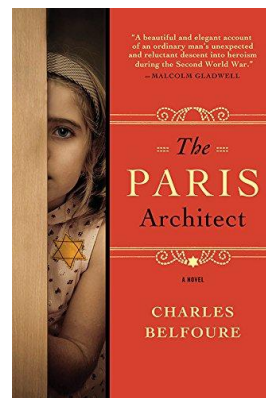


## Discussion Questions

# *The Paris Architect*

Charles Belfoure

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1. Why did the majority of people in France refuse to help the Jews during World World II?
  2. In the beginning of the novel, Lucien didn't care about what happened to the Jews. Discuss how his character evolved throughout the novel. Did your opinion of him change?
  3. The Germans were disgusted that the French always informed on one another during the Occupation. Would you assume that this is a common war practice? Why? In what ways does war bring out the best and worst in people?
  4. Many spouses abandoned each other because one was Jewish. What did you think when Juliette Trenet's husband left her? Is there any defense for what he did?
  5. One reason Lucien helped Jews was to get architectural commissions from Manet. Did you agree with the French Resistance? Did Lucien's love of design and the need to prove his talent cross the line into collaboration with the enemy?
  6. Most fiction and films portray Nazis as monsters during World War II. Do you believe that some German military men secretly hated or doubted what they were doing? Does following the crowd make these men just as bad as those who carried out their duties without conscience?
  7. Discuss the unusual relationship between Lucien and Herzog. Can two men from warring countries truly be friends?
  8. Lucien was already taking an enormous risk by hiding Jews for Manet. Why do you think he agrees to take in Pierre?
  9. If you were a Gentile living under the Nazis in World War II, do you think you would have had the courage to hide Jews? What consequences are you willing to face to help others?
  10. Suppose you had been taken from your apartment by Captain Bruckner and lined up in the street. If you knew your life was about to end, what would you be thinking about?
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