

In the Dark

Deborah Moggach

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An irresistible wartime novel by a bestselling novelist and award-winning screenplay writer, with the wit of Beryl Bainbridge and with ingenious twists and a sexy undertow worthy of Sarah Waters.

Moggach's previous historical novel TULIP FEVER was a huge bestseller and a film is now in development. *In the Dark* is another tantalising, page-turning story, this time set in South London's dark and dirty wartime streets during WWI.

The Plot

Pretty Eithne runs a shabby genteel boarding house while her husband is off at war. Under one roof, there is her teenage son, Ralph, their young maid, Winnie, and various lodgers, including the Spooner family, with shell-shocked husband; Boyce, man about town who's recently missing in action; and blind Alwyne, communist and cynic, victim of a gas attack in the trenches. When the dreaded telegram arrives to say Eithne's husband is dead, things turn from bad to worse for the entire household.

And then along comes the butcher, Neville Turk, handsome ladies' man, irresistible for his meat, money and brutish confidence, who throws Eithne into a turmoil, but has sinister plans of his own. Winnie and the blind lodger, meanwhile, conduct a strange, erotic liaison. And Ralph looks on - feeling the undercurrents of desire, seeing more than he should. All the strands come together in a shocking denouement, which turns a coward into a hero, and young Ralph into a man.

The Author

Deborah Moggach is the author of 16 successful novels including most recently *These Foolish Things*, the bestselling *Tulip Fever* and two collections of stories. Her screenplay for the film of *Pride and Prejudice* was nominated for a BAFTA, and her TV screenplays include the acclaimed *Love in a Cold Climate*, the award-winning adaptation of *Goggle-Eyes*, and several adaptations of her own novels, including *Close Relations* and *Final Demands*.

Deborah is involved in several film and TV projects in 2007. An adaptation of her previous novel, *These Foolish Things*, will be shooting in India later this year. She has also been commissioned by the BBC to adapt Anne Frank's *Diaries*, into five half-hour episodes, to be broadcast next year. *Call me Elizabeth*, a bestselling book about a housewife-call girl, is also scheduled to be adapted into an ITV drama

in late 07. After five years of production delays, script rewrites and financial problems, a film adaptation of the bestselling novel *Tulip Fever* is also finally going ahead. The film rights were bought by Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks and the film will be directed by Peter Chelsom. Deborah is also writing a BBC drama about Shirley Porter and her scandalous years at Westminster Council, based on Andrew Hosken's biography. This should be shot later this year, for transmission on BBC2 next year. And she has been busy adapting Virginia Ironside's bestseller, *No I Don't Want to Join a Bookclub*. This is also for the BBC and will be transmitted as a special two-part drama starring Julie Walters during Christmas 2007.

Deborah Moggach is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a past chair of the Society of Authors. She lives in North London and is available for interview.

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