



The Betrayal

Kate Furnivall

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'A real page-turner which puts you in France on the cusp of war from the very first page. Gripping. Tense. Mysterious. Kate Furnivall has a talent for creating places and characters who stay with you long after you've read the final word' **JANE CORRY**, bestselling author of *Blood Sisters* and *My Husband's Wife*

'Superb storytelling, brilliant narrative, engaging characters – a simply breath-taking exploration of two sisters on opposing sides who are both attempting to keep a lid on a past that won't be silenced, while hiding the truth of the present. This intricate web of secrets and lies kept me guessing until the very end' **DINAH JEFFERIES**, bestselling author of *The Tea Planter's Wife*

Discover a brilliant story of love, danger, courage and betrayal, from the internationally bestselling author of *The Liberation*.

Could you kill someone? Someone you love?

Paris, 1938. Twin sisters are divided by fierce loyalties and by a terrible secret. The drums of war are beating and France is poised, ready to fall. One sister is an aviatrix, the other is a socialite and they both have something to prove and something to hide.

***The Betrayal* is an unforgettably powerful, epic story of love, loss and the long shadow of war, perfect for readers of Santa Montefiore and Victoria Hislop.**

Further praise for Kate Furnivall:

'Wonderful . . . hugely ambitious and atmospheric' **Kate Mosse**

'A thrilling plot . . . Fast-paced with a sinister edge' **Times**

'Gripping . . . poignant, beautifully written . . . will capture the reader to the last' **Sun**

'Truly captivating' **Elle**

'Perfect escapist reading' **Marie Claire**

'An achingly beautiful epic' **New Woman**

'A rollicking good read' **Daily Telegraph**

The Betrayal Details

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From Reader Review The Betrayal for online ebook

Karen Whittard says

Kate had written a fabulous page turner of a book. Set in Paris in the late 30's. The war is yet to rage but Hitler's reign has already started to take devastating effect. Two sister are joined together by a secret. But the secret makes them both take very different paths.

This book has you guessing what is going on until the very last reveal at the very end of the story. There is enough interest, intrigue, love, romance and betrayals to keep you racing through the book.

Kate really is a master story teller and I can't wait to read her next book. Thank you so much for allowing me to read this book for an honest review.

Laura says

A vividly painted portrait of Paris on the cusp of wartime. Tensions are running high within the various communities, perhaps no more so than the two very different lives lead by twin sisters Romanie and Florence.

I thought the first half of the book was better than the second; I loved the way the author created the complexity of the twins existences and the way in which they lived. It was also refreshing to read of a woman very much ahead of her time. There is a great deal of true to life history interwoven throughout this book which should please history fans.

I felt the story progressed at an average pace, I wasn't necessarily excited to read on but something kept me doing just that. Indeed there were chapters fraught with action to pick up the slower scenes.

Although I will likely read another book by this author, I probably wouldn't rush to recommend this to historical fiction fans. There was something lacking in the story and it pains me to say I can't identify exactly what that is, and as such, this deserves a fair to middling three star rating.

Alice Peterson says

With most books you read, you tend to guess how it might end, but what I loved about Kate's book is she led me on a thrilling journey where I really had no idea what the ending might be. This is an exciting, intriguing book, incredibly well researched and all the characters come to life on the page. In Romy, Kate has portrayed so beautifully a damaged soul, wrecked by guilt, drink and lack of sleep - but also someone compassionate, talented, vibrant and a real risk taker. I was fascinated by her relationship with her twin sister, two completely opposing characters and yet entwined together by their roots. I was also swept away by the love story. A wonderful book, with so many elements to it, a story that kept me turning the page, often taking in deep breaths to see what would happen next. This was my first Kate Furnivall book and it won't be my last!

Michelle Ryles says

The Betrayal is another excellent book from Kate Furnivall set in pre-war France. I've read (and adored) three of Kate Furnivall's books now and I have found that each one has swept me away to Kate's chosen location and historical era; they are pure escapism with riveting storylines and surprises galore. The writing is so vivid that it feels very much like you're living in the book with these unforgettable characters.

The Betrayal has an amazing first chapter: set in 1930, Romaine (Romy) regained consciousness in her father's study with her father's body beside her. Her twin sister, Florence, took control and encouraged Romy to blame the gardener for her father's murder, a crime which saw him tried and executed. Romy had to live with the guilt of being responsible for an innocent man's death and she almost became carefree with her own life, by becoming a risk taking pilot. Her twin, Florence, couldn't be more different: she mixes with the rich and famous and entertains high ranking Germans as Hitler prepares for war.

As Romy spends more time with her sister and her guests, there's something about the German language that causes fragments of Romy's memory to reappear. She remembers that she heard German being spoken in her father's study that fateful day. As Romy chips away at her memory, Florence is keen to keep it all hidden. What does she know about her father's murder and what does she have to hide? Or more significantly, what does she have to lose?

This was so gripping and reminded me of a game of Cluedo: all the pieces were laid out on the board pointing at Romy in the study with a paperknife but until Romy remembers what she saw and heard, we're playing the game with some key pieces still in the box. So it's one of those books where you can't read fast enough to put all the pieces of the jigsaw together. Now I've gone and mixed up my boardgames, but I'm sure you know what I mean!

You don't need a time machine with Kate Furnivall writing such superb historical fiction. The Betrayal fully immerses the reader in the era, leaving no doubt as to the time and place you're reading about. I do think Kate's books, in particular The Betrayal, would make a stunning film. Not that it would enhance the story, as it's written so beautifully, but I just feel that the dramatic scenes described in The Betrayal would be absolutely breathtaking on the big screen.

I chose to read an ARC and this is my honest and unbiased opinion.

Helen says

When I saw a new Kate Furnivall book, the rush was on ... where do I sign up? This author is a certain 'go to' as she just never fails to deliver. In this particular story, Kate has created an entertaining, intriguing and gripping story that I enjoyed from beginning to end. Packed full of details about the time preceding World War 2 and the rise of fascism in Europe, made this a gripping and intelligent read.

We begin in 1930, Paris, where a traumatic incident occurs, involving the twins, which has tragic consequences. Fast forward to 1938 just before WWII when Adolf Hitler and his party are on the road to war. Here unfolds a time of tumultuous confusion as events from the past keep coming back to haunt the sisters. This book will keep you guessing until the very end - so much intrigue, romance and ,yes betrayal, will see you furiously racing through pages to see how it all unfolds.

Furnivall is a master story teller. This is a book full of action with just enough romantic suspense thrown into the mix. You will love the dual narrative between the sisters, particularly Romy and her attempts to make good over perceived actions from eight years ago that she cannot fully remember. Furnivall's descriptions of pre war Paris were real and insightful. Her research into aircraft and assistance to Spain, flawless - it reads as if you were on a mission with Romy.

The characters here - both primary and secondary - are brilliant! The twin sisters demonstrate such strength and resilience. The array of secondary characters exhibit a real depth of realism from those you cheer for, to those you are afraid of. This is a book about secrets and their impact in the form of lies and treachery. Yet through it all, there is this sense of strength and love - for sibling, for partners, for cause.

“The strong black lines of truth stand out. The lines are the scaffolding of life. They are made up of love. And hate. Love of someone. Of a cause. Of justice. Of self. Hate of someone. Of a cause. Of justice. Of self.”

From the very beginning, Furnivall will hit you with the impact of a certain event, and until the very end you will be engaged. Unusual for the heart of the story to be revealed in a prologue, but oh so clever, as the story then gradually unfolds of how this event affects the sister's - love, guilt, intrigue, loyalty, murder.....

“I am afraid. Afraid of myself. Afraid of what is inside me. I am alone in a closed room with my dead father and I know I have murdered him.”

I cannot praise this book highly enough - a brilliant read, detailing the uncertainty of what lay ahead with the onset of WWII. ‘The Betrayal’ had me turning the pages so eager to find out what lay in store, especially for these sisters who shared such secrets and such love. Here is escapism at it's finest - riveting storyline with plenty of punch in the plots. Please do yourself a favour and spend some time in pre-war France with these unforgettable characters.

‘I know you are a pain in the arse, hell bent on destroying yourself. The best damn flier I know, with enough courage for a whole squadron of fliers. With a generous heart and a frantic determination to drown yourself in a bottle. I don’t know what the hell happened to you in the past, Romaine, or what makes you push people away to stop anyone getting close.’

This review is based on a complimentary copy from the publisher and provided through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. The quoted material may have changed in the final release

Carolyn says

The Betrayal by Kate Furnivall is superb writing and a truly captivating experience.

I was just locked into this book.

Twin sisters in 1930's Paris one a pilot, the other a socialite.

Your heart will be beating as you fly through this book like a Tiger Moth in the sky!

The story is totally gripping.

This one's a winner as far as I'm concerned.

See what The Betrayal is in this new, mysterious and exciting novel by Kate Furnivall.

Highly recommend.

Andrea says

4.5 stars.

This book really gripped me. The 1930s French backdrop adds a certain *je ne sais quoi* that is quite charming and the characterisation is just superb. This novel kept me at the edge of my seat throughout. Loved it!

Many thanks to Netgalley who provided me with this ARC. I chose to read it and give a voluntary and unbiased review.

Eileen says

Well written and very suspenseful, this WWII novel had some unusual twists! A Resistance movement which supported the Spanish cause, as well as a spirited aviatrix who was an identical twin combined to make an intriguing combination. I enjoyed it, and was highly motivated to finish and learn how things unfolded. I'm a vaguely reluctant to rate it as a standout, although maybe that's unfair and I've just been reading too many WWII stories. A robust three stars, or maybe four.

Helen (TBC) says

A thrilling, obviously well researched, intriguing and beautifully written book!

Set in pre-WW2 Paris and centred around two strong female characters - sisters at opposite poles in their political outlooks, who share a dangerous secret and an extremely complex love/hate relationship. The settings and events are evocatively described and the tension builds steadily making the last third of the book a riveting, thrilling page turner.

I'll certainly be reading more of Kate Furnivall's books and highly recommend this to both lovers of WW2

Historical fiction and clever thrillers. 4/5-5 stars

Miriam Smith says

I have just been on a thrilling and compelling journey to 1938 Paris with twin sisters Romaine (Romy) and Florence DuChamps in the truly captivating book "The Betrayal". The author Kate Furnivall has created an entertaining, intriguing and gripping story that I enjoyed from the start to the tense finish.

Could you kill someone? Someone you love? Both sisters have something to prove and something to hide. Their worlds clash while fear stalks the streets of Paris. France is poised, ready to fall, but who will fall with her?

I loved how we saw in the first chapter the sisters brought together in a tragic secret that would stay with them for the rest of their lives. This then quickly shifts to eight years later when Romy is a heavy drinking, reckless poker playing aviatrix and Florence is a happily married, privileged socialite with a beautiful daughter Chloe.

With the opening chapter getting straight into the plot I was instantly intrigued. I just knew I couldn't wait to find out the truth surrounding the tragic circumstances and that I wouldn't be putting the book down anytime soon until I found out. I also enjoyed how the author showed the sudden change in emotions and attitudes between the sisters and their current lives in the following years and was keen to know what had caused it after such an intense introduction to them. I loved both Romy and Florence and how their differing fierce loyalties and characters affected the emotion of the story and their individual involvement in political events of pre-war France. I know they will both definitely stay with me for a long time and I certainly won't forget that unbelievably tense ending that had me on the edge of my seat.

I don't have a sister myself but I was able to understand the depth of love and protection the sisters had for each other through the author's excellent portrayal of the twins' emotions.

I'd be more than happy to read future books by this talented author having adored this one and I'd easily recommend "The Betrayal" to readers of pre-war historical fiction for which this is an excellent example.

5 stars

Karen says

A tense family drama that was a bit unbelievable for me to enjoy it

Brenda says

4.5★s

When twin sisters Florence and Romaine were seventeen years old their father was killed under horrific circumstances. Eight years later, a tortured Romy flew small Tiger Moth aircraft from Paris, delivering parcels and people to the places they needed to go. And Florence was married to Roland with a six-year-old daughter, Chloe.

War was on the horizon while Hitler was causing great divisions in the people of Germany and France. But Florence and Romy both had secrets to hide; terrible secrets that pulled them apart from each other in more

ways than one. Romy courted danger on a daily basis, feeling she had nothing to lose and Florence kept her husband happy, but not herself...

As the Germans threatened everything France had strived for, Romy knew she needed to go underground to protect what she held dear, including her niece Chloe. But trouble was closer than she knew – was her courage enough to combat the danger that hovered day and night? Would her fears become truth?

The Betrayal by Kate Furnivall is an excellent tale of sisters and the deep love and bond they share; of the ease in which trust and loyalty is shattered and of betrayal of the worst kind. I thoroughly enjoyed the setting of Paris and the timeframe of a war that was closing in. Another excellent historical fiction novel from this author, *The Betrayal* is one I highly recommend.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publishers for my digital copy to read and review.

Linda Hill says

With a shocking murder in her past, aviatrix Romaine finds her life spiralling out of control.

I have been meaning to read *The Betrayal* since it was released and my goodness was it worth the wait. *The Betrayal* was so much more than I was expecting. I had thought I was going to read a sweeping romance, and indeed there is great love and passion between its pages, but I hadn't anticipated the exquisite intensity of emotion and the highly charged pulse racing thriller alongside it. There's such skill in Kate Furnivall's writing because she knows exactly how to ensnare the reader so that they couldn't put down *The Betrayal* even if they wanted to – which I certainly didn't. Every chapter has a hook, a surprise and a depth that is, truly, breathtaking. The depictions of grief and joy, of love and hatred, bigotry and compassion all thrum through the story so that reading it felt like a physical experience for me. The title is perfect. There are so many ways in which characters betray one another – and indeed themselves, but to explain more would be to spoil the read for others.

The plot steams along and at times I felt I almost couldn't bear what was in front of me. Reading *The Betrayal* felt almost like being part of the action. I wasn't just reading a fictionalised narrative, but living and breathing the events too. So many times I was taken aback by proceedings. The story itself was given greater depth and realism by being firmly rooted in brilliantly researched history with a cast of real minor characters from the era so that *The Betrayal* is highly evocative of 1930's Paris. Even the city of Paris becomes like a living, breathing organism as Kate Furnivall writes so devastatingly well. *The Betrayal* is a superlative depiction of pre Second World War life making it completely convincing to read.

I adored the characterisation. Romy's self-destructive nature is completely believable and the balance of vulnerability and feistiness in her so wonderfully portrayed that it is impossible not to experience her life with her. Similarly, all the other people in *The Betrayal* are authentic and utterly convincing. I loved the counterpoise of Florence and Romaine as twin sisters. There was something so visceral and poignant in their relationship that at times I could hardly withstand reading about them.

I had anticipated that *The Betrayal* would be a good read. I hadn't realised just how amazing I would find it. I thought *The Betrayal* was outstanding and cannot recommend it highly enough.
[https://lindasbookbag.com/2018/05/17/...](https://lindasbookbag.com/2018/05/17/)

Gail Atkins says

Kate Furnivall has written yet another brilliant page turning book!!

The story is set in Paris in the late thirties. The war hasn't started yet but Hitler is well on his road to make Germany pure.

Two sisters are joined together by a secret but the secret makes them take a different path way. As they get older the secret becomes between them.

The loves, the beliefs and betrayals guide you through the pages. The bond as twins remains there but the trust has disappeared.

I was trying to guess the connections until the very last page!!

Vanessa Wild says

I loved this! I always know I'm in for a great read when I start Kate Furnivall's books.

The story begins in 1930 in Paris. A traumatic incident occurs, involving twins, which has tragic consequences. Time rolls on to 1938 just before WWII when Adolf Hitler and his cronies are on the warpath. For the twins, it's a period of confusion and tumult as events from the past keep coming back to haunt them.

This is a rollercoaster of a ride and quite a journey! It's action packed, exciting and keeps you on the edge of your seat. There are some brilliant characters, especially the twins who are strong and resilient women but so very different. One is a socialite and the other an aviatrix. Both have secrets which impact on each other. It's a tale of lies, clandestine operations and treachery. But, throughout it all there is a great sense of the power of love. There is also an interesting and shocking twist at the end!

A beautifully written and captivating page turner which I can highly recommend.

Reviewed for TBC on Facebook.
