



# Discussion Guide



## About the Book

Book Title: Paris Secret

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## Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
  2. What was the mystery about in this book? What did you enjoy about the twists and turns and characters in the book?
  3. Did you identify with Maya, the main character? What did you like/dislike about her personality?
  4. This book deals to some extent with the theme of racism within society. What did you make of the Black Nun, and Maya's experiences as an African-American woman. How did this speak to you?
  5. The novel happened in and around tourist sites in Paris. Have you ever been to Paris? If so, could you visualize some of the scenes? How did the book compare to your experiences of Paris?
  6. After the Da Vinci Code, many authors have tried to build similar stories with secret societies. The author seems to have this idea in mind. If you read Daniel Brown's book, how did this compare to his work?
  7. How did you find this book's take on religion? What would you say the author's viewpoint on religion is, after reading this book?
  8. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
  9. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?
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**NANCY:** Fun to read a mystery again! This book takes the reader into the realm of Paris, with an intriguing tale of romance, a secret society, and religion. I thought the author created strong characters and kept me guessing until the very end. I especially identified with Maya, the main character, as she sought to deal one difficult and impossible situation after another, making it through alive, of course, though not unscathed. I could imagine this book becoming a movie.



**SALLIE:** Well, you know I always focus on the children. When I think back through this book, I'm struck with how several of the characters were formed in childhood, and the abuse they suffered in various ways played out into their adult lives. It's so important to treat children with love and respect. Unfortunately, that doesn't always happen. The author helped provide motivations for the characters by explaining their childhoods. Often, so true.



**ABIGAIL:** I felt the author did a good job dealing with the problem of prejudice within the church and society. Racial mixing has become very commonplace in our time, and the acceptance grows, although racism continues. In this book, she describes the conception of the Black nun, a child of royalty, sequestered away to the nunnery and never given a chance to live a life of privilege to which she was born. The book was written in such a way that the reader identifies with her, and the constraints of her life. The fact that she was given the treasures, seems to have significant meaning, as well. Perhaps she holds truth that others need to learn. Some deep thought there?



**MOLLY:** The Black Nun — my favorite part of this story. Well, also with Maya being the African-American female lead in the book. I don't get to read stories like this very often! So I applaud the author's work in creating both of these characters and dealing with the injustice that often surrounds mixed race and African-Americans in our society. Nice to be able to identify more with the main character for a change. And I can relate to many of her experiences, being Black in an often White world.



**PRISCILLA:** Well, I enjoyed the book, but were the sex scenes necessary? Nobody at my church would read a book like this! I wished she had toned down those scenes. Why do authors do that? Shouldn't that be private information? That's what is wrong in our society. Too much sex outside of marriage! What happened to morality?



**JANE:** I liked the sex! Spices up the story. Those scenes between Maya and Simon. Great stuff, kept me reading. I'm with Nancy. This would be a great movie. All the killing, the romance, the streets of Paris, the Paris museums, the unfolding plot. Yes. Maybe I should buy the rights. What do you think, MAMs?



**KATHARINE:** Oh my, Jane. That would be a new direction for you, for sure! Could I go with you for the filming? My husband and I went to Paris on our honeymoon. So this took me back 35 years ago, as we went to some of the places in this story. I found myself reliving those days, although our trip didn't include any of this bad stuff! Paris is a great place. Maybe you could take all there for a visit, Jane? I love Paris!