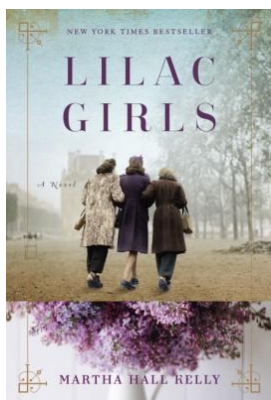


Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

January 30, 2017

Biography:



Martha Hall Kelly is a native New Englander who splits her time between Atlanta, Georgia; New York City; and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Before writing *Lilac Girls* (2016), she spent a number of years in the advertising world as a copy writer. *Lilac Girls* is her first book and she spent ten years researching and five years writing it. The book was inspired by an article from the May 1999 *Victoria Magazine* about Caroline Ferriday and how she comes to the aid of a group of Polish women who had survived Ravensbruck, Hitler's only all-female concentration camp. Martha has a crazy love of all things lilac and fell hard for the story of Caroline Ferriday and her garden. Martha has three (most grown) children and is working on the prequel to *Lilac Girls*. (Adapted from the author's website: <http://www.marthahallkelly.com/>)

Similar Resources:



Discussion Questions:

1. *In what ways do you think the alternating points of view helped to enrich the narrative? Was this effective?*
2. *The primary settings of this novel are starkly different --- In what ways did the contrast between these two settings affect your reading experience?*
3. *Caroline's relationship with Paul is complicated, taboo even, was there ever a time when you didn't agree with a choice Caroline made with regards to Paul?*
4. *Throughout their time in Ravensbruck, Kasia and the other prisoners found ways to demonstrate their resistance. Which of their actions did you find to be most powerful? Most moving? Most effective?*
5. *Did you find Herta to be a sympathetic character? Why or why not?*
6. *Did you feel that Halina's ring was an important symbol in the book? How did Herta feel about the ring? Why did she keep it?*
7. *Many of the themes explored in LILAC GIRLS --- human rights, political resistance, survival --- are a direct result of the historical WWII setting. How are those themes relevant to current events today?*
8. *What do you think the author hoped her readers would take away from this reading experience? (Questions issued by publisher.)*