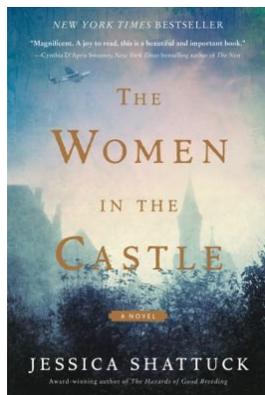


Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

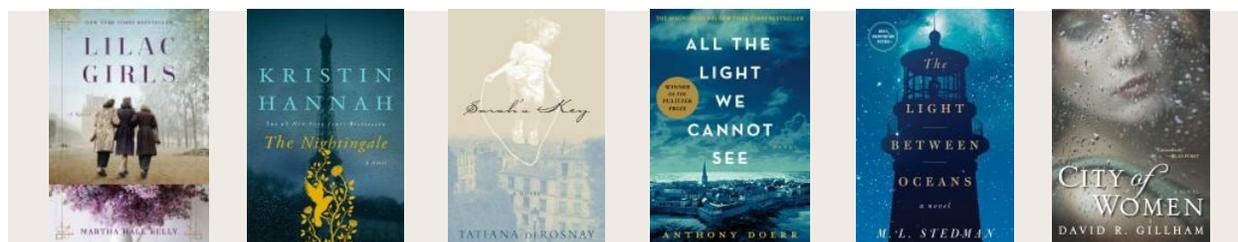
May 21, 2018

Biography:



Jessica Shattuck is the award-winning author of *The Hazards of Good Breeding* (2003), which was a *New York Times* Notable Book and finalist for the PEN/Winship Award, and of *Perfect Life* (2009). Her third novel *The Women in the Castle* (2017), was inspired by her grandparents' experiences in Germany during World War II. Shattuck's other writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *New Yorker*, *Glamour*, *Mother Jones*, *Wired*, and *The Believer*, among other publications. A graduate of Harvard University, she received her MFA from Columbia University. She lives with her husband and three children in Brookline, Massachusetts. (Adapted from the publisher.)

Similar Resources:



Discussion Questions:

1. Did you identify more with one woman than the others? Which did you have the most sympathy for? Which the least?
2. Do you think it's possible to put our past behind us and create a new beginning for ourselves? Are there dangers in remembering the past, or in clinging to it? Are there dangers in forgetting the past?
3. Ania thinks to herself that people have children "even when they believe the world is going to hell, even when life is nothing but uncertainty" in hopes of someday being understood. Do you agree?
4. At the end of the war, each woman was in a different place, physically and emotionally. What do you think of the choices they were forced to make to survive?
5. How do you think the novel challenges our perceptions and notions of Germans during and after the war? Did you learn anything new from the novel?
6. How accountable are individuals for their leaders? What about resisters like Marianne and her circle? Why do you think she saw the true monster that Hitler was when many others did not? (From <https://www.bookbrowse.com>)