



READING GUIDE

November, 2023



The Little Wartime Library

Kate Thompson

A gripping and heart-wrenching page-turner that remembers one of the greatest resistance stories of the war.

IN DETAIL

London, 1944. Clara Button is no ordinary librarian. While the world remains at war, in East London Clara has created the country's only underground library, built over the tracks in the disused Bethnal Green tube station. Down here a secret community thrives: with thousands of bunk beds, a nursery, a café and a theatre offering shelter, solace and escape from the bombs that fall above.

Along with her glamorous best friend and library assistant Ruby Munroe, Clara ensures the library is the beating heart of life underground. But as the war drags on, the women's determination to remain strong in the face of adversity is tested to the limits when it seems it may come at the price of keeping those closest to them alive.



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BOOK CLUB TOPICS

Did you enjoy *The Little Wartime Library*?

The novel centres around the 'underground village' at Bethnal Green tube station in WW2. How do you think you would have coped living underground, and what role would you have played in the community?

Why do you think the author chose to start each chapter of the novel with a quote from a real librarian? What is the effect of this?

Why do you think the author chose to set the prologue and the epilogue in 2020? What parallels can you identify between the themes in the novel and the present day?

Would you recommend *The Little Wartime Library*?

RECOMMENDED LISTENS AFTER *THE LITTLE WARTIME LIBRARY*

Other books involving libraries

The Library by Bella Osborne

Mobile Library by David Whitehouse

The Library At The Edge Of The World by Felicity Hayes-McCoy

The Librarian by Allie Morgan

The Liar In The Library by Simon Brett