

New York Times Bestselling Author of
THE ALICE NETWORK and *THE HUNTRESS*

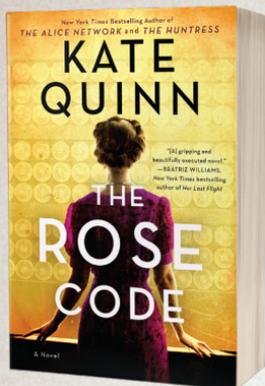
KATE
QUINN

"[A] gripping and
beautifully executed novel."
—BEATRIZ WILLIAMS,
New York Times bestselling
author of *Her Last Flight*

THE
ROSE
CODE

A Novel

BEHIND *THE ROSE CODE*



We're all secretly fascinated by codebreakers. Why else would there be so many movies where the brilliant hero or heroine stares at a jumble of nonsense letters, starts drawing connections madly on a chalkboard or a wall, and everything suddenly comes clear before our admiring eyes? How do they do it? we all marvel—and I'm no exception. So the idea of an entire English manor's worth of codebreakers cooped up together to crack top-secret World War II ciphers fascinated me from the first time I heard the words *Bletchley Park*.

It was quite a place. People from all over Britain were recruited from all walks of life—sometimes because of their mathematical or chess-playing abilities; sometimes because of their language or secretarial skills; sometimes just because someone who already worked there had vouched for their trustworthiness—and tossed into the deep end of the codebreaking pool with an oath of secrecy and a simple “We're breaking unbreakable Axis codes; grab a pencil and have at it.” They did—so successfully that some historians estimate they shortened the war by as much as two years.

"Bletchley Park seemed like Lewis Carroll's Wonderland"

At what cost to themselves? The workers of Bletchley Park struggled with the pressure of secrecy, unable to tell their loved ones about their work even after the war. They battled depression and burnout, struggling through long night shifts to make even the smallest dent in a wall of seemingly impenetrable code. Insomnia, paranoia, and breakdown dogged their heels...but they also approached their work with a tremendous sense of camaraderie and good humor. Hi-jinks, practical jokes, and recreation clubs abounded as off-duty codebreakers looked for ways to work off their stress, and Bletchley Park resembled a wacky university campus full of riotous undergraduates as much as it did a critical intelligence center!

BEHIND THE BOOK

It was that duality that fascinated me. Bletchley Park seemed like Lewis Carroll's Wonderland: a delightfully weird place peopled by eccentric geniuses who worked hard, played hard, and never let the deadly importance of their work get in the way of a good conversation.

I realized that yes, this would be a book about codebreaking—brilliant coffee-fueled women staring at jumbles of nonsense letters, drawing connections across chalkboards in a wild attempt to break a battle plan's cipher before ships are launched; you'll see plenty of that in *THE ROSE CODE*—but this is also a book about friendship. The kind of friendship that exists between women who have finally found a place—a wonderful, quirky, oddball place—that accepts them for who they are and what they can do. And what they can do, in between dancing to Glenn Miller and reading mystery novels on their off-hours, is break the unbreakable, decode the impossible, and win a war.

Welcome to the world of *THE ROSE CODE*.



Kate Quinn

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Also Available in Ebook, Library Hardcover, Digital Audio, and Large Print

CAST OF CHARACTERS

OSLA KENDALL

A beautiful, effervescent, Canadian-born debutante who burns to prove that a pampered heiress can work and fight for her country just as hard as anyone else. Osla's fluent German lands her a place among Bletchley Park's filers and translators, but will she get her chance to shine?

MAB CHURT

A fierce, street-smart Londoner determined to better her station in life by means of a library card, a secretarial course, and a gentlemanly husband. Where better to look for one than Bletchley Park, as Mab operates the legendary codebreaking machines?

BETH FINCH

A colorless, withdrawn spinster with a hidden flair for puzzles and patterns, resigned to a narrow life under her domineering mother's thumb. But when Bletchley Park just down the road begins to bustle with top-secret activity, can the shy wallflower finally blossom into a brilliant codebreaker?

PRINCE PHILIP OF GREECE

A dashing, penniless prince who has yet to earn his place in history at the side of the future Queen Elizabeth II. Courageous and determined to prove his loyalty in the British Navy, Philip finds himself distracted on the eve of war by a certain sparkling Canadian debutante.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

FRANCIS GRAY

A quiet war poet turned Foreign Office official, harrowed by his time in the trenches during the Great War, who feels uncertain he can face the violence of yet another conflict.

GILES TALBOT

Red-headed prankster recruited from university to Bletchley Park, who acts as friend and guide to Osla, Mab, and Beth as they learn to navigate their top-secret new world.

DILLY KNOX

Eccentric, middle-aged scholar-turned-codebreaker, who recruits only the best and brightest women for his Bletchley Park team.

HARRY ZARB

Brilliant mathematician born to an Egyptian-Arabic-Maltese family of diplomats and bankers, who works alongside the legendary Alan Turing on German naval ciphers.

READ ALONG WITH THE MAD HATTERS
BLETCHLEY PARK'S FICTIONAL BOOK CLUB

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Lewis Carroll

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

Arthur Conan Doyle

THE GREAT GATSBY

F. Scott Fitzgerald

MIRED: BATTLEFIELD VERSES

Francis Gray

(equivalent—war poetry by Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon)

CARRY ON, JEEVES

P. G. Wodehouse

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

Ernest Hemingway

GONE WITH THE WIND

Margaret Mitchell

SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS

William Shakespeare

BLEAK HOUSE

Charles Dickens

REBECCA

Daphne du Maurier

VANITY FAIR

William Makepeace Thackeray

MANSFIELD PARK

Jane Austen

OZMA OF OZ

L. Frank Baum



HOST YOUR OWN MAD HATTERS' TEA PARTY

When Lewis Carroll's Alice sat down with the Mad Hatter in *Through the Looking Glass*, there was just tea, bread, and butter on the menu...and the Bletchley Park Mad Hatters don't even have that, thanks to war-time ration laws limiting the butter! Serve toast, margarine, and a pot of your favorite English tea if you want to keep things authentic...or if you prefer a more sumptuous post-war menu (in honor of the royal wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, of course), splash out with classic high tea: finger sandwiches, clotted cream, cakes, and scones!

KATE QUINN'S RECIPE FOR SUMPTUOUS DROP SCONES

1. Mix 4 cups flour, 1/4 cup sugar, 2 tsp baking powder, 1 tsp salt, and 1/2 tsp baking soda in a mixing bowl.
2. Cube two sticks of cold butter and add to the dry mixture. Cut in until mixture is crumbly.
3. Add 1 cup buttermilk and 2 eggs; mix together with fork till moistened.
4. Turn dough out on floured surface, knead 5–6 times till it's a big scraggy lump. It will be messy, but only knead enough to pull the dough together; the less you handle it, the more tender the scones will be.
5. Pull off chunks into rough rounds, and space apart on greased baking sheet.
6. Bake at 375°F till golden. (Baking time will vary on how big you like your scones.) Serve warm with clotted cream (available at stores like Wegman's and Trader Joe's) and your favorite jam.

KATE QUINN'S RECIPE FOR A ROSE CODE COCKTAIL

Put out a pot of tea by all means...but if your band of Mad Hatters prefers something stronger, whip up a batch of these easy rose-flavored cocktails!

Fill a champagne flute to the 2/3 mark with champagne, prosecco, or your favorite sparkling wine—bonus if it's pink! Add one shot of vodka, a splash of lemon juice, and a few drops of rose water, and adjust according to taste. Be sparing with the rose water, as it's very strong. Top with a rose petal and serve!

THE ROSE CODE PLAYLIST

"THERE'LL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND"

Vera Lynn

"COULD YOU PLEASE OBLIGE US WITH A BREN GUN?"

Noel Coward

"ONLY FOREVER"

Bing Crosby

"MOONLIGHT SERENADE"

Glenn Miller

"OH JOHNNY, OH JOHNNY, OH!"

The Andrews Sisters

"BLUE CHAMPAGNE"

Jimmy Dorsey

"IN THE MOOD"

Glenn Miller

"WHEN THE LIGHTS GO ON AGAIN"

Vera Lynn

"DON'T LET'S BE BEASTLY TO THE GERMANS"

Noel Coward

"THE BLACK BOTTOM"

Bunny Berrigan & His Orchestra

"YOU'LL NEVER KNOW"

Ann Shelton, Ambrose & His Orchestra

"TUXEDO JUNCTION"

Glenn Miller

"PARTITA NO. 2 IN C MINOR, ALLEMANDE"

J. S. Bach

"FANFARE FOR THE WEDDING OF PRINCESS ELIZABETH"

Arnold Bax

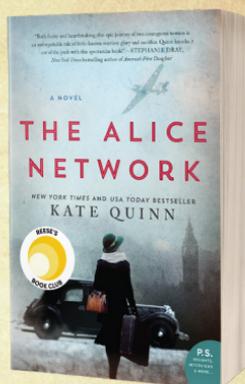
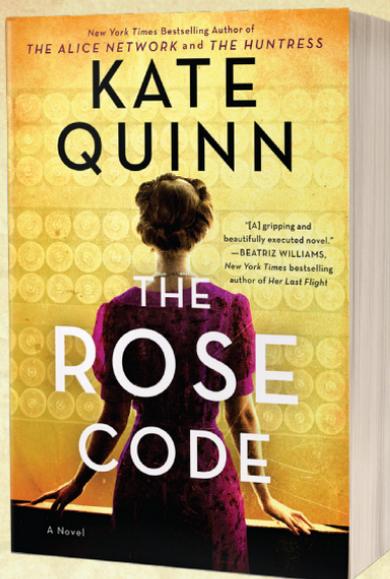
"WE'LL MEET AGAIN"

Vera Lynn



Listen to the playlist here: <https://spoti.fi/33yOghj>





"THE REIGNING QUEEN OF HISTORICAL FICTION."
—FIONA DAVIS, AUTHOR OF *THE LIONS OF FIFTH AVENUE*

"[Quinn's] page-turning narrative is enhanced by her richly drawn characters and the fascinating code-breaking techniques, which come alive via her extensive historical detail."

— *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"The hidden history of Bletchley Park has been waiting for a master storyteller like Kate Quinn to bring it to life."

— *Beatriz Williams*, author of *Her Last Flight*, on *The Rose Code*

"Kate Quinn announces herself as one of the best artists of the genre."

— *BookPage*, on *The Alice Network*

"If you like period dramas, thrillers, female-fronted sagas, or all three, you'll want to pre-order your copy soon."

— *Marie Claire*, on *The Huntress*