



At the Table of Wolves

Kay Kenyon

Download now

Read Online ➔

At the Table of Wolves

Kay Kenyon

At the Table of Wolves Kay Kenyon

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy meets *X-Men* in a classic British espionage story. A young woman must go undercover and use her superpowers to discover a secret Nazi plot and stop an invasion of England.

In 1936, there are paranormal abilities that have slowly seeped into the world, brought to the surface by the suffering of the Great War. The research to weaponize these abilities in England has lagged behind Germany, but now it's underway at an ultra-secret site called Monkton Hall.

Kim Tavistock, a woman with the talent of the *spill*—drawing out truths that people most wish to hide—is among the test subjects at the facility. When she wins the confidence of caseworker Owen Cherwell, she is recruited to a mission to expose the head of Monkton Hall—who is believed to be a German spy.

As she infiltrates the upper-crust circles of some of England's fascist sympathizers, she encounters dangerous opponents, including the charismatic Nazi officer Erich von Ritter, and discovers a plan to invade England. No one believes an invasion of the island nation is possible, not Whitehall, not even England's Secret Intelligence Service. Unfortunately, they are wrong, and only one woman, without connections or training, wielding her talent of the *spill* and her gift for espionage, can stop it.

At the Table of Wolves Details

Date : Published July 11th 2017 by Saga Press

ISBN : 9781481487788

Author : Kay Kenyon

Format : Hardcover 421 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Science Fiction, Alternate History, Mystery

 [Download At the Table of Wolves ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online At the Table of Wolves ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online At the Table of Wolves Kay Kenyon

From Reader Review At the Table of Wolves for online ebook

Lindsay says

In an alternate Europe where paranormal talents began to appear in the general population after the Great War, tensions are building between England and Germany again. The rise of the Nazis and their advanced research into the talents they have available have created opportunities for them that England is ill-prepared for.

Kim Tavistock has recently returned to England from work in America as a journalist. At the secret English talent research facility of Monkton Hall where she is a test subject she becomes involved in espionage when it is suspected that the head of the facility is a German spy. Soon she is swept up in activities outside of the facility, and with the unknown involvement of her own father who is part of British Intelligence. Whether she realizes it or not, Kim is a player in a deadly game.

I thought this was terrific, and fairly typical of Kenyon's work. She has a genius for creating interesting characters and putting them in prolonged positions of jeopardy. The small flaw being the "prolonged" part, where the suspense is maintained for a long time because different players in the action are simply unaware of knowledge that the others are party to. Like very few writers that tend to drag things out though, Kenyon's writing is good enough to make the suspense worthwhile sitting through, and while this book is the first of a series, it does have a satisfying conclusion in this volume.

Highly recommended.

Lorena says

This was a fun and reasonably suspenseful read - an alternate/fantasy history version of a classic 1930s British mystery/thriller. The heroine, a woman in her early 30s, is a little too naive for belief, but not to throw-the-book-across-the-room levels, at least for me.

Ernest says

This book was pitched as a thriller involving Nazis, spies, and superpowers with the fate of the free world at stake – a very intriguing idea and promising plot. Instead, the most interesting character is killed off within the first quarter of the book, some key characters fail to just talk to each other under the guise of what turns out to be turgid spying activities and thus unnecessarily prolonging everything, and having a revelation about a character be so bleeding obvious one wonders if the other key characters who missed it did so out of incompetence or wilful blindness (I don't know what is worse). Few, if any, books have had such a mismatch between the promise and the woeful underdelivering. I kept reading in the ultimately forlorn hope that there would be something, a moment, for this book to rise to, but the ending was both frustrating in still failing to provide an enjoyable read and merciful in just finishing.

This is a closest I've come to throwing a book across the room in frustration (I didn't because it was a library book and because I just don't do that), and writing this review just makes me angry about it again. If there

was a dis-recommendation feature, I would do it for this book.

Elena says

A young woman must go undercover and use her superpowers to discover a secret Nazi plot and stop an invasion of England.

YES, PLEASE.

Gretchen says

I finished this book because the story was suspenseful so I wanted to know how it would end, but I was screaming at the characters and their inconsistencies the entire time. Like, on page x, it would be stated that the main character never forgot anything, then on page x+1, she'd forgotten something. And at one point it's important that she always wears one kind of watch given to her by her mother but at least one point she's wearing an Elgin (which I only noticed because Chicagoland what up), so like...why?

It just also was not a satisfying spy novel unless you like novice spies who make so many mistakes that they're only still alive at the end due to the weird, out of character, and unexplained benevolence of the enemy (spoilers? But it's a series so...). I'll admit I've been reading Mick Herron lately and reminiscing about John Le Carre, so the spy bar is pretty high and I know this is someone kind of stumbling into spy life but my god, this main character should have been dead on like page 50 and the British government's secret operations were compromised so many times that if the series ends with them winning WWII I'd be shocked.

The cringe level of non-resolution of the father-daughter relationship was also painful to sit through, if important (I guess?) for plot and story accuracy.

Mogsy (MMOGC) says

3 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <https://bibliosanctum.com/2017/09/10/...>

At the Table of Wolves is the first book I've ever read by Kay Kenyon. It's also the beginning of a new historical paranormal fantasy series set in the prelude to World War II, starring an extraordinary woman who uses her superpower to go undercover to spy for the British. Following the "bloom" in the aftermath of the Great War which resulted in the appearance of psychic talents in about one in a thousand people, Kim Tavistock has manifested the "spill" ability to compel others to reveal their deepest, darkest secrets to her. Not wanting to alienate her friends who might shy away from her if they ever find out, she has always kept her true nature close to her heart. After all, few people find themselves comfortable around a spill—for obvious reasons—though as an intelligence agent, Kim's unique power would make her a formidable weapon indeed.

Upon her return to England in 1936 to visit her father after an unsuccessful journalism career in America, Kim is troubled by the political upheaval in Germany and the headway the Nazis have made on the research involving military uses for those affected by the bloom. Inspired to help the British, she decides to report to a

facility to have her power tested, and is promptly recruited by her caseworker for a dangerous mission to expose a possible German spy. Eager to lend a support, Kim agrees to infiltrate the estate of an aristocratic family during a weekend where she will get meet some of England's most prominent fascist sympathizers and even a visiting Nazi officer, the seductive and enigmatic Erich von Ritter.

It's no secret that alternate history fiction set around the time of World War II has always been popular, but believe it or not, the theme of paranormal superpowers versus Nazis has become a growing trend in the subgenre too. Thus, the big question I asked as I sat down to read this novel was, what does it bring to the table? We have a protagonist who has no experience in espionage who unsurprisingly ends up committing a number of mistakes and falling into a bunch traps, always appearing to be outsmarted, outclassed, and outgunned at every turn. As such, the book doesn't quite meet the typical requirements of a spy novel, and neither is it a satire, so we are presented with none of the humor despite Kim's bumbling incompetence. Nor does *At the Table of Wolves* read much like a thriller, for that matter; the majority of the story has little action or suspense, not to mention the pacing was on the slower, plodding side. So, what is it that makes this one stand out? What makes it special?

In truth, I had a rough time getting a bead on this novel, which made answering these questions difficult. The story is pretty decent, light and fluffy enough to provide some entertainment, but now that I'm finished with it, I just can't help thinking it could have been more. A good example is Kim, who would have been an admirable protagonist, except her character was constantly being undermined by her own poor decisions and inconsistencies. To her credit, she is strong-willed and brave—though I find it hard to truly admire someone who charges headlong into danger while disregarding orders and advice from more experienced agents, and then is shocked when everything blows up in her face. I was also somewhat let down by how little her spill came into play. The effects of that particular power was supposed to give Kim a strong advantage in her spying, but even in this area she underperformed and became overshadowed.

I should mentioned too that the story is told via two main POVs: Kim, as well as her father, Julian. Kenyon attempts to build tension by injecting potential friction between her two main characters, making Kim suspect that her father may be a Nazi sympathizer, when in truth he is actually working on the same side—as one of Britain's most senior intelligence agents, no less—a development that the reader discovers very early on. For the entire novel though, we are kept in suspense for the epiphany in which estranged father and daughter will finally learn the truth, but alas, the moment never comes. While I understand this is the first of a new series, and that the priority is the resolution of the book's main story line, still, the situation left unresolved between Kim and Julian felt to me like a glaring loose end. This robbed the conclusion of its emotional impact, which was something the book desperately needed, so hopefully the sequel will take big steps to address this.

Speaking of which, I've decided I may continue with the series, despite my issues with this one. For all its flaws, *At the Table of Wolves* is not a bad book, mainly because the entertainment value is there along with room for the premise to grow beyond what it is now. I didn't see anything to get really excited about, but given the direction of the last couple of chapters, I have a feeling that may soon change with the next installment.

Cheryl says

This book started off a bit slow but once it got going, it kept going. Now I must say that I have a preference for this style of a book. Pre WWII, alternate history, with paranormal elements and spy's. They book had a

couple spots, where things happened just a bit too coincidentally, but I did not mind in the least. Overall, a very fun and enjoyable read for me. I will be looking forward to the next book in this series.

Lauren Meschler says

For 400-some odd pages, the book flies by. Good pacing and plot development, but I'd like to see more character development, and a whole heap more explanation of the various Talents and the Bloom. Perhaps that will be the focus of the rest of the series? Regardless, an enjoyable spy read with a fantasy twist.

Shannon says

Interesting premise and I'm looking forward to checking out the sequel coming out in the next few months!

Kathleen Basi says

(Note: I was offered an uncorrected galley proof of this book in advance of publication, for purposes of an honest review.)

Kay Kenyon's "At the Table Of Wolves" begins with a premise: the trauma of World War I released previously hidden talents among some people--talents which an ascendant Nazi Germany is keen to exploit for military purposes. Not exactly superpowers, but certainly beyond the ordinary.

Kenyon's protagonist is Kim, born British, raised in America, and now returning to her birthplace in possession of "Spill"--a gift that means in her presence, people will often "spill" their deepest secrets.

She's working for the British government. So is her father, although he's so deep undercover, he appears to Kim to be pro-German. But she's new and not really a spy--she's just a Talent they're working with, to see what applications her power might have. Uninitiated and untrained, she finds herself in the middle of a mission to prove a conspiracy between a member of her own governmental unit, without realizing just how deep is the hole into which she's venturing.

The tension in this book never lets up, and as the mystery unravels, one painstaking step at a time, the misunderstandings between Kim and her father get more tightly knotted. It's beautifully plotted and beautifully written.

Being a member of a family full of superhero fans, the concept drew me immediately, but as a writer of contemporary women's fiction, I appreciated how realistically the "extra" element was handled. No one is impaling people with ice shards from their hands or blasting fire from their eyes; Kenyon's concept of Talents is easy to imagine happening in the real world.

One of the most enjoyable books I've read in the past year.

Jacqie says

I really wanted to like this book, but it just wasn't lively enough for me.

The idea of spies using supernatural powers to fight covertly just before WWII is a great idea. The "bloom" apparently happened around the time of WWI, and some people began to manifest powers like "trauma view" or "cold cell" (the ability to manipulate weather to create storms). Kim, our protagonist, has "the spill". This means that people will involuntarily tell her secrets, sometimes without even realize how odd it is that they've confided in her. Cool for a spy, right? But Kim begins the book with significant qualms about the ethics of using her ability. She does overcome this by the end of the book, but really, it doesn't seem like it even comes into play much.

Kim is recruited by one of the agents who is registering and testing people who have manifested "the bloom" because he fears that someone high up in the intelligence service is a double agent. Kim ends up essentially running herself, and frankly is pretty horrible at being a spy. She doesn't have much ability to lie convincingly and doesn't think through the logic of her actions much. She acts as a sort of catalyst, bringing things out into the open the same way that a puppy might drag your slippers out of the closet.

The book felt a bit... bloodless to me. All the characters felt very Britishly buttoned-up, and the emotional stakes felt low even with attempted seductions, plotted invasions, and young girls being carted off to asylums. I felt remote from the characters and wasn't ever really worried that our main characters would come to harm, despite their perilous situations. That's why I thought the book was just okay. The concept didn't play out in an exciting way, and the "bloom" didn't figure directly into the book that much, although it was part of the German invasion plot.

I much preferred Ian Tregillis's Milkweed trilogy, which explored the darker aspects of developing psychic powers for war and which had fascinating characters and a plot that kept me turning pages. This was sort of a cozy thriller, if there can be such a thing.

Kallierose says

A solid start to a new series. I look forward to reading more, and am wondering if future books will follow the same characters or a different set.

Brittany says

Elements of story: Good.... Movement of story speed: Molasses, painfully slow.... I think Book 2 would be a lot better, the build up to anything took FOREVER.... But the world is good. 3 stars for me.

Celeste_pewter says

There's nothing I enjoy reading more than novels that are:
Set in WWII

Involve supernatural powers
With fierce heroines

So when I realized *At the Table of Wolves* had all three, I immediately knew that this was the book for me.

Author Kay Kenyon introduces us to Kim Tavistock, an American woman who has the talent of spill, or the ability to make others confess their darkest secrets. She's in Britain working as a journalist, but is drawn into a case to expose a potential German spy. However, there are many players in this game of cat and mouse, and Kim finds herself caught up with individuals and situations she never expected...

At the Table of Wolves was described as a cross between John le Carré and X-Men, and I could definitely feel tones of the latter echoing throughout the book. The powers described by Kenyon have an obvious genesis - they were developed from the trauma of the Great War - which dovetails neatly with how some of the X-Men developed their powers.

Because the powers are borne out of trauma, they're often treated with confusion and suspicion, a theme that Kenyon explores deftly throughout the book via Kim and the secondary characters. Most of those with powers struggle with the idea of having a certain set of responsibilities and obligations that those around them don't need to concern themselves with, impacting their actions and their thinking as a result. It's not surprising that as a consequence, there are those who can be convinced to use their powers for the Germans.

As Kim delves deeper and deeper into trying to figure who the Germany spy is, Kenyon does a deft job of increasing the action and the stakes. We realize that seemingly inconsequential characters are all interwoven into this plot, with the ramifications even greater than possibly imagined. There's a neatness to how many layers Kenyon has put into her plot, and the inevitable payoff is thrilling, and worth it.

Kim herself is a sharp heroine who isn't afraid to take on unknown odds, and joins the rank of fierce heroines that all readers will look up to. Highly recommend, full stop.

Laura Koerber says

Disappointing.

The blurb compares this alternative history book to John Le Carre'. That's a mistake on the part of the marketers since the book is nowhere as good, and it is poor marketing to raise unrealistic expectations. I don't usually give poor recommendations, but I am giving one here to warn off readers.

It isn't a bad book. It just isn't very good and looks bad when compared to Le Carre'. Of course most spy novelists look bad when compared to Le Carre': he's state of the art. But some can stand up: Furst, Steinhauer. This book is written by someone who knows no more about spying than any reader of minor spy novels. There's no depth. It reads like a treatment for a made-for-TV plot summary.

If I had gone in with low expectations, I might still be reading. I like light literature, a good yarn, something that engages attention without engaging my brain too much. But this book, even though the writing is okay, just got annoying. And it got more annoying as it proceeded.

So...I don't know how others will react. Forget Le Carre'. Forget the spy novel aspect. Read it as light alternative history with a fantasy element, some character and relationship development, the occasional right-on metaphor and the occasional spurt of really, really clunky dialog, and enjoy the plot. If you go in with that in mind, you will may have a good time.
