



READING GUIDE

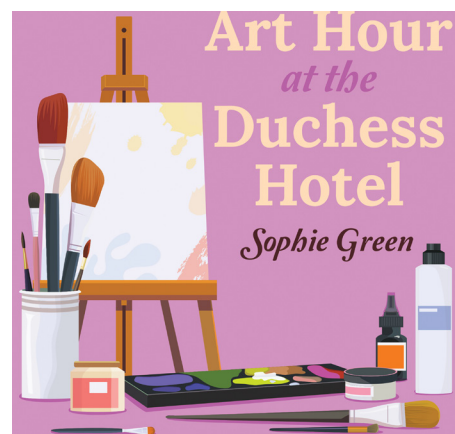
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Art Hour At The Duchess Hotel

Sophie Green

In short

A warm-hearted novel about friendship, fresh starts and finding yourself.



Synopsis

Mornington Peninsula, 1999. All Joan ever wanted was to be a painter, but after thirty-five years of marriage, she finds she is simply a wife, mother and good citizen. On a whim, she escapes to the grand Duchess Hotel to find herself. At the Duchess, Frances drops by most days to escape her daughter, Alison, who seems intent on putting her in a home, while hotel maid Kirrily is struggling to balance work, family and her dreams. When Joan decides to pick up a brush and start painting again, she inspires Frances and Kirrily - and, eventually, Alison - to join her. Over canvas, conversation and creativity the women learn to hold onto their dreams and live life on their own terms.

Discussion points

1. *Art Hour at the Duchess Hotel* is primarily set on the Mornington Peninsula in the late 1990s. Imagine that this novel is taking place in 2025 - how might the story be different? What about if it had been set outside Australia?
2. Did you find yourself connecting with any one character more than the others?
3. The way the characters get together to paint is similar to a book club meeting to talk about a novel. What do you think it is about creativity and the arts that inspires people to come together?
4. Art, and what makes 'good' art, is very subjective. What are some of your favourite works of art? Has this book made you consider art differently?