

Book Chat #3-Summarizer

After the bombing of Saint Malo, Marie is hiding in Étienne house, while Werner is still in the hotel cellar. He ends up using the radio to send a message. In 1940, Werner is invited to Fredericks house in Berlin. Marie and Étienne get a note saying he is in a German camp. Von Rumpel becomes aware of the sea of flames, and finds out about the three duplicates. He wants the stone to prevent his death from cancer. At school, Werner is succeeding in math and working with the radios. Frederick becomes a target at the school because he didn't torture a prisoner. He gets beaten so badly that he is unlikely to recover. Marie and Madame Manec become closer, and she introduced Marie to the resistance. She teaches Marie how to be independent, and introduces her to the ocean. Madame Manec ends up dying in 1942. Werner gets deployed to work on radios. In 1944, von Rumpel has gotten far enough to know that Marie's house has the diamond in it. She is essentially defenceless. As she is hiding in the cellar, she reads aloud to herself, and Werner's radio picks up on it.

Book Chat #4-Discussion Director

The book alternates between a relatively short timeline, up until the end. Why did the book change its era so drastically?

I think that the author wanted to show the consequences of the war, and how they truly affected people. By jumping ahead to Marie living her life as a mom, and a woman in the workforce, and a grandmother, it really shows how she found herself. It also shows the internal struggle for Jutta to find answers to what happened.

Did you find the ending to be complete?

I definitely missed some of the characters, but yes, I did. The book ended on a hopeful note, and it did feel like everyone in the story, as well as the reader, got a sense of closure.

Book Chat #5: Connector

I connected Jutta's rape to the experiences that women face on the daily. The brutality of sexual assault is a common occurrence, and getting any form of retribution for that atrocity is rare. The fact that she was raped by the Allies, the quote unquote, "good guys", also ties into the current feminist struggle of accusing reputable people with rape, and how institutionalized the system is.