



The Expats: A Novel

By Chris Pavone

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

EDGAR AWARD WINNER * ANTHONY AWARD WINNER
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE ACCIDENT*

Can we ever escape our secrets?

In the cobblestoned streets of Luxembourg, Kate Moore's days are filled with playdates and coffee mornings, her weekends spent in Paris and skiing in the Alps. But Kate is also guarding a tremendous, life-defining secret—one that's become so unbearable that it begins to unravel her newly established expat life. She suspects that another American couple are not who they claim to be; her husband is acting suspiciously; and as she travels around Europe, she finds herself looking over her shoulder, increasingly terrified that her own past is catching up with her. As Kate begins to dig, to uncover the secrets of the people around her, she finds herself buried in layers of deceit so thick they threaten her family, her marriage, and her life.

Stylish and sophisticated, fiercely intelligent, and expertly crafted, *The Expats* proves Chris Pavone to be a writer of tremendous talent.

Now with an excerpt from Chris Pavone's latest novel, *The Accident*

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A Reader's Guide for *The Expats*, A Novel

By Chris Pavone

In order to provide reading groups with the most informed and thought-provoking questions possible, it is necessary to reveal important aspects of the plot of this novel. If you have not finished reading *The Expats*, we respectfully suggest that you wait before reviewing this guide.

Introduction

Hailed by Patricia Cornwell as “bristling with suspense” and praised by John Grisham as reminiscent of early novels by Ken Follett, Frederick Forsyth, and Robert Ludlum, *The Expats* garnered coast-to-coast acclaim, marking the debut of an unforgettable new voice in American fiction.

An international thriller, *The Expats* is the story of a seemingly ordinary working mom, Kate Moore, whose husband, Dexter, is offered a lucrative job in Luxembourg—a move that will unravel everything they believed about each other. Kate and Dexter have struggled to make ends meet, so they jump at the chance to start a new life abroad with the promise of rich rewards. But Kate has been leading a double life, and leaving America forces her to abandon her dangerous but heroic job. She soon discovers that it will be harder than she thought to shed her past, especially while coping with the weight of an unbearable secret. Dexter seems to be keeping secrets of his own, working long hours for a banking client whose name he can't reveal. When another American couple befriends them, Kate begins to peel back the layers of deception that surround her, revealing a heart-stopping con that threatens her family, her marriage, and her life.

Sophisticated and expertly crafted, *The Expats* is set in some of Europe's most enchanting locales, and races toward a provocative, startling conclusion. We hope this guide will enhance your experience of the pulse-pounding journey.

Questions and Topics for Discussion

1. How does Kate's sense of self shift throughout the novel? In the end, how does she reconcile the roles of wife, mom, and adrenaline-seeking agent?
2. In chapter ten, on page ninety-three, Kate thinks about crossing an unspoken line that exists in many marriages: “You know the lines are there, you feel them: the things you don't discuss. . . . You go about your business, as far away from these lines as possible, pretending they're not there.” To what degree did Kate and Dexter deceive themselves, as much as they deceived each other? Is complete honesty realistic for most married couples?
3. After working hard to keep her own career a secret from Dexter, why is it hard for Kate to accept his secrecy about his job? Was she setting a double standard or just responding to her well-honed instincts?
4. What were your initial theories about Julia and Bill, and the “Today” scenes?

5. Kate was well suited to her job when she led a solitary life. What did the CIA give her in lieu of love? As she realizes that Dexter and her family are all she has, how does her understanding of love change?
6. What is Hayden's role in Kate's life? Do you have a Hayden to rely on?
7. How do Kate and Dexter feel about the power of breadwinners in a marriage? What does their story say about resenting a spouse who doesn't seem to be contributing (Dexter in America) versus resenting a spouse who seems to be a workaholic (Dexter in Luxembourg)? In the end, which of the novel's characters prove to be the most materialistic?
8. Kate is haunted by the Torres episode. How did this continue to define her decision making and actions years later? If you were ever in a situation like this, how far would you go to protect your family?
9. Dexter often cites human gullibility as a weakness in I.T. security. Discuss the characters who let their guard down for love, vanity, sex, wealth, or other lures. What ultimately makes Dexter gullible? Does his gullibility make him blameless?
10. As the plot began to unfold, which revelations surprised you the most? What truth was buried beneath the layers of deception?
11. *The Expats* delivers a highly realistic portrayal of female agents, motherhood, and strong women who outsmart men. What is the effect of knowing that the book was written by a man?
12. Does it matter that the Colonel was bloodthirsty? Do the ends justify the means?
13. What does the novel say about trust and how it is earned? What do Kate and Dexter discover about the strength of their trust for each other?
14. Discuss the life of expatriates in general—a role the author experienced when his wife accepted a job in Luxembourg. If you were to live abroad, where would you want to set up housekeeping? How do expats balance the fact that they're foreigners with the need to feel at home? Would you enjoy close-knit communities of expat spouses, or would the lack of privacy be hard to handle?

Review

"Sly. . . Pavone strengthens this book with a string of head-spinning revelations in its last pages. . . . The tireless scheming of all four principals truly exceeds all sane expectations." --"The New York Times"

"Bombshell-a-minute. . . Pavone creates a fascinating, complicated hero." --"Entertainment Weekly"

"A gripping spy drama and an artful study of the sometimes cat-and-mouse game of marriage." --"Family Circle"

"Smartly executed. . . Pavone is full of sharp insights into the parallels between political espionage and marital duplicity. . . . Thoroughly captivating." --"The New York Times Book Review"

"Superb. . . . [Pavone] expertly draws readers along with well-timed clues and surprises. . . . An engineering marvel." --"Richmond Times-Dispatch"

"Expertly and intricately plotted, with a story spiraling into disaster and a satisfyingly huge amount of double-crossing, 'The Expats' certainly doesn't feel like a first novel. This is an impressively assured entry to the thriller scene." --"The Guardian" (London)

"Refreshingly original. . . . Part Ludlum in the pacing, part Le Carre in the complexity of story and character, but mostly Chris Pavone. . . . A thriller so good that you wonder what other ideas [Pavone] has up his cloak, right alongside the obligatory dagger." --"The Star-Ledger"

"Amazing. . . . Impossible to put down. . . . Pavone invokes memories of the great writers of spy fiction of the past, and he has the chops to be mentioned with the best of them." --Associated Press

"A blast. . . . Pavone is spinning a fantastic tale with action that spans the globe." --"Dallas Morning News"

"Highly entertaining." --"Mystery Scene"

"Thoroughly enjoyable." --"Suspense" Magazine

"Hard to put down." --"San Francisco Bay Guardian" "Stunningly assured. . . . An intricate, suspenseful plot that is only resolved in the final pages." --"Booklist" (starred review) "Brilliant, g

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jerry Osbourne:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important normally. The book The Expats: A Novel has been making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The e-book The Expats: A Novel is not only giving you much more new information but also to get your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship using the book The Expats: A Novel. You never really feel lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

Flora Godfrey:

The feeling that you get from The Expats: A Novel may be the more deep you searching the information that hide inside words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but The Expats: A Novel giving you excitement feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by means of anyone who read this because the author of this book is

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Alice Rodriguez:

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William Burmeister:

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