



"A tantalizing tale of deeply held secrets, heartbreak, redemption, and the enduring way that family can both hurt and heal us."

—KRISTIN HARMEL,
New York Times bestselling author

KATHERINE REAY

BOOK CLUB
KIT

PRAISE FOR THE LONDON HOUSE

“Reay’s fast-paced foray into the past cleverly reveals a family’s secrets and how a pivotal moment shaped future generations.

Readers who enjoy engrossing family mystery should take note.” - *Publishers Weekly*

“For readers who enjoy novels featuring courageous women in World War II. Reay explores the uncertainty of history and how trauma can be carried across generations, but makes clear that it’s never too late for redemption.” - *Library Journal*

“Carefully researched, emotionally hewn, and written with a sure hand, *The London House* is a tantalizing tale of deeply held secrets, heartbreak, redemption, and the enduring way that family can both hurt and heal us. I enjoyed it thoroughly.”

- Kristin Harmel, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Forest of Vanishing Stars* and *The Book of Lost Names*

- Thrillist - 10 Amazing Book Club Reads That Will Get Everyone Talking
- BookBub - Historical Fiction Books for Your Wishlist
- SheReads - Most Anticipated Books of Fall 2021
- Women.com - The Most Anticipated Books of Fall

A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear Reader,

I'm delighted that *The London House* has not only found its way into your hands but also your book club as well. This story has captured my imagination for the past year and comes from my deep love for literature, history, and the undeniable human truth that love and family shape us in ways we can't define, but feel every day of our lives.

While the storyline follows contemporary Caroline Payne and her search for the answers to a long-held family secret, it carries readers into the early days of Britain's WWII spy network and glamorous 1930s Paris through the eyes of Caroline's grandmother and her twin sister. It is through these letters and diary entries, readers find a time — not unlike our own — when the world felt on the brink of tremendous change. It is also within these personal tales, Caroline discovers light behind the shadows that have hovered over her family for eighty years, as well as the power to dispel them.

Oftentimes “story” speaks best to the changes we feel in our hearts and recognize in our world. We let a character's journey speak to our own as we make sense of our lives. In that vein, I hope you thoroughly enjoy Caroline's travels through history and her journey home — to a greater understanding of herself, her family, and the love that binds us together.

All the best to you,

Katherine



Connect With Katherine:

www.katherinereay.com

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What do you think of Mat's premise that history is subjective rather than objective, as it is changed by the lens we bring to our study of it?
2. During Caro's first days in Paris, she asserts that fashion is more than simply clothes. It is "political, theological." Do you agree that clothing is more than simply what covers the body? (Also, be sure to look up the Lobster Dress and Tears Dress-the Butterfly Dress too!)
3. Do you agree, as Caroline comes to believe, that Mrs. Dulles was right and "the eyes are the windows to the soul"?
4. What do you think of Jack's statement that a ghost was worse than an affair because ghosts never age or die?
5. Do you agree with Jack that "one generation never truly understands the perspective and needs of another"?
6. How might things have changed if George had met Caro in Saint-Nazaire and married her?
7. When talking about Caroline's mom, Matt asks, "What do you think love is, Payne?" What did he mean?
8. What do you think of Jack's "dark night of the soul"? Have you ever experienced a life-changing revelation?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

9. Caroline muses that how she thinks about herself and her story can change her story. Do you think that the way we see ourselves (positively or negatively; as strong or weak, for instance) can change how we see our lives and the world around us?

10. Caroline wonders at one point how much we can really know about the people we love. What are your thoughts on this?

11. Was Caro's sacrifice worth it? Do you think she felt peace in those final moments?

12. What do you think was the source of Caroline's ending wonder?