



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### **Contains spoilers.**

- 1) Sarah “writes” to the Mouse. What purpose does this serve for her? What purpose does it serve for the reader?
- 2) Norris worries about the Captain’s focus and decision-making ability, because now he cares about someone else. Is it possible to care and yet still function as a spy? Which makes him more vulnerable – his fondness for Sarah or his dependence on morphine?
- 3) Is Sarah unaware of the Captain’s problems or is she just unwilling to face them? Do you think this type of reaction is common in dealing with addiction issues, especially within a household?
- 4) Sarah dreams of *Kristallnacht* and the moment she is stopped from fighting back by some neighbours, for her own protection. They say that they are “doing something” and Sarah tells them that it’s not enough. Do you agree that they’ve done everything they can? Why might they believe that? What would you do in the same situation?
- 5) Does Sarah trust “Lady Sakura” too easily? Has there been any person or event in your life that has had a similarly disproportionate effect on the person you are today?

- 6) When the plane arrives in Chad, the pilot tells Sarah the ending of the opera he was singing at the oasis. Why do you think he does this?
- 7) Were you aware of the Herero & Nama Genocide or the atrocities of Congo Free State before reading *Devil Darling Spy*? If not, why do you think that is?
- 8) Was Sarah naïve to believe Lisbeth, or was it an understandable mistake? How does Lisbeth manipulate Sarah?
- 9) Sarah feels “her fury crushing her sense of justice and righteousness” and wonders if this is what had happened to Clementine. In the end, did Sarah become “strong”, or did she become “hard”?
- 10) How does Clementine use Sarah’s instincts against her? Why does Sarah underestimate Clementine?
- 11) Sarah thinks, “Clementine *had been right* about most things, yet so, so wrong in what it made her do.” Do you agree, on any level? If this explains her actions, does this absolve her? Is there anywhere she could be truly free? Assuming she survived, what do you think happened to her next?
- 12) Sarah wonders about the “mathematics of death” and how many lives saved are needed to balance lives lost or taken. Do you think it works that way?
- 13) If there is a “mathematics of death”, as the European and American colonial powers have killed more people than the Nazis over the centuries, does this make them worse? How do we recognise the damage done by both, without diminishing either?
- 14) If you have read *Orphan Monster Spy* before, have your opinions of Sarah and the Captain changed as a result of *Devil Darling Spy*? Why is that?