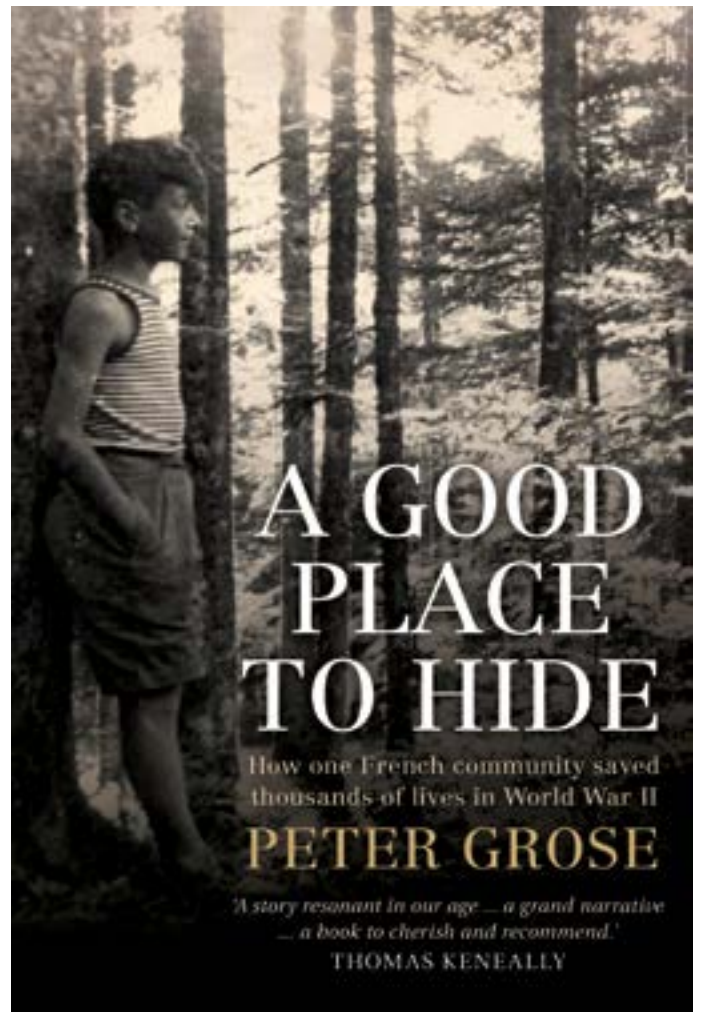


ALLEN & UNWIN



READING GROUP NOTES

Contents: About the book (2) About the author (2)
Reviews (2) Suggested points for discussion (2)
Further reading (3)

About the book

Nobody asked questions, nobody demanded money. Villagers lied, covered up, procrastinated and concealed, but most importantly they welcomed.

This is the story of an isolated community in the upper reaches of the Loire Valley that conspired to save the lives of 3500 Jews under the noses of the Germans and the soldiers of Vichy France. It is the story of a pacifist Protestant pastor who broke laws and defied orders to protect the lives of total strangers. It is the story of an eighteen-year-old Jewish boy from Nice who forged 5000 sets of false identity papers to save other Jews and French resistance fighters from the Nazi concentration camps. And it is the story of a community of good men and women who offered sanctuary, kindness, solidarity and hospitality to people in desperate need, knowing full well the consequences to themselves.

Powerful and richly told, *A Good Place to Hide* speaks to the goodness and courage of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.

About the author





Peter Grose is a former journalist, literary agent and publisher. He has published two highly acclaimed books with Allen & Unwin, *An Awkward Truth: The bombing of Darwin 1942* and *A Very Rude Awakening: The night the Japanese midget subs came to Sydney Harbour*.

Reviews

'A story resonant in our age ... a grand narrative ... a book to cherish and recommend.' - Thomas Keneally

'Terrific ... an important story deftly told.' - David Williamson

For discussion

-  Do you agree that it is our duty to forgive and be kind to our enemies?
-  How would you reconcile that with the intentions and actions of the Resistance?
-  Did pacifism succeed or fail in Chambon?
-  The people of Chambon willingly took risks to protect Jews, many of whom had forged documents. Why do you think attitudes to refugees have changed so much in the modern world?

Suggested further reading

Schindler's Ark - Thomas Keneally

The Book Thief - Markus Zusak

The Diary of a Young Girl - Anne Frank

The Pianist - Wladyslaw Szpilman

In My Hands, Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer - Irene Opdyke