



Book Club Discussion Points

Reborn

T.M. Parris

A British spy thriller featuring a Tibetan monk in conflict with the Chinese state. First in the Clarke and Fairchild series. Published March 2020.

Around 300 pages (paperback version), 80,000 words

Average rating 4.2/5 on amazon.co.uk (281 ratings as of Jan 2023)

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

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

Blurb

Recently disgraced Secret Service officer Rose Clarke is given one last chance to redeem herself by tracking down John Fairchild, a notorious mercenary who has developed a global network of informants and is suspected of trading British intelligence.

Clarke's mission takes her to China where Fairchild has links with Jinpa, a Tibetan monk whose reincarnated identity is of huge political significance. Jinpa has to flee from the Chinese authorities when they discover his secret, and Fairchild follows to try and uncover the truth of his own past. Clarke risks everything to pursue them over the Himalayas, chased by the ruthless and powerful Chinese authorities determined to stop them.

Their perilous journey in extreme conditions will take them all to the limits of their mental and physical endurance and change them for ever.

Real-life reference: the Panchen Lama is a real person. In 1995 at the age of six, he disappeared along with his immediate family and is being held by the Chinese government. He is considered to be the world's youngest political prisoner. Events in the book are hypothesised fiction.

Discussion questions:

1. In the first chapter, Rose Clarke and John Fairchild meet in a restaurant in Hong Kong. In the last chapter, they meet again beside a river in Kathmandu. How has your impression of each of them changed during the course of the book?
2. Though young, Jinpa's perspective on human existence jars with the modern world. Which is more surprising: his friendship with Fairchild, or the fondness with which Rose views him by the end?
3. Jinpa's belief in reincarnation is absolute. These beliefs exist for real in Tibetans' worship of the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama. How important is the doctrine of reincarnation in the story?
4. The Rinpoche has a profound impact on events, generally through actions he took before the start of the novel. Was he right to do what he did?
5. Fairchild is cynical, Rose ambitious and Walter devious. They are all morally compromised. Who is the worst?
6. Is Fairchild's anger with Walter justifiable? And is Zack's opinion of Rose?
7. From Hong Kong to Beijing, Xining, Lhasa, Shigatse, the Himalayas and Kathmandu: which of these settings is the most vivid and what does this rolling progression add to the book?
8. Alastair, Chu, Darcy Tang, Dr Parajuli, Wei Li, Zhang Lao: out of this cast of minor characters, who contributes the most, and which would you most like to see in a future book in the series?
9. MJV Literary Author Services (Matthew McAvoy) said: "I really like the author's easy-going style and timing". Do you agree?