



## Book Club Discussion Points

### **Moscow Honey**

T.M. Parris

A thriller set in Russia featuring the mafia and the corruption of the Kremlin. Second in the Clarke and Fairchild spy thriller series. Published October 2020.

Around 350 pages (Paperback version), 85,000 words

Average rating 4.2/5 on amazon.co.uk (320 ratings as of Jan 2023)

Available on Amazon as an e-book, paperback and case laminate hardback

Universal link: <https://books2read.com/moscowhoney?store=amazon>

### **Blurb**

“In the Russian story, everybody dies.” So it’s often been. But a few strong people are determined to change their fate.

The Bear, a veteran Russian mafia boss, hopes for a peaceful retirement but is dragged back to Moscow when his son is seduced by the wealth and power of the corrupt Russian state. Ambitious MI6 agent Rose Clarke targets the Bear's mysterious daughter-in-law, but this results in a gruelling ordeal which leaves her heartbroken. Mercenary and rebel John Fairchild unlocks the secrets of his past and wakes a potent and cruel force lying dormant since the Cold War. In untangling a mystery he has unleashed a monster which threatens everyone he cares about.

As the iron grip of the state gets ever tighter, can they resist Moscow’s power, or will they all be obliterated by its ruthless determination to control everything?

Fans of John Le Carre, Daniel Silva and Henry Porter will love this story of oppression, control and a thirst for personal revenge hidden deep within one of the most secretive and corrupt regimes on earth.

**Real-life reference:** the character of Boris was inspired by Arkady Babchenko’s personal account of life as a conscript in the Russian military, *One Soldier’s War*. Journalist Luke Harding in his book *Mafia State* describes a village populated only by women. Harding also experienced the FSB’s home intrusions and was eventually expelled from Russia altogether.

### **Discussion questions:**

1. “There will never be a time when Russia doesn’t matter.” So says Peter Craven, long-serving head of Moscow Station. *Moscow Honey* was published in 2020. What relevance does it have today?
2. Roman Morozov: is he a thug, or a force for good?
3. “In the Russian story, everybody dies.” Whose death moved you the most? Did any of them get what they deserved?
4. Is Roman Morozov to blame for the breakdown of his relationship with Alexei? Was he a good father or not?
5. Kamila seems to be misunderstood by almost everyone around her. How did your view of her change throughout the book?
6. Who has suffered the most, Kamila or Boris?
7. Noisy Moscow, foggy St Petersburg, peaceful Tuva, battered Georgia, freezing Siberia, proud Irkutsk: which of these settings did you find the most vivid, and which gave the most to the story?
8. In Lali, the Georgian section of the book, time moves more quickly and the weeks roll by in the besieged town. Did this variation in pace work for you?
9. A reader said: “I want to drink vodka with Roman!” Do you?