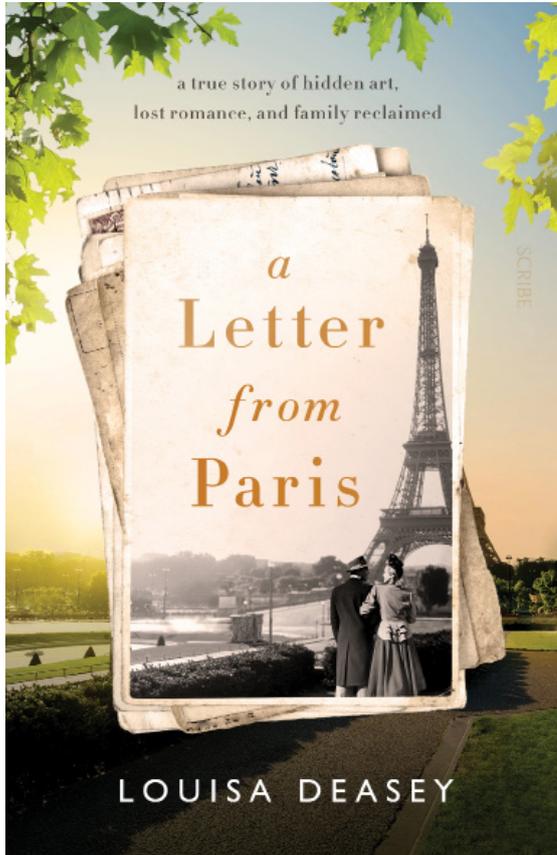


# A Letter From Paris

LOUISA DEASEY



## BOOK DETAILS

Format: Paperback  
 ISBN: 9781925713312  
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## AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Louisa Deasey is a Melbourne-based writer who has published widely, including work in *Overland*, *Vogue*, *The Australian*, and *The Saturday Age*. Her first memoir, *Love and Other U-Turns*, was nominated for the Nita B. Kibble Award for women writers.

When Louisa Deasey receives a message from a French woman called Coralie, who has found a cache of letters in an attic, written about Louisa's father, neither woman can imagine the events it will set in motion.

The letters, dated 1949, detail a passionate affair between Louisa's father, Denison, and Coralie's grandmother, Michelle, in postwar London. They spark Louisa to find out more about her father, who died when she was six. From the seemingly simple question 'Who was Denison Deasey?' follows a trail of discovery that leads Louisa to the libraries of Melbourne and the streets of London, to the cafes and restaurants of Paris and a poet's villa in the south of France. From her father's secret service in World War II to his relationships with some of the most famous bohemian artists in postwar Europe, Louisa unearths a portrait of a fascinating man, both at the epicenter and the mercy of the social and political currents of his time.

*A Letter from Paris* is about the stories we tell ourselves, and the secrets the past can uncover. A compelling tale of inheritance and creativity, loss and reunion, it shows the power of the written word to cross the bridges of time.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Why do you think Michelle's days in London were her 'treasured souvenir'?
2. Would you have looked into your late father's boxes of diaries? Why/Why not? Did the book make you think of your family stories that may or may not necessarily be true?
3. Would Louisa have been able to find out about her father's life in such detail before the internet/social media? Why/Why not?
4. What did Louisa want from the search — and do you think she found it?

### REVIEWS

‘A beautiful celebration of the profound healing power of stories shared.’

— KARINA MACHADO, AUTHOR OF *SPIRIT SISTERS*

‘An amazing story which gave me tingles.’

— CARLA COULSON, AUTHOR OF *PARIS TANGO* AND *ITALIAN JOY*

‘An enchanting memoir that will stay with you long after you close the book.’

— REBECCA RAISIN, BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE LITTLE PARIS COLLECTION*

5. Why do you think family stories are the hardest to unravel?
6. Have you ever tried to unravel a story about one of your parents/grandparents and given up ... or been given conflicting information? Why did it take Louisa so long to look into it?
7. Why did Denison Deasey love France so much? Do you think his adoration was justified? Why was Melbourne so conservative when he left?
8. What similarities could you see between Gisele and Louisa in their lives?
9. What were some of the biggest differences between how the French treated Louisa and her story, and what she experienced in Australia?
10. Do you think it's possible to explore our history now, when everything is digital and handwritten diaries and letters are a thing of the past?
11. What did the book ultimately say about the concept of family?



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