

# The Lost Girls of Paris

Book Review by Hella Bauer



Just when I thought I wouldn't read any more stories based on the history of WWII, the library received a copy of *The Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff. Growing up in the heart of Europe during WWII, I am always amazed that I did not know about the heroic efforts by so many brave men and women to bring this war to an end.

This book is based on the true story of a group of women who served as special agents for Special Operations Executive (SOE) in Britain during World War II. The Author's fictitious account of the women shows what great strength and courage these women possessed. The story is told in alternating chapters by three women, Grace, Eleanor and Marie.

One morning in 1946 Grace Healey, whose soldier husband was killed in an accident, is late for her work at a small law firm in Manhattan and takes a short cut through Grand Central Terminal. She sees a suitcase under a bench and can't resist to open it. Inside she discovers a dozen photographs, each of a different woman. On the side of the suitcase is the name Trigg. On impulse she takes the photos and leaves the station. Outside the station there is an accident involving a woman, who is declared dead. Later Grace learns on the news that the name of the woman killed was Eleanor Trigg, the owner of the suitcase. Grace is very intrigued by the photographs of the women in the suitcase. Who was Eleanor Trigg and why did she have those photos in her suitcase?

In 1943 Eleanor Trigg was the leader of a group of women agents who through rigorous training were sent to France to transmit radio intelligence on Nazi movements for the Resistance and in preparation for the Invasion of Normandy by the Allies. After the war twelve girls were never accounted for and Eleanor made it her mission to find out what happened to them. Grace feels compelled to find out more about Eleanor, the Special Operations Executive (SOE) and the women in the photographs. She enlists the help of her late husband's best friend, Mark, who had worked for the War Crimes Tribunal.

The third woman agent was Marie Roux who spoke fluent French and therefore was very valuable to the operation. She was dropped into an area north of Paris, where she was located, to send wireless transmissions. But things did not go as planned. What happened to Marie? Was she one of the twelve missing girls?

If you enjoy Historical Fiction you will not be able to put this book down. Stop by the library and check out *The Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff.

**Happy Reading!**