



PARTICIPANT GUIDE

CODE NAME EDELWEISS
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"If not us, who? If not now, when? It must be us, and it must be now. I would fight this war. I would not be silent!"

LIESL WEISS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Q. Much of Stephanie's novel is based on actual events and historical people fictionalised. Were you aware of the story before reading the book? What did you find most intriguing about these events?

2

Q. Discuss Liesl's journey from being apathetic to actively sabotaging the schemes of the Friends of New Germany. What was the crucial moment for her radical transformation?

3

Q. When Liesl decides to remain silent against the prejudice directed towards Miriams, she loses the "friend of her heart" and wishes she had spoken up sooner. Can you relate to Liesl's situation?

4

Q. At what stage in the novel did you realise who Agent 13 was? Discuss the tension Wilhelm Otto lived in while undercover in the Friends of New Germany.

5

Q. Throughout the story, Liesl struggles with thoughts and feelings of being a failure as a mother. Can you relate? How did the stress and shame of her husband leaving her impact her motherhood journey?

6

Q. Discuss some of the espionage methods used by spymaster Leon Lewis. Why was Leon's strategy of internal sabotage between Nazi members so successful?

7

Q. Leon asks Wilhlem if he'd "rather put his faith in God or humanity?". Why is it hard for Wilhlem to put his trust in God? How can it be hard for us?

8

Q. Do you agree with Leon's thoughts that "fear can be faced and if it's confronted people can change"? How did fear affect Fritz and other young Silver Shirts?

9

Q. At some stage in their life, every human has asked, "Why does God allow evil." How does Wilhelm answer this question? Do you agree with him?

10

Q. "Love is a great and terrible risk. But it was worth it." Discuss the risks taken in love throughout the story. Why is it worth the risk to love others well, even if it's a sacrifice for us?

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