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## WHY WE LOVE *THE ORPHAN'S TALE*

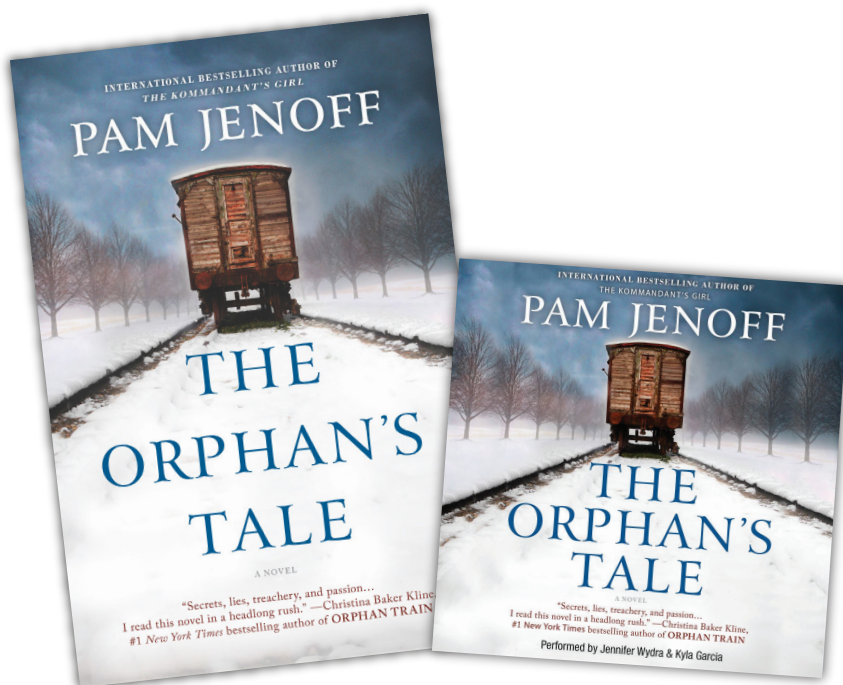
Dear Reader,

We began to work on the hoopla book club a year ago, and I have had *The Orphan's Tale* in mind from the very beginning. I am so thrilled to now be offering it as our Spotlight title to kick off a new year of reading!

To my mind, this novel is an archetype of great book club fiction, delivering on all the levels for impactful reading and animated discussion. The book's two main characters, Astrid and Noa, are faced with the most impossible and harrowing of scenarios as they are struggling to survive in Nazi Germany. Noa encounters a train car full of stolen infants near death; Astrid must comply with a state-ordered divorce because she is Jewish, returning home to find her entire family vanished. And these are just the opening chapters, where it becomes clear that the stakes are impossibly high and any wrong move can be fatal in the powder keg environment of the Third Reich. Pam Jenoff's deep historical research for this book allows her to fully bring this period to life, showing how the fear and menace of the murderous Nazi regime infuse into every aspect of life, coloring her characters' every decision and interaction. Yet, the beauty of this book is the way the unlikely friendship that develops between Astrid and Noa, two women with complicated pasts, dangerous secrets, and highly uncertain futures, is able to cut through this deep shadow over their lives. It is a heartbreaking story, but one that is ultimately about the power of this bond.

I think many of us crave reading for the kind of emotional power Pam Jenoff wields in this book, and I think any book club would be well served to delve into her story. It asks us to ponder this most pivotal, catastrophic period of modern history on the most personal scale, delivering deep human insight and compassion for her characters that left me thinking about this book for months after. I hope you'll join us in reading and discussing this deeply moving novel.

-Tara Carberry, hoopla digital



[theclub.hoopladigital.com](http://theclub.hoopladigital.com)

## About the Author

Pam Jenoff is the author of several books of historical fiction, including the *New York Times* bestseller *The Orphan's Tale*. She holds a bachelor's degree in international affairs from George Washington University and a master's degree in history from Cambridge, and she received her Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania. Jenoff's novels are inspired by her experiences working at the Pentagon and also as a diplomat for the State Department handling Holocaust issues in Poland. She lives with her husband and three children near Philadelphia, where, in addition to writing, she teaches law school.



## Selected Praise

"Secrets, lies, treachery, and passion...I read this novel in a headlong rush."  
—Christina Baker Kline, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Orphan Train*

"[A] heartbreaking and breathtaking story.... Jenoff's prose is evocative and compelling." —*The Globe and Mail*

"Christina Baker Kline's *Orphan Train* has collided with the circus caravan from Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants*.... Jenoff has written a tribute to the human spirit that soars in the midst of epic despair." —*NPR*

"Readers who enjoyed Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale* and Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants* will embrace this novel!"  
—*Library Journal*

"Beautiful, ethereal, and poignant, *The Orphan's Tale* is a novel you won't be able to put down." —*Bustle*

"A compelling and beautifully told story about the power of female friendship, with all its complications." —*PopSugar*

"*The Orphan's Tale* is not one person's story of abandonment but that of a generation lost to history. With a detailed command of circus life, unexpected twists and parallel narratives, Pam Jenoff uses the circus's mystique to symbolize each character's secrets."  
—*Shelf Awareness*

"A gripping story about the power of friendship to save and redeem even in the darkest of circumstances. This is a book not to be missed." —Melanie Benjamin, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Aviator's Wife*

"Jenoff expertly performs a pirouetting tale worthy of a standing ovation...*The Orphan's Tale* proves that the human spirit defies hate, fear, and gravity with a triumphant ta-da!" —Sarah McCoy, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Mapmaker's Children*

"Riveting....With deftness and emotion, Jenoff sets in motion a compelling story of friendship and courage."  
—Charles Belfoure, author of *The Paris Architect* and *House of Thieves*