



READING GUIDE

March, 2026

The Songbirds Of Florence

Olivia Spooner

In short

A sweeping, captivating, inspiring WWII story from the No.1 bestselling author.

Synopsis

In 1942, a group of young women arrive in Cairo, Egypt. The Tuis, named after the beautiful New Zealand songbird, are the first women from their country to serve overseas. They are to provide respite and a touch of home to weary soldiers returning from the front line. Addy joined the Tuis for the adventure. Vivacious and outgoing, she is the life of the party, with an unforgettable voice. Margot is quiet and withdrawn, grieving the young husband she lost to the war. Despite their differences, the girls become fast friends. When the Tuis are relocated to Italy to set up clubs in grand venues in Florence, Bari and Rome, Addy and Margot are enchanted by the culture - from the stunning sights to the whirlwind of concerts and parties. But despite the exhilarating and romantic nature of being abroad in the company of soldiers, dark shadows loom. And as their illusion of peace is shattered with news of a devastating attack, Margot and Addy will find their endurance pushed to the limit, as they discover the true meaning of courage, sacrifice and sisterhood amidst the brutal reality of WWII.



Discussion points

1. What did you learn about the Tuis and their role during WWII?
2. How does the novel explore romantic relationships in wartime? Were there moments that felt especially poignant or surprising?
3. What impact does Italian culture have on the characters? How do they respond to the beauty and complexity of Florence?
4. The story was inspired by wartime letters and photographs. How does this personal connection enrich the narrative?

Next you should listen to

The Girl From London by Olivia Spooner

The Crash by Kate Furnivall

The Paris Affair by Fiona Schneider