

ESCAPE FROM PARIS by Carolyn Hart

Book Club Discussion Questions

1. Who does the title refer to?
2. What was it like to live in France during the German Occupation? How was life on the home front in America? (See below.)
3. Linda Rossiter and Eleanor Masson have entirely different feelings about helping RAF fliers escape. Contrast Linda's terror of the Gestapo with Eleanor's eagerness to fight the Nazis.
4. Raphael Masson, Andre's brother, has spent his life within the parameters of the law. He follows the law. What should be - what can be - his response to Vichy rule?
5. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. How does the Gestapo exemplify this maxim?
6. The vignette of Fraulein Selig, the famed opera singer, is a true story as is the trainload of Jewish children. Does the recollection of particular heartbreak help us remember with a sense of immediacy the horror of the Holocaust?
7. Rene and Yvette Bizien are fighting for their own survival. Are Yvette's actions understandable?
8. On Nov. 11, 1940 Parisians flowed by the thousands to lay flowers at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe. On Christmas Eve,

devout Parisians defied the curfew to go to Midnight Mass. What do these two events tell us about national pride and religious conviction?

9. Did Escape from Paris give you a greater sense of connection to the war years?

10. Why do we need to remember the war?

Carolyn's WWII novel Letter from Home was preceded by a short story - "Spooked" - which appeared in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine. For a picture of life on the home front in 1944, here is a link to Carolyn's audio recording of "Spooked."

http://eqmm.podomatic.com/entry/index/2010-08-05T13_44_54-07_00