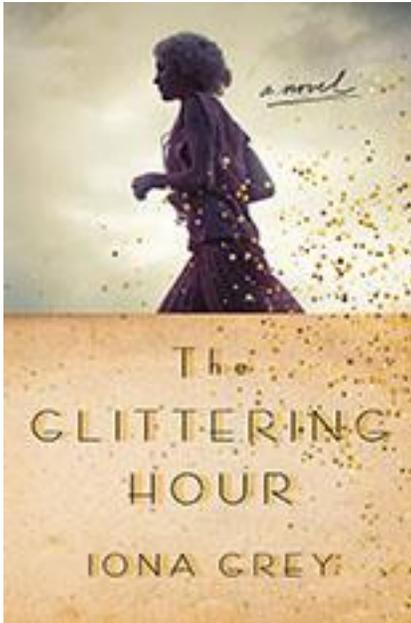


Hella's Book Review



The Glittering Hour by Iona Grey was a very fascinating novel and kept my interest way into the night. It is written in alternating chapters set in London and at an estate known as Blackwood Park, outside of London between 1926 and 1936.

In 1926 the reader meets Selina Lennox. Selina is still grieving the loss of her beloved brother who died during WWI. She intends to live life to the fullest so her and her friends, all who come from upper-class families, form a group called the “Bright Young People”. Much to the dismay of their respected families these young people display outrageous behavior and are often featured in the gossip columns of the London Times. Selina and her friends dress to the nines, ride in fast cars, and have wild parties, all of which include dancing and a lot of drinking. They also engage in crazy games like treasure hunts. As a result, much of their wild behavior is caught on camera by photographers, so Selina's parents urge her to settle down and marry somebody they have chosen for her. However, Selina's path crosses with that of a talented but poor photographer, Lawrence Weston. They instantly connect and fall in love. Selina now has to choose between her heart, her standard in society, and the wishes of her parents. But one-night tragedy strikes and Selina makes a choice of what is safe over what is in her heart. She chooses an older rich man, a friend of her brother who was with him on the battlefield when her brother died.

In 1936 Selina's daughter, Alice, has been sent to live with Selina's parents at Blackwood Park for the reason that Selina is on a trip to Southeast Asia with Alice's cold and distant father, Rupert Carew, who needs to check on his mines in Burma. Alice stays informed about her parent's journey through her mother's letters, which are delivered by a longtime family servant, Polly. Alice likes to write letters back to her mother and includes pictures that she draws, as she is quite the little artist. Through Polly, Selina also sends her daughter clues for a treasure hunt. Alice enjoys finding the answers to the clues. The clues gradually reveal the story of Selina's life before Alice was born. What else do they reveal? To find this answer you, the reader, will have to check out a copy of *The Glittering Hour* by Iona Grey, available at the Tilden Public Library.

I truly enjoyed how the author told Selina's story through a treasure hunt, a very clever idea. Here is a quote from the novel: *People you love don't leave you. You carry them inside your head and your heart, but also in yourself too.*

Happy Reading!