

# ALIAS EMMA

AVA GLASS

BOOK CLUB KIT



## HELLO!

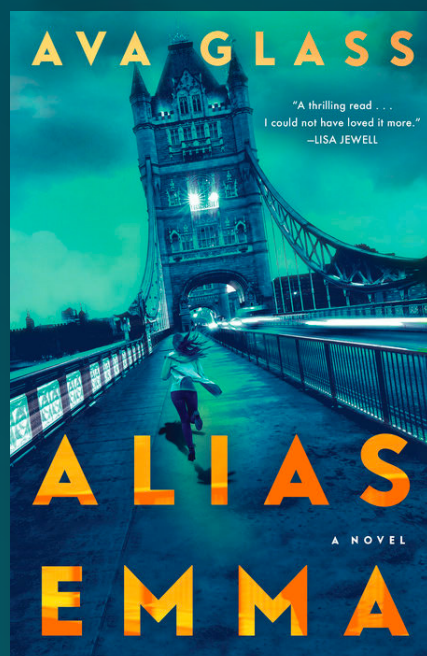
I just wanted to write a quick note to thank you for taking the time to read *Alias Emma*.

This book has been a long time coming. Over a decade ago, I worked for the British government in the office that oversees some facets of intelligence work. I was not a spy myself, but I met spies. Or at least I think I did. It's hard to tell with spies; they are incredibly deceptive. My time in that world was brief, but it has stayed with me.

There was one spy in particular whom I have never forgotten. She was young and extremely smart. She exuded confidence. I couldn't imagine being that fearless. That indomitable. As the years passed, I often wondered what became of her. Did she stay in intelligence? Was she put in great danger? Is she still there—the eyes and ears of the British government, disguised as an ordinary person?

In *Alias Emma* I got to imagine what it was like to be her. To do a job that requires you to lie fluently. To risk your life constantly. To step in and out of other people's lives without most of them knowing they'd ever met a spy.

I have to say, it was a lot of fun to write—and I am writing more! Keep an eye out for *Alias Emma 2*, coming soon.



ALL MY BEST,  
AVA

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The plot of *Alias Emma* is intrinsically tied to its setting in London, as Emma Makepeace tries to evade the ubiquitous CCTV cameras throughout the city. Did the writing successfully evoke this environment for you? What was your favorite and least favorite part of the setting?
2. What were your initial impressions of the characters and how did your perception of them change as the story developed?
3. How does the representation of The Agency align or differ from your preconceived notions about the world of spies?
4. How does the novel play with and subvert female stereotypes and archetypes?
5. Both Emma and Michael live their lives in conversation with how they view their parents' lives: Emma as a spy like her father and Michael resisting his mother's business as an informant. How did this influence their decisions during *Alias Emma*? Did that hinder or help them in their mission?
6. Talk about the novel's structure, which is set over the course of a day. How does this influence the pacing of the story?
7. Was there a scene in the book that stuck with you the most? If so, which one, and why?
8. If you were making this book into a movie or TV show, who would you cast in the lead roles?
9. Were you satisfied by the ending? Why or why not?

# PLAYLIST

- London Can Take It / Public Service Broadcasting
- Live and Let Die / David Arnold, Chrissie Hynde
  - Bad Girls / M.I.A.
- The Taste of Blood / Sqürl, Jozef Van Wissem
  - The Moon Is Full / Hindi Zahra
  - Non Believer / London Grammar
- London Calling (Acoustic Version) / Corey Taylor
- South London Forever / Florence + The Machine
  - Strangers by Nature / Adele
  - You Only Live Twice / Beulahbelle

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The Alias Emma playlist can  
be found on Spotify here:  
[Spotify—Alias Emma](#)

# COCKTAIL RECIPE: THE DEAD DROP

I am not ordinarily a cocktail person, but I have to admit I love this one. I admire it for its deception. It's strong, but tastes mild. It's sour but tastes sweet. Just be careful—a few of these and you'll be giving away all your secrets!



## INGREDIENTS:

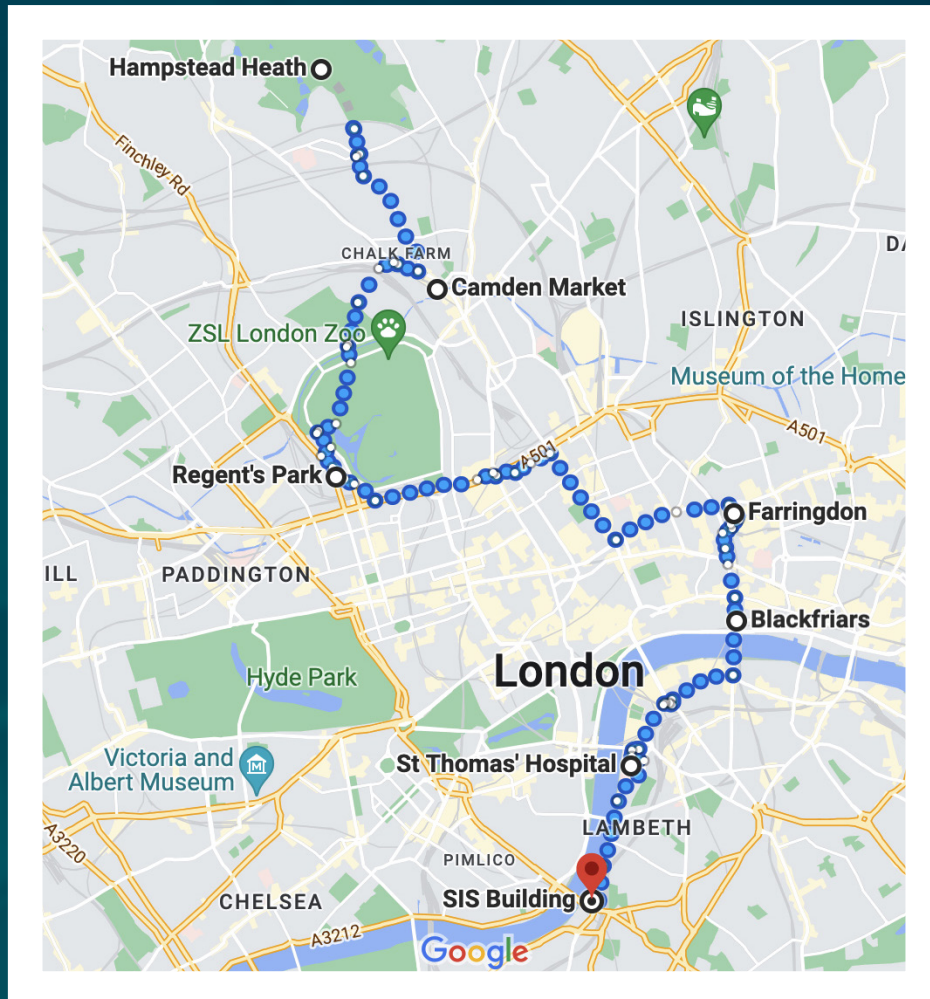
- 2 oz. bourbon
- 1 oz. vermouth
- 1 oz. Cointreau
- 1 oz. orange juice
- 1 oz. simple syrup
- Dash of bitters (optional)

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Fill a shaker with ice. Add all ingredients except bitters. Shake until your hand is tired. Strain into cocktail glass. Shake a dash of bitters to finish.



# EMMA MAKEPEACE'S TRIP ACROSS LONDON



In the book, Emma and Michael find Ripley's coded message in Hampstead Heath Park.

In order to get across the city without being caught on camera, Emma plots a route that takes them through darkened parks, down small streets, and along canals.

# EMMA MAKEPEACE'S TRIP ACROSS LONDON

1. Hampstead Heath—where they find the message before heading to . . .
2. Camden, North London—where they change Michael's clothes and lose the tracker before following the canal to . . .
3. Regent's Park—where they emerge from the canals and are soon discovered by the team of Russian agents following them, so they flag down the only taxi working in London at that hour to . . .
4. Farringdon—this is where Ripley tells them to "go under," and they discover an entrance to the subterranean River Fleet, which leads them to . . .
5. Blackfriars—this riverside area is where they steal a boat and Emma is shot, and Michael takes her to . . .

St Thomas' Hospital—here Emma is stitched up, and they steal a car and race the Russian hit squad to . . .

6. MI6 (SIS) Headquarters, in Vauxhall, South London

# EMMA MAKEPEACE'S SURVIVAL GUIDE

One thing I loved about writing *Alias Emma* was figuring out how Emma could not be dead by the end of it. I'd write a scene and then spend ages finding a way for her to survive. It was like a perpetual puzzle. Along the way, I learned a few things. So, here are a few tips from her to you, for living through an intense Russian spy operation.

- Expect the worst to happen. If you expect the worst, you'll have a plan in place when it all comes down. Everyone needs a plan.
- Your plan should include a go bag, filled with the most useful supplies. These should include cash, a change of clothes, a flashlight, a disguise, lock picks (just in case), and a weapon (for emergencies).
- Hide your go bag somewhere you know it will not be found. This place should not be in any way connected to you or anyone you know. A small, badly serviced underground parking lot is a good place to hide it.
- Teach yourself how to pick locks! There are videos on YouTube, and you can buy tools on eBay. You never know when this will come in handy.
- Remember that chocolate bars are reasonable meal replacements.
- A moving target is hard to find—stay on the go and you'll make your enemy's job much more difficult.
- Remember the Rule of Three: You can survive 3 minutes without air. You can survive 3 hours without shelter. You can survive 3 days without water. And 3 weeks without food. But I don't recommend trying any of this.