



READING GUIDE

November, 2025

The Excitements

C J Wray

In short

A feelgood mystery featuring two sprightly ninety-year-olds seeking revenge.

In detail

Meet the Williamson sisters, Britain's most treasured World War II veterans. Now in their 90s, Josephine and Penny are in demand, popping up at commemorative events all over the country. Despite their age, they're in great form, and always in search of their next 'excitement'. This time it's a trip to Paris to receive the Légion d'honneur, accompanied by their great-nephew, Archie.

Keen historian Archie believes his great-aunts had minor roles in the Women's Royal Navy and the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, but that's only half the story. There's a reason sweet Auntie Penny can dispatch a would-be mugger with a brolly.

Scandal and crime have quietly trailed the sisters since the war. These much decorated (but admittedly ancient) veterans intend to settle scores, avenge lost friends, and pull off one last heist before the curtain comes down on their illustrious careers.

Discussion points

1. How do the personalities of Josephine and Penny complement each other throughout their adventure? What do you think each sister brings to their dynamic?
2. The novel features elderly protagonists embarking on a daring heist. How does this challenge stereotypes about aging? What messages do you think the author conveys about living life to the fullest at any age?
3. The sisters have hidden aspects of their past. How do these secrets affect their relationship with each other and with their nephew, Archie?
4. How did you feel about the ending of the book?



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