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The Milliner's Secret: An Epic And Heart-wrenching Love Story Set In Wartime Paris



Synopsis

London, 1937. A talented young woman travels to Paris with a stranger. The promise of an exciting career as a milliner beckons, but she is about to fall in love with the enemy... Londoner Cora Masson has reinvented herself as Coralie de Lirac, fabricating an aristocratic background to launch herself as a fashionable milliner. When the Nazis invade, the influence of a high-ranking lover, Dietrich, saves her business. But while Coralie retains her position as designer to a style-hungry elite, Paris is approaching its darkest hour. Faced with the cruel reality of war and love, Coralie must make a difficult choice â “ protect herself or find the courage to fight for her friends, her freedom and everything she believes in. A breathtakingly beautiful and evocative tale for readers of *The Book Thief*, *One Lavender Ribbon*, and *Suite Francaise*. â ^Fresh and exuberant and full of authentic detail.â ™ Rosanna Ley'Mostly set in Paris during German occupation, it provides a very entertaining story. Love, intrigue, secrets, lies, adultery, plagiarism, spies, hat making, danger, and abuse come together to make this a story you will long remember. I definitely recommend this book.'

Book Likes'Another awesome book from Natalie Meg Evans! Love, love, love this author! Cora's story is all her own and just as exciting. Can't wait for more of this author.'

Nik Book Lover'I loved this story...the way that Cora grows from a self-centered young girl into a strong, independent woman had me reading late into the night'

The Book Lover's Best Friend The Dress Thief:WINNER - 2014 Festival of Romantic Fiction's Best Historical ReadWINNER - 2015 Public Book Awards.Shortlisted - 2015 Romance Writers of America (RWA) RITA AwardsWhat reviewers are saying about Natalie Meg Evansâ ª ª ^The Dress Thief goes way beyond a story of Parisian fashion. It is a story of mystery, romance, friendship and the everyday struggles of life. Right from the start this book will grip hold of you and draw you into Alixâ ™s story and it wonâ ™t let you go till the very last pageâ ª ª ™ That Thing She Reads'A delicious treat of a novel. I loved the setting in 1930s Paris - a place of intrigue, exquisite silk frocks, and dangerous secrets. And I was utterly charmed by the story's delectable heroine, as she struggled to make her mark in this seductive but perilous world.'

Margaret Leroy'A fascinating evocation of a great fashion house and the knife-edge the designers live on. Natalie Meg Evans is a born storyteller.'

Sara Cravenâ ^A charming novel that totally transported me to the Paris fashion houses of the late 1930s.â ™ Trip Fiction

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Milliner's Secret is a follow on to The Dress Thief, set in pre-war Paris but can absolutely be read as a stand alone. Cora is a Bermondsey girl through and through, with a dad who, at the drop of a hat (no pun intended) would beat seven bells out of her (in other words, thrash her to within an inch of her life). She works in a lowly position at milliners Pettrew and Lofthouse. Through her work she wins a ticket to attend Epsom Downs Races and duly takes her friend Donal. A bit of betting and socialising make it an enjoyable day out until she meets Dietrich in the company of Ottilia, and somehow there is a spark. Before long she is at the station fulfilling a long held dream of travelling to Paris, now with him, with no prospect of a job other than the patronage of the rather handsome German man. Cora does not wait for life to unfold; she rides after it, like a gaucho roping a steer. And that is certainly how the spirited heroine negotiates her way in the new city as war unfurls. However, she soon finds herself on the verge of destitution because Dietrich has disappeared and she needs to work fast to keep her head above water. She thus assumes the persona of Coralie de Lirac – of course, she has knowledge of French through her Belgian father. Various encounters later she is running her own hat shop whilst war is escalating and soon she is in a new relationship with Ramon Cazaubon. Pregnancy ensues to complicate her life and little Noël arrives. As she actively engages in the Resistance during the war years, whilst keeping her hat business afloat, Coralie is definitely a working class girl who dares to reach for the stars! Wheels within wheels, people of all nationalities populate the storyline and those who have disappeared soon reappear.

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