the goals? In *THE PARIS DIVERSION*, how do the perpetrators manipulate such preconceptions? How does the author manipulate readers?
7. The characters in *THE PARIS DIVERSION* are multifaceted, complex and often galvanized by a deep-rooted concern for the well-being of their families. At their core, do you think Pavone's characters are more alike than they are different? Did you ever feel an increased sense of sympathy or understanding for any of the characters as you learned more about their histories, grievances and traumas?
8. Where do you see revenge as a driving force for some of the characters in *THE PARIS DIVERSION*? How does vengeance reveal itself to enact injustice rather than right a wrong? Did you draw any messages from the book about the moral importance of forgiveness?
9. In an age of digital innovation, the world is mediated and experienced through the many screens of modern-day technology. Do you think that any of the characters in *THE PARIS DIVERSION* strive to restore a feeling of human connection in the material world? Do you think that the expats seek a sense of belonging and community with one another, despite being far from their original homes, because of that?
10. Pavone writes in great, wonderful detail about Paris. How did the international setting add to the intrigue of the

interconnected terrorist plot and complex financial heist? How did the culture feel similar to or different from that of the US?

## Author Bio

Chris Pavone is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *THE DOORMAN*, *THE PARIS DIVERSION*, *THE TRAVELERS*, *THE ACCIDENT* and *THE EXPATS*, winner of the Edgar and Anthony Awards for best first novel. He was a book editor for nearly two decades and lives in New York City with his family.

Photo Credit: Sam McIntosh

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