

The Mistress Of Paris The 19th Century Courtesan Who Built An Empire On A Secret

The New York Times bestselling author of *Beautiful Exiles* conjures her best novel yet, a pre-World War II-era story with the emotional resonance of *Orphan Train* and *All the Light We Cannot See*, centering on the Kindertransports that carried thousands of children out of Nazi-occupied Europe—and one brave woman who helped them escape to safety. In 1936, the Nazis are little more than loud, brutish bores to fifteen-year-old Stephan Neuman, the son of a wealthy and influential Jewish family and budding playwright whose playground extends from Vienna's streets to its intricate underground tunnels. Stephan's best friend and companion is the brilliant Žofie-Helene, a Christian girl whose mother edits a progressive, anti-Nazi newspaper. But the two adolescents' carefree innocence is shattered when the Nazis take control. There is hope in the darkness, though. Truus Wijsmuller, a member of the Dutch resistance, risks her life smuggling Jewish children out of Nazi Germany to the nations that will take them. It is a mission that becomes even more dangerous after the Anschluss—Hitler's annexation of Austria—as, across Europe, countries close their borders to the growing number of refugees desperate to escape. Tante Truus, as she is known, is determined to save as many children as she can. After Britain passes a measure to take in at-risk child refugees from the German Reich, she dares to approach Adolf Eichmann, the man who would later help devise the "Final Solution to the Jewish Question," in a race against time to bring children like Stephan, his young brother Walter, and Žofie-Helene on a perilous journey to an uncertain future abroad.

Paris 1870. Raised for a life of parties and servants, Camille and Mariele have much in common, but it takes the horrors of war to bring them together to fight for the city and people they love. The story of two women whose families were caught up in the defense of Paris is deeply moving and suspenseful ~~ Margaret George, author of *Splendor Before the Dark: A Novel of the Emperor Nero* is not only a good historian, but also an accomplished writer ... a gripping, well-limned picture of a time and a place that provide universal lessons ~~ Kirkus Reviews. A few weeks after the abdication of Napoleon III, the Prussian army lays siege to Paris. Camille Noisette, the daughter of a wealthy family, volunteers to nurse wounded soldiers and agrees to spy on a group of radicals plotting to overthrow the French government. Her future sister-in-law, Mariele de Crécy, is appalled by the gaps between rich and poor. She volunteers to look after destitute children whose families can barely afford to eat. Somehow, Camille and Mariele must find the courage and strength to endure months of devastating siege, bloody civil war, and great personal risk. Through it all, an unexpected friendship grows between the two women, as they face the destruction of Paris and discover that in war women have as much to fight for as men. War has a way of teaching lessons—if only Camille and Mariele can survive long enough to learn them. M.K. Tod's elegant style and uncanny eye for time and place again shine through in her riveting new tale, *Paris in Ruins* ~~ Jeffrey K. Walker author of *No Hero's Welcome*

The story of Marie Duplessis, the courtesan who consumed Parisian high society in the 19th Century, and the inspiration behind masterpieces such as Alexandre Dumas' *The Lady with the Camellias* and Verdi's *Traviata*, is one that overwhelms with its soul-searing tragedy. This peasant girl, who endured cruelty, abandonment, and the torment of a woman's lot in her time, clawed her way through the class and cultural strata of Paris from one rich man to another, with her sensational beauty lighting the way. Yet her beauty wasn't the only thing capturing hearts, but also her indefatigable spirit, unflappable honesty, and raw commitment to finding love, no matter the cost—an ideal that always seemed to elude her. Marie Duplessis was the courtesan who conquered her world as no other woman has, past or present. This is the story of a peasant girl who surpassed all suppressions her era imposed on its women, to become one of the most famous individuals 19th century Europe had ever known.

Natasha Leonova's beauty saved her life. Discovered on a freezing Moscow street by a Russian billionaire, she has lived for seven years under his protection. Believing his generosity will always keep her safe, Natasha is careful not to dwell on Vladimir's ruthlessness or the deadly circles he moves in. Until she meets Theo Luca. The son of a famous and difficult artist, Theo and his mother own a restaurant filled with his late father's artwork. There, on a warm June evening, Theo first encounters Natasha, the most beautiful woman he has ever seen. And there, Vladimir lays eyes on Luca's artwork. Two dangerous obsessions begin. Theo, a gifted artist in his own right, finds himself feverishly painting Natasha's image for weeks after their first meeting. Vladimir, enraged that the paintings are not for sale, is determined to secure one at any price. And Natasha, who knows that she cannot afford to make even one false move, nevertheless begins to think of the freedom she can never have as Vladimir's mistress . . . Danielle Steel is famous for her inspirational stories about family, love and life. Her novels will be enjoyed by readers of Penny Vincenzi, Jodi Picoult and Diane Chamberlain.

Ernst Jünger was one of twentieth-century Germany's most important—and most controversial—writers. Decorated for bravery in World War I and the author of the acclaimed western front memoir *Storm of Steel*, he frankly depicted war's horrors even as he extolled its glories. As a Wehrmacht captain during World War II, Jünger faithfully kept a journal in occupied Paris and continued to write on the eastern front and in Germany until its defeat—writings that are of major historical and literary significance. Jünger's Paris journals document his Francophile excitement, romantic affairs, and fascination with botany and entomology, alongside mystical and religious ruminations and trenchant observations on the occupation and the politics of collaboration. While working as a mail censor, he led the privileged life of an officer, encountering artists such as Céline, Cocteau, Braque, and Picasso. His notes from the Caucasus depict the chaos after Stalingrad and atrocities on the eastern front. Upon returning to Paris, Jünger observed the French resistance and was close to the German military conspirators who plotted to assassinate Hitler in 1944. After fleeing France, he reunited with his family as Germany's capitulation approached. Both participant and commentator, close to the horrors of history but often distancing himself from them, Jünger turned his life and experiences into a work of art. These wartime journals appear here in English for the first time, giving fresh insights into the quandaries of the twentieth century from the keen pen of a paradoxical observer.

Paris, 1920s. Tatiana Vytenis has worked hard to leave her past behind. Once a ruined Russian princess in hiding, she is now a sought-after model and engaged to Gérard de Sainte-Vierge – a handsome, if occasionally overbearing, aristocrat. With the Sainte-Vierge heirloom ruby sparkling on her finger, Tatiana feels as though she should be happy. Not long ago she was penniless and now she's about to become a marquise. But fate still has a final hand to play. One night in a bohemian café in Montparnasse, Tatiana discovers she's been the unknowing plaything of the Sainte-Vierge family. Hidden beneath their genteel exteriors, Gerard and his brother have a secret darker side, and her darling fiancé will gladly ruin Tatiana's life to save his own reputation. As

Tatiana's situation becomes ever more desperate, she crosses paths with an unlikely guardian angel. Serious, dark-haired Regan Dortmeyer is an American in Paris – a war photographer running from his own hard knocks in Hell's Kitchen, New York. He's no fancy French nobleman, but Regan has seen the lengths to which a wicked man like Gerard will go. As the consequences of her disastrous engagement threaten to swallow Tatiana up, he might be the only one who can save her now... From the USA Today bestselling author of *The Milliner's Secret*, *The Paris Girl* is a beautiful novel full of twists and turns, set against the breathtaking backdrop of 1920s Paris. Perfect for fans of Chanel Cleeton, Kathleen Tessaro and *The Alice Network*. What readers are saying about *The Paris Girl*: 'A beautifully written novel by an extremely talented writer. Excellent character depiction, plus an exciting storyline makes for a roaring success. Highly recommended.' Goodreads Reviewer, 5 stars 'A beautifully written, intriguing story of love, betrayal, crime and fashion – I absolutely loved this, the characters were engaging and believable, the setting glamorous, a wonderful read!' Goodreads Reviewer, 5 stars 'Stunning, gripping historical fiction... Natalie Meg Evans writes so well, I will read anything she comes out with... I love this author's work!' All the Good Books, 5 stars 'A wonderful read!!!... I couldn't put this book down. Natalie Meg Evans has a way with words!' NetGalley Reviewer, 5 stars 'Natalie Meg Evans writes the best books about Paris. This was another excellent read... Ms. Evans descriptions leave me smiling, her attention to detail and research are some of the best things about her writing and about this particular story. Loved it!' Meanderings and Muses, 5 stars 'A wonderful read, historical fiction at its best... characters that come alive, a story that kept me turning the pages.' NetGalley Reviewer 'Wow! This is the best book I've had the pleasure of reading in some time... The characters were so real that I could easily picture them... I plan to add Natalie Meg Evans to my favourite author list.' Goodreads Reviewer, 5 stars 'I loved the setting for this book... It was a gorgeous story to read and a real page-turner... This is a lovely historical fiction novel... She has a lovely writing style and a natural talent – highly recommended!' Donna's Book Blog '...Tatiana is a really interesting character... the events of the book are utterly compelling. The plot and style are rich in historical detail and the Paris of the 1920s is beautifully realistic. There is a lot of emotion in this book... The Paris Girl is an impressive, almost epic saga of love and loss and I hope to read more from this author soon!' LoopyLouLaura 'An excellent historical novel... The vivid imagery was engaging... I enjoyed it so much.' NetGalley Reviewer 'An evocative slice of historical fiction... Tatiana is a really well created and believable character... The pace of the book is very good, there is a good blend of drama and romance to keep the reader's attention.' Goodreads Reviewer 'Wow! I absolutely loved it!... an excellent story... I enjoyed it very much.' Goodreads Reviewer 'This book gives you 1920's Paris glamour, fashion and romance... It kept me guessing... If you enjoy historical fiction, it should be on your to-be-read list.' French Village Diaries 'Incredibly touching tale... gorgeous novel... Kudos to Natalie Meg Evans. This is my first book by her and I was kept interested throughout. I look forward to reading more by her in the future.' Robin Loves Reading 'This book was fast-paced and the plot was interesting. I found myself staying up way past my bedtime just to finish!' Goodreads Reviewer 'A well written book with a good storyline and interesting characters... enjoyable and entertaining.' NetGalley Reviewer 'Utterly charming... A good amount of drama and mystery.' Goodreads Reviewer

The New York Times bestselling author of *The Last Train to London* revisits the dark early days of the German occupation in France in this haunting novel--a love story and a tale of high-stakes danger and incomparable courage--about a young American heiress who helps artists hunted by the Nazis escape from war-torn Europe. Wealthy, beautiful Naneé was born with a spirit of adventure that transcends her Midwestern roots. For her, learning to fly is freedom. When German tanks roll across the border and into Paris, this woman with an adorable dog and a generous heart joins the resistance. Known as the Postmistress because she delivers information to those in hiding, Naneé uses her charms and skill to house the hunted and deliver them to safety. Inspired by the real life Chicago heiress Mary Jayne Gold, who worked with American journalist Varian Fry to smuggle artists and intellectuals out of France, Meg Waite Clayton has fashioned a sweeping tale of romance and danger, set in a world aflame with personal and political passion. *The Postmistress of Paris* is the haunting story of an indomitable woman whose strength, bravery, and love is a beacon of hope in a time of terror.

Matched only by Hemingway's *A Moveable Feast*, *Paris France* is a "fresh and sagacious" (*The New Yorker*) classic of prewar France and its unforgettable literary eminences. Celebrated for her innovative literary bravura, Gertrude Stein (1874–1946) settled into a bustling Paris at the turn of the twentieth century, never again to return to her native America. While in Paris, she not only surrounded herself with—and tirelessly championed the careers of—a remarkable group of young expatriate artists but also solidified herself as "one of the most controversial figures of American letters" (*New York Times*). In *Paris France* (1940)—published here with a new introduction from Adam Gopnik—Stein unites her childhood memories of Paris with her observations about everything from art and war to love and cooking. The result is an unforgettable glimpse into a bygone era, one on the brink of revolutionary change.

Legendary fashion designer Coco Chanel is revered for her sophisticated style—the iconic little black dress—and famed for her intoxicating perfume Chanel No. 5. Yet behind the public persona is a complicated woman of intrigue, shadowed by mysterious rumors. *The Queen of Paris*, the new novel from award-winning author Pamela Binnings Ewen, vividly imagines the hidden life of Chanel during the four years of Nazi occupation in Paris in the midst of WWII—as discovered in recently unearthed wartime files. Coco Chanel could be cheerful, lighthearted, and generous; she also could be ruthless, manipulative, even cruel. Against the winds of war, with the Wehrmacht marching down the Champs-Élysées, Chanel finds herself residing alongside the Reich's High Command in the Hotel Ritz. Surrounded by the enemy, Chanel wages a private war of her own to wrestle full control of her perfume company from the hands of her Jewish business partner, Pierre Wertheimer. With anti-Semitism on the rise, he has escaped to the United States with the confidential formula for Chanel No. 5. Distrustful of his intentions to set up production on the outskirts of New York City, Chanel fights to seize ownership. The House of Chanel shall not fall. While Chanel struggles to keep her livelihood intact, Paris sinks under the iron fist of German rule. Chanel—a woman made of sparkling granite—will do anything to survive. She will even agree to collaborate with the Nazis in order to protect her darkest secrets. When she is covertly recruited by Germany to spy for the Reich, she becomes Agent F-7124, code name: Westminster. But why? And to what lengths will she go to keep her stormy past from haunting her future?

'Art is a Tyrant recounts [Bonheur's] life with no little brio.' Michael Prodger, *The Times Books of the Year 2020* '[A] diligently researched, beautifully produced and insistently sympathetic biography.' Kathryn Hughes, *Guardian* A new

biography of the wildly unconventional 19th-century animal painter and gender equality pioneer Rosa Bonheur, from the author of the acclaimed *Mistress of Paris* and *Renoir's Dancer*. Rosa Bonheur was the very antithesis of the feminine ideal of 19th-century society. She was educated, she shunned traditional 'womanly' pursuits, she rejected marriage – and she wore trousers. But the society whose rules she spurned accepted her as one of their own, because of her genius for painting animals. She shared an intimate relationship with the eccentric, self-styled inventor Nathalie Micas, who nurtured the artist like a wife. Together Rosa, Nathalie and Nathalie's mother bought a chateau and with Rosa's menagerie of animals the trio became one of the most extraordinary households of the day. Catherine Hewitt's compelling new biography is an inspiring evocation of a life lived against the rules.

An eccentric young woman's love for a wild white stallion tempts her into using an ancient magic that overshadows her subsequent life and leads to her affair with the charismatic Louis XIV.

One woman must choose between loyalty to her queen and the man she loves... Giselle always dreamed of making beautiful dresses, but never thought she would be chosen to attend to the elegant, but troubled, queen of France, Marie Antoinette. Within the glittering, mirrored walls of the palace, Giselle ensures the queen shines brighter than anyone, with not a single feather or ruffle out of place, no matter how she might feel inside. Being so close to the queen, Giselle is there for her most private and unguarded moments. As whispers spread through the court about the violent protests sweeping across the country and the growing threat to the royal family, Giselle sees the cracks in Marie Antoinette's perfect image. On a visit home to her family in Paris, Giselle experiences the troubles first-hand, getting caught up in a dangerous riot. When handsome Léon comes to her aid, she falls in love with this kind, clever young man. But Léon does not share her admiration for the royals, siding with those who believe they should no longer be in power. Returning to the palace, Giselle is shocked to find the very lives of the royal family now at stake. Marie Antoinette appeals to her to help them escape France and Giselle faces a heart-wrenching choice. Will Giselle risk the guillotine herself to save the life of her beloved queen? And can she do so without betraying the man she loves? Based on true events, this is an absolutely gripping historical novel of loyalty, betrayal, power and passion. Fans of *Les Misérables*, *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and *My Dear Hamilton* will be totally swept away by this heart-breaking page-turner. Previously published as *The Wardrobe Mistress*. Readers are captivated by *The Queen's Dressmaker*: "An addictive story!... I just could not stop reading... I was swept away by the story... A great choice for readers who love history and romance." Goodreads Reviewer, ????? "Sexy, absorbing, and suspenseful, this story sweeps you along to its riveting conclusion." Goodreads Reviewer, ?????

"Compelling and drew me in. There is suspense, romance, and many surprises along the way." Goodreads Reviewer, ????? "I found myself captivated by this novel... Royal court intrigue, fashion... All of the ingredients are here to make for a page-turning story." Goodreads Reviewer, ????? "I adored the narrator, Giselle... I found myself wishing that I had a tricolor rosette for my own lapel. A stunning debut from a fresh new voice in historical fiction." Goodreads Reviewer, ????? "Fast-paced read that was tough to put down. Giselle is a brave heroine it was easy to root for her." Goodreads Reviewer, ????? "Masterson is masterful at historical fiction!... I recommend to those interested in the French Revolution and historical fiction alike!" Goodreads Reviewer, ????? "I felt like I was in the middle of Paris during this tumultuous time. I can't wait for Meghan Masterson's next book!" Goodreads Reviewer, ?????

An RT Book Reviews Top Pick and 2017 RT Reviewers' Choice Best Book Nominee: *THE WARDROBE MISTRESS* is Meghan Masterson's fascinating and visceral debut, an inside look at Marie Antoinette's luxurious life in Versailles remarkably juxtaposed against life in third estate as the French Revolution gains strength. A propulsive exploration of love, loyalty, danger, and intrigue...not to be missed. It's Giselle Aubry's first time at court in Versailles. At sixteen, she is one of Marie Antoinette's newest undertirewomen, and in awe of the glamorous queen and her opulent palace life. A budding designer, it's a dream come true to work with the beautiful fabrics and jewels in the queen's wardrobe. But every few weeks she returns home to visit her family in Paris where rumors of revolution are growing stronger. From her position working in the royal household, Giselle is poised to see both sides of the revolutionary tensions erupting throughout Paris. When her uncle, a retired member of the *secret du roi*, a spy ring that worked for the old King, Louis XV, suggests that she casually report the Queen's actions back to him as a game, she leaps at the chance. Spying seems like an adventure and an exciting way to privately support the revolution taking the countryside by storm. She also enjoys using her insight from Versailles in lively debates with Léon Gauvain, the handsome and idealistic revolutionary who courts her. But as the uprising continues to gain momentum, and Giselle grows closer to the Queen, becoming one of the few trusted servants, she finds herself dangerously torn. Violence is escalating; she must choose where her loyalty truly lies, or risk losing everything...maybe even her head.

A woman's birthday party takes a dark turn in a poignant, heart-stopping new novel from the reigning queen of suspense, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of *Behind Closed Doors*, *The Breakdown*, and *Bring Me Back*. "A heartbreaking page-turner that will have you up at night reading just one more chapter." —Catherine Steadman, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Something in the Water* "The phenomenal B. A. Paris has done it again! I devoured *The Dilemma* in one sitting—it grabbed me from the very first page and wouldn't let go until I'd finished. Secrets, guilt, shame and heartbreak—this story has it all in spades." —Sandie Jones, New York Times bestselling author of *The Other Woman* Knowing the truth will destroy her. Keeping it secret will destroy him. It's Livia's 40th birthday, and her husband Adam is throwing her the party of a lifetime to make up for the wedding they never had. Everyone she loves will be there, except her daughter Marnie, who's studying abroad. But Livia is secretly glad Marnie won't be there. Livia has recently uncovered a secret about their daughter which, if revealed, will shake the foundation of their family to its core. She needs to tell Adam, but she's waiting until the party is over so they can have this last happy time together. Adam, meanwhile, has his own surprise for Livia: he's arranged for Marnie to secretly fly back for the party. But before Marnie arrives, Adam hears some terrible news. Now he too is faced with a dilemma: Does he share what he's learned with his wife? Is

hiding the truth the same as telling a lie? And how far are Adam and Livia willing to go to protect the ones they love—and give each other a last few hours of happiness?

In the final instalment of Sally Christie's *Mistresses of Versailles* trilogy, Jeanne Becu, a woman of astounding beauty but humble birth, works her way from the grimy back streets of Paris to the palace of Versailles, where the aging King Louis XV has become a jaded and bitter old philanderer. Jeanne bursts into his life and, as the Comtesse du Barry, quickly becomes his official mistress. After decades of suffering the King's endless stream of Royal Favourites, the princesses of the Court have reached a breaking point. Horrified that he would bring the lowborn Comtesse du Barry into the hallowed halls of Versailles, Louis XV's daughters, led by the indomitable Madame Adelaide, vow eternal enmity and enlist the young dauphiness Marie Antoinette in their fight against the new mistress. But as tensions rise and the French Revolution draws closer, a prostitute in the palace soon becomes the least of the nobility's concerns.

Everyone thought she was dead...In 18th century Covent Garden, Madam Moineau, is the mistress of Blackstairs, an establishment catering to the finest clients in London. The mysterious, veiled lady of Paris was better known in the past as a former courtesan and went by the considerably less exotic moniker of Georgina Radcliffe, or Georgie to her friends. In the winter of 1785 two men appear in Madam Moineau's life. Rogue artist Anthony Lake has recently returned from Europe. Lake is on his own assignment, searching the streets of London for the daughter he only recently discovered he had fathered. He learns that the child's mother is dead, brutally killed and Anthony finds himself on an unexpected mission to avenge his ex-lovers' murder. Nearly ten years after he left Madam Moineau, then known as Georgina, for dead, Viscount Edmund Polmear returns to London. He has a new fiancé in tow and is soon to be found around Blackstairs, seeking a further mistress for his own pleasure. His sudden appearance is a shock for the victim that he believed he left for dead, forcing Madam Moineau to face the horrors of her own past head on. Anthony Lake and Madam Moineau's lives become inevitably and inextricably entwined as they find themselves up against the fearsome and unforgiving Viscount Polmear. Praise for Catherine Curzon 'Full of scandal and intrigue - a delightful read!' - Holly Kinsella Catherine Curzon is an 18th century historian and author. Her work has been featured online by BBC History Extra and in magazines including All About History, Explore History, History of Royals and Jane Austen's Regency World. Catherine holds a Master's degree in Film and when not dodging the furies of the guillotine, writes fiction set deep in the underbelly of Georgian London. She lives in Yorkshire atop a ludicrously steep hill.

A heart-stopping love story about a Jewish slave girl and Rome's greatest gladiator, who become involved in a plot to assassinate the Emperor of Rome... Orphaned by Rome's savage legions, Thea, a slave girl from Judaea, has learned what it takes to survive. She knows only violence until a chance meeting with gladiator Arius offers a shred of tenderness. But their bond is severed when Thea is sold again, condemned to rot in squalor. Years later, a singer known as Athena betrays no hint of her troubled past. Catching the eye of the Emperor himself, she is swept into a world of decadence and depravity. But although Domitian fears betrayal from every side, he is unaware that the greatest threat lies next to him - a slave girl who has come to be called the Mistress of Rome... From New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of *THE ALICE NETWORK* and *THE HUNTRESS* comes a powerful Roman epic, perfect for those who loved the HBO mini-series *ROME*. Readers LOVE Kate Quinn: 'One of my absolute all-time favourite books ever!! Read it four times now and I still can't get enough of it.' ***** Reader Review 'I would recommend it to anyone.' ***** Reader Review 'One of my favourites!!! I highly recommend to anyone who enjoys Roman history.' ***** Reader Review 'Wow! What a book! This is the best book I have read for a really long time. I couldn't put it down. WOW WOW WOW!!' ***** Reader Review 'A spellbinding novel that gripped me from the start and I really can't wait to read the sequel.' ***** Reader Review 'I love reading novels set in Roman times and this was certainly one of the best I have read in a very long time.' ***** Reader Review

A New York Times Editor's Choice A Herald's Best Summer Book 'An unusual and accomplished first novel . . . moves in intriguing leaps and twists.' Economist 'Gorgeous' New York Times 'Grapples with the complexity of familial love.' Marie Claire French teenager Margot is the illegitimate daughter of a prominent stage actress and an influential politician. The comings and goings of their unconventional family, in a small Parisian apartment, cast her whole life under a veil of secrecy and shame. One summer, Margot decides to exercise her own agency when she meets a well-regarded journalist whose trust seems surprisingly easy to gain. But as Margot is drawn into an adult world, she learns how one impulsive decision can change the contours of her life, and the lives of those around her, in ways she could never have imagined. In this simmering debut Sanaë Lemoine explores private and public faces, truth and deceit, love and persuasion. *The Margot Affair* is a novel about the bone-deep bond between mothers and daughters, the devotion and betrayal of friendship and the dangers of pushing beyond the boundaries of a life lived in the shadows.

A captivating novel based on the story of the extraordinary real-life American woman who secretly worked for the French Resistance during World War II—while playing hostess to the invading Germans at the iconic Hôtel Ritz in Paris—from the New York Times bestselling author of *The Aviator's Wife* and *The Swans of Fifth Avenue*. “A compelling portrait of a marriage and a nation at war from within.”—Kate Quinn, author of *The Alice Network* Nothing bad can happen at the Ritz; inside its gilded walls every woman looks beautiful, every man appears witty. Favored guests like Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Coco Chanel, and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor walk through its famous doors to be welcomed and pampered by Blanche Auzello and her husband, Claude, the hotel's director. The Auzellos are the mistress and master of the Ritz, allowing the glamour and glitz to take their minds off their troubled marriage, and off the secrets that they keep from their guests—and each other. Until June 1940, when the German army sweeps into Paris, setting up headquarters at the Ritz. Suddenly, with the likes of Hermann Goëring moving into suites once occupied by royalty, Blanche and Claude must navigate a terrifying new reality. One that entails even more secrets and lies. One that may destroy the tempestuous marriage between this beautiful, reckless American and her very proper Frenchman. For in order to survive—and strike a blow against their Nazi “guests”—Blanche and Claude must spin a web of deceit that ensnares everything and everyone they cherish. But one secret is shared between Blanche and Claude alone—the secret that, in the end, threatens to imperil both of their lives, and to bring down the legendary Ritz itself. Based on true events, *Mistress of the Ritz* is a taut tale of suspense wrapped up in a love story for the ages, the inspiring story of a woman and a man who discover the best in each other amid the turbulence of war. Praise for *Mistress of the Ritz* “No one writes of the complexities of women's lives and loves like Melanie Benjamin. In *Mistress of the Ritz*, Benjamin brings wartime Paris brilliantly to life. . . . Intense, illuminating, and ultimately inspiring!”—Elizabeth Letts, New York Times bestselling author of *Finding Dorothy*

The New York Times bestselling author of *The Last Train to London* revisits the dark early days of the German occupation in France in this haunting novel—a love story and a tale of high-stakes danger and incomparable courage—about a young American heiress who helps artists hunted by the Nazis escape from war-torn Europe. Wealthy, beautiful Naneé was born with a spirit of adventure. For her, learning to fly is freedom. When German tanks roll across the border and into Paris, this woman with an adorable dog and a generous heart joins the

resistance. Known as the Postmistress because she delivers information to those in hiding, Nanée uses her charms and skill to house the hunted and deliver them to safety. Photographer Edouard Moss has escaped Germany with his young daughter only to be interned in a French labor camp. His life collides with Nanée's in this sweeping tale of romance and danger set in a world aflame with personal and political passion. Inspired by the real life Chicago heiress Mary Jayne Gold, who worked with American journalist Varian Fry to smuggle artists and intellectuals out of France, *The Postmistress of Paris* is the haunting story of an indomitable woman whose strength, bravery, and love is a beacon of hope in a time of terror.

The Mistress of Paris The 19th-Century Courtesan Who Built an Empire on a Secret Icon Books Ltd

'Scharer captures the thrill of artistic creation and the swirling hedonism of Paris's beautiful people.' *The Times* Model. Muse. Lover. Artist. 'I'd rather take a picture than be one,' Lee Miller declares, as she arrives in Paris one cool day in 1929. Lee has left behind her life in New York and a successful modelling career at *Vogue* to pursue her dream of becoming a photographer. She soon catches the eye of renowned Surrealist artist Man Ray and convinces him to hire her as his assistant. Man is an egotistical, charismatic force, and as Lee becomes both his muse and his protégé, they embark upon a passionate affair. Lee and Man spend their days working closely in the studio and their nights at smoky cabarets, opium dens and wild parties. But as Lee begins to assert herself, and to create pioneering work of her own, Man's jealousy spirals out of control, and leads to a betrayal that threatens to destroy them both . . . Transporting us from bohemian Paris to the battlefields of WWII, *The Age of Light* is a powerful and intoxicating story about love, obsession and the personal price of ambition. Based on the incredible true story, in her debut novel Whitney Scharer brings a brilliant and revolutionary artist out of the shadow of a man's legacy, and into the light. 'Whitney Scharer's storytelling is utterly immersive and gorgeous in its details . . . powerful, sensual and gripping.'

Madeleine Miller, author of *Circe*

"Comtesse Valtresse de la Bigne was a celebrated nineteenth-century Parisian courtesan. She was painted by Manet and inspired Emile Zola, who immortalized her in his scandalous novel *Nana*. Her rumored affairs with Napoleon III and the future Edward VII kept gossip columns full. But her glamorous existence hid a dark secret: she was no Comtesse. She was born into abject poverty, raised on a squalid Paris backstreet; the lowest of the low. Yet she transformed herself into an enchantress who possessed a small fortune, three mansions, fabulous carriages, and art that drew the envy of connoisseurs across France and Europe. A consummate show-woman, she ensured that her life--and even her death--remained shrouded in just enough mystery to keep her audience hungry for more. Catherine Hewitt's biography, *The Mistress of Paris*, tells the forgotten story of a remarkable French woman who, though her roots were lowly, never stopped aiming high."--Provided by publisher.

Read the lost masterpiece behind the major new film starring Kristin Scott Thomas and Michelle Williams Set during the year that France fell to the Nazis, *Suite Française* falls into two parts. The first is a brilliant depiction of a group of Parisians as they flee the Nazi invasion; the second follows the inhabitants of a small rural community under occupation. *Suite Française* is a novel that teems with wonderful characters struggling with the new regime. However, amidst the mess of defeat, and all the hypocrisy and compromise, there is hope. True nobility and love exist, but often in surprising places. Irène Némirovsky began writing *Suite Française* in 1940, but her death in Auschwitz prevented her from seeing the day, sixty-five years later, that the novel would be discovered by her daughter and hailed worldwide as a masterpiece. Forced to marry an elderly baron instead of a man she loves, impoverished noblewoman Gabrielle de Montserrat is condemned to death at the height of the French Revolution and finds her life placed in the hands of her former lover.

A Richard and Judy Book Club pick, set in Paris and Italy, *The Truths and Triumphs of Grace Atherton* is a beautiful and uplifting exploration of love, loss and hope 'The real truth and triumph of this gem of a story is simple: it is one of the best and most gripping descriptions of heartbreak that either of us have ever read' Richard and Judy's review Grace Atherton, a talented cellist, is in love with David. Together in their apartment in Paris, Grace and David are happy until an unexpected event changes everything. Nadia is seventeen and furious. She knows that love will only let her down: if she is going to succeed it will be on her own terms. At eighty-six Maurice Williams has discovered a lot about love in his long life, and even more about people. And yet he keeps secrets. When Grace's life falls apart in the most shocking of ways Maurice and Nadia come to her rescue, helping her to find happiness and hope through the healing power of friendship. Praise for *The Truths and Triumphs of Grace Atherton* 'Glorious on so many levels' A J Pearce, author of *Dear Mrs Bird* 'Lose yourself among beautiful symphonies, the romantic cities of Europe and quirky characters ... a triumph' *Woman's Weekly* 'A powerful and passionate novel, awash with heartbreak but still an uplifting tale of friendship and rebirth. Five stars' *Daily Express* 'Full of hope and charm' Libby Page, author of *The Lido* 'A hymn to friendship, to getting back up and finding happiness where none seemed possible' Katie Fforde Pre-order Anstey Harris' wonderful new book *Where We Belong now* - ISBN 97811473837

One mother's desperate hope for survival. 1943: In occupied Paris, Celine creates bespoke bouquets at her father's flower shop on rue Cler, whilst trying to shield her young daughter from the brutal reality of war. But when an SS officer takes an interest in Celine and her family, all their lives are put in jeopardy... One woman's search for the truth... 2009: Caroline wakes in Paris with no memory of her previous life. Hunting for clues to her identity in her apartment on the rue Cler, she discovers a bundle of letters written by a young widow during the Second World War. As she peels back the layers of the past, Caroline finds new purpose - but Celine's story is unfinished. Desperate to find out the truth, Caroline digs deeper, uncovering dark and dangerous secrets... Can learning the truth about Celine help Caroline unlock the mystery of her past? The compelling and evocative new historical novel from the international bestselling author Sarah Jio. Perfect for fans of *The Key* by Kathryn Hughes, *The Parisians* by Marius Gabriel and *The Paris Secret* by Lily Graham.

"An intense and satisfying story." Sara Sheridan. Bohemian Paris in the 1880s. Exotic, strange and exciting - especially to young English sculptor Jessie Lipscomb, who joins her friend Camille Claudel to become a protégée of the great Auguste Rodin. Jessie and Camille enjoy a passionate friendship and explore the demi-monde of the vibrant city, meeting artists such as Toulouse-Lautrec and the boldly unconventional Rosa Bonheur. But when Rodin and Camille embark on a scandalous affair, Jessie is cast as their unwilling go-between and their friendship unravels. Years later she tracks her down to an insane asylum where Camille tells her an explosive secret - can their friendship survive the betrayal?

In the 1880s, Suzanne Valadon was considered the Impressionists' most beautiful model. But behind her captivating façade lay a closely-guarded secret. Born in poverty in rural France, as a teenager in Montmartre, Suzanne began posing for – and having affairs with – some of the age's most renowned painters. Then Renoir caught her indulging in a passion she had been trying to conceal: the model was herself a talented artist. Some found her vibrant still lifes and frank portraits as shocking as her bohemian lifestyle. At eighteen, she gave birth to an illegitimate child, future painter Maurice Utrillo. But her friends Toulouse-Lautrec and Degas could see her skill. Rebellious and opinionated, she refused to be confined by tradition or gender, and in 1894, her work was accepted to the Salon de la Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts, an extraordinary achievement for a working-class woman with no formal art training. Renoir's *Dancer* tells the remarkable tale of an ambitious, headstrong woman fighting to find a professional voice in a male-dominated world.

In this wonderfully readable book, Alistair Horne tells the huge and romantic story of Paris through seven ages of turmoil and change: the Middle Ages, the 100 years war, the Paris of Louis XIV, the age of Napoleon, the Commune, the Empire days of Louis-Napoleon and Eugenie, and the First World War and De Gaulle. Interweaving historical narrative with telling detail, this is a fluent and definitive work of social and cultural history. 'The best book I have read on Paris in a long time' Gregor Dallas, *BBC History Books of the Year* 'Reading *Seven Ages of Paris* is like taking an exciting trip in a French balloon' Antonia Fraser, *New Statesman Books of the Year* 'Provides not only a

panorama of the capital, but also a well-crafted history of France with a nice balance between broad overviews and engaging episodes and details' Jonathan Fenby, *The Times*

A novel originally written in 1863 presents a forecast of Paris in 1960, a world where money and technology control society and a young poet finds himself out of place in the materialistic, mechanistic society. Reprint.

The alignment of the stars at Marie Mancini's birth warned that although she would be gifted at divination, she was destined to disgrace her family. Nonetheless, Cardinal Mazarin brings his niece to the opulent French court, where the forbidden occult arts thrive in secret. In France, Marie discovers that her powerful uncle rules, using Marie's sister Olympia to hold the Sun King, Louis XIV, in thrall. Desperate to avoid her mother's dying wish that she spend her life in a convent, Marie burns her grimoire, trading Italian superstitions for polite sophistication. As her star rises, King Louis becomes enchanted by Marie's charm. Sensing a chance to grab even greater power, Cardinal Mazarin pits the sisters against each other, showering Marie with diamonds and silks in exchange for bending King Louis to his will. Disgusted by Mazarin's ruthlessness, Marie rebels. She sacrifices everything, but exposing Mazarin's darkest secret threatens to tear France apart. When even King Louis' love fails to protect Marie, she must summon her powers of divination. Fraught with conspiracy and passion, *Enchantress of Paris* is a captivating historical novel about a woman whose love was more powerful than magic.

Catherine Hewitt's *The Mistress of Paris* is a fantastically readable biography of a nineteenth-century Parisian courtesan who harbored an incredible secret. "A gorgeous, smart, ambitious, hard-working, steely autodidact and businesswoman whose product was herself, Valtesse would be totally at home in our self-branding society." —*The New York Times Book Review* Comtesse Valtesse de la Bigne was painted by Édouard Manet and inspired Émile Zola, who immortalized her in his scandalous novel *Nana*. Her rumored affairs with Napoleon III and the future King Edward VII kept gossip columns full. But her glamorous existence hid a dark secret: she was no comtesse. Valtesse was born into abject poverty, raised on a squalid backstreet among the dregs of Parisian society. Yet she transformed herself into an enchantress who possessed a small fortune, three mansions, fabulous carriages, and art the envy of connoisseurs across Europe. A consummate show-woman, she ensured that her life—and even her death—remained shrouded in just enough mystery to keep her audience hungry for more. Spectacularly evoking the sights and sounds of mid- to late nineteenth-century Paris in all its hedonistic glory, Catherine Hewitt's biography tells, for the first time ever in English, the forgotten story of a remarkable woman who, though her roots were lowly, never stopped aiming high.

Previously published as *The Woman from Paris* "Superb storyteller" (Plum Sykes) Santa Montefiore's sweeping and sophisticated international bestseller *Summer House* is "a feel good story, full of exuberance and passion and threaded with hope...an exceptional find" (*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*). When Lord Frampton dies in a skiing accident, a beautiful young woman named Phaedra appears at his funeral—claiming to be the Lord's illegitimate daughter. In his will, Lord Frampton has left the priceless Frampton suite of sapphires to this interloper, confirming her claim and outraging his three adult sons and widow. Eventually, however, Phaedra's sweet nature thaws the frosty relationships. She becomes the daughter that Antoinette Frampton never had and a wise and compassionate granddaughter to the formidable Dowager Lady Frampton. But an attraction grows between Phaedra and the eldest son, David. It seems an impossible love—blocked by their blood connection and by the fury of one family member who is determined to expose Phaedra as a fraud. Filled with the luscious scenery and enchanting characters her fans adore, Santa Montefiore's *Summer House* is an unforgettable story about family, forgiveness, and the power of love.

'A novel of love, war and death; brilliantly entertaining and far ahead of its time' *Guardian* 'She is my husband's mistress - and here am I, taking her out to dinner' Sophia Willoughby of Blandamer House, upstanding Victorian matriarch, has packed her errant husband off to Paris with his mistress Minna. But when tragedy throws her life off balance Sophia goes to seek him out, and instead finds herself intensely attracted to the charismatic, bohemian Minna, who leads her on a wild, chaotic adventure through a city in the throes of revolution. 'One of the great under-read British novelists of the twentieth century. This is my favourite of her novels' Sarah Waters 'Every page contains something brilliant, arresting or amusing, and one comes away from it staggered' Claire Harman

French realism's immortal siren crawled from the gutter to the heights of society, devouring men and squandering fortunes along the way. Zola's 1880s classic is among the first modern novels.

This biography tells the dramatic story of Suzanne Valadon and is illustrated with her work. It describes her difficult early life, her stormy twenties as a model for Renoir and others, her success and the love affairs that scandalised society.

Valtesse de la Bigne was a celebrated nineteenth-century Parisian courtesan. She was painted by Manet and inspired Emile Zola, who immortalised her in his scandalous novel *Nana*. Her rumored affairs with Napoleon III and the future Edward VII kept gossip columns full. But her glamorous existence hid a dark secret: she was no Comtesse. She was born into abject poverty, raised on a squalid Paris backstreet; the lowest of the low. Yet she transformed herself into an enchantress who possessed a small fortune, three mansions, fabulous carriages, and art the envy of connoisseurs across Europe. A consummate show-woman, she ensured that her life – and even her death – remained shrouded in just enough mystery to keep her audience hungry for more. Catherine Hewitt's biography tells, for the first time ever in English, the forgotten story of a remarkable woman who, though her roots were lowly, never stopped aiming high.

"Suzanne Valadon" reproduces the artist's bold paintings and drawings, as well as letters and personal documents from a woman who left behind few written records. of color photos.

Set during a period of revolution and turmoil, *Mistress of My Fate* is the first book in a trilogy about Henrietta Lightfoot, a young woman who was abandoned as a baby and raised alongside her cousins, noble children of a lord and lady. At just sixteen years old, circumstance and a passionate love affair tear Henrietta away from everything she knows, leading to a new life fending for herself on the streets of 18th century London as a courtesan, gambler, and spirited intellect of the city.

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