



BOOK CLUB KIT

# THE SLOW MARCH OF LIGHT

BY HEATHER B. MOORE

Based on a true story. Inspired by real events.

*A riveting and emotionally-gripping novel of an American soldier working as a spy in Soviet-occupied East Germany and a West German woman secretly helping her countrymen escape from behind the Berlin Wall.*

# BOOK CLUB KIT

## BOOK CLUB KIT CONTENTS

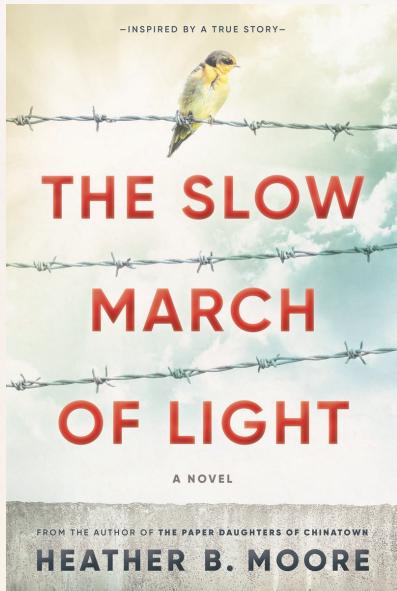
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## A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

**Dear Reader,**

We have many heroes among us. Sometimes they're ancestors, or perhaps they're closer relations. Many have stories of incredible resilience as they survived wars, atrocities, and natural disasters. On a cold winter day in early 2020, my publisher contacted me with a book idea. The man Bob Inama, whose story they wanted to bring to the world, was still alive and residing in Idaho. He'd been teaching at a small college for decades until his retirement. But not until recently had he begun to share his story with family members. And so, if I agreed, the task of writing a book based on his experiences during the Cold War would fall to my hands. After reading the short bio emailed to me, I had two impressions. First, that Bob's story would inspire all those who read it. Second, I felt nervous to commit to such a project, yet I also knew it would be an honor.

Fast forward eight months. The world had been utterly changed by the Covid-19 pandemic, and I had yet to meet Bob Inama in person. For most of the year, we'd been communicating by email, phone, and video calls. In my first video call with Bob, he told me about his experiences working undercover for the US Army in the early 1960s in

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*Moore conveys extensive historical knowledge without sacrificing the emotional impact of the stories.*

-Booklist

Soviet-occupied East Germany. He was eventually betrayed by a double-agent and arrested.

I asked him in which city he'd been imprisoned. Bob lifted his chin, and said, "There are some things you just try to forget." The story that unfolded was not what one might expect. Yes, he was imprisoned. Yes, he was beaten daily. Yes, he was traumatized. But Bob's light never dimmed. He left behind his shackles, the depths of a tiny cell, and built a life of hope, love, and family.

Through working on this book about Bob Inama, I was continually impressed and touched by his humble character and the light he brought to those he interacted with. It's my sincere wish, dear reader, that you will find value in this story of a life well-lived.

Thank you for reading and joining Bob's journey,



Heather B. Moore

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1.

When Bob first received the draft letter to join the US Army, he was disappointed to have to reroute his life's plans. **Have you experienced such a setback that wasn't of your own making?**

3.

While at Fort Sill, Bob became close friends with a Japanese-American soldier. WWII was nearly two decades in the past, yet Bob witnessed continued prejudice toward his friend. **Why does it take so long for society to move forward from a painful past?**

5.

From the beginning of their friendship, Luisa told Bob that her father didn't like American soldiers. **Do you think that was a general statement or her father warning her against getting involved with one of them? Why?**

2.

Once Bob was at Fort Sill, hidden talents began to shine, which would become very valuable later in his undercover assignment. Bob definitely had hard days, but he seemed to make the best out of whatever situation he was put in. **Why can this be so difficult to do?**

4.

Being assigned to West Germany was another big change in Bob's life. Yet he also saw the blessing in the opportunity to travel Europe and learn more about his Italian grandparents' heritage and homeland. **Have you ever had the opportunity to travel to the land of your ancestors? How has your heritage affected your life?**

6.

When Bob is given his undercover assignment, another soldier is given the duty to respond to letters from his family as if Bob were writing them. **Do you think your family would notice something was different if you were in this situation?**

## 7.

Why do you think Bob accepted his undercover assignment so readily? **What would you have done in his shoes?**

## 9.

Even though Bob's personality and character were quite different from that of Professor Schmitt's, Bob stayed amenable in order to keep his cover intact. **Have you ever been in a situation where you've had to work hard to get along with someone you didn't connect with?**

## 8.

Bob's grasp of the German language became very important when he went undercover. Not only would he be in physical danger if he was caught in his assignment, but he also had to navigate his way through a foreign country while speaking German. **Would needing to learn a foreign language so quickly intimidate you?**

## 10.

Bob faced many challenges; one of the greatest was being isolated from his loved ones, including his fellow countrymen. What beliefs did Bob draw on to make it through this dark period? **What beliefs sustain you through challenging times?**

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*Christian faith helps them survive and make a difference in the face of epic adversity.*

-Booklist

# Selection of Original Interview Questions & Answers with Bob Inama



**Q:** Did you live in an apartment at Utah State when you were in school there?

**A:** I did not live in an apartment, but just rented a room. I ate one meal a day at the college cafeteria.

**Q:** Did you like to play any sports in high school or college?

**A:** I worked at the 7Up bottling company while in high school. I was a good runner and would have liked to have played football and participated in track, but my parents felt that I needed to work.

**Q:** Do you have a copy of the draft letter you received?

**A:** I don't have the copy of my draft letter. I lost track of it long ago.

*Bob Inama was an outstanding university student with plans to attend law school when he is drafted into the US Army. Bob tells us about his experiences working undercover for the US Army in the early 1960s in Soviet-occupied East Germany. He was eventually betrayed by an East German and arrested but Bob's light never dimmed. He left behind his shackles and the depths of a tiny cell and built a life of hope, love, and family.*

**Q:** February 1960: basic training at Fort Ord California . . . do you remember the month you went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma?

**A:** If my memory serves me right, I think it was in May that I went to Fort Sill.

**Q:** Do you remember which month you arrived in Germany? You said you were in Hanau for about 6 months before you took a leave to visit your grandfather's village. What month was that? Are we still in 1960?

**A:** I arrived in Germany in the summer. I think in August. If I remember correctly it was February when I went on leave. I know it was winter. I think by then it was 1961.

**Q:**

Which base/area you were stationed in Germany?

**A:**

I was assigned to the Headquarters Company 75th Field Artillery in Hanau, Germany.

**Q:**

Do you remember what your general duties while in Germany were before you were given your special assignment?

**A:**

My general duties before going undercover were in the fire direction center. A forward observer would send in target coordinates, we then would plot the target, determine the powder charge, the elevation, and send that information down to eight inch howitzer detail. They could fire a 200 pound projectile 28 miles.

**Q:**

How long you were in Germany before getting the undercover assignment?

**A:**

I received the undercover assignment just after I had returned from Grandfather's birthplace, so I can conclude that I was in Germany about 6 months.

**Q:**

Do you remember what Major Taggett looked like? Age? Build? Etc.

**A:**

Major Taggett was a WWII. veteran. He was a little under six feet and well built. He was very articulate. He was between about 40 and 45. He had little sense of humor. Duty came first. I don't know much more about him than that. He was quite rigid. However I liked him a lot.



**Q:**

I want to write a scene when you are at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. What was a typical day like while you were there?

**A:**

At Fort Sill we woke at 6:00 AM to get ready. We had formation at 7:00 for a head count. We were then dismissed to eat breakfast. At 8:00 AM another formation to drill. Drilling consisted of marching for an hour. We then went out to the firing range for a couple of hours. From 12:00 to 1:00 we were dismissed for lunch. Afterward, at 1:00 PM we had another formation. We did another hour of marching. We were then assigned to our various assignments, in my case it was the Fire Direction Center (FDC) where we practiced plotting targets. We were required to determine elevation and power charge for the target. Others practiced firing a 105 gun. At 5:00 PM it was dinner time. Sometimes we would have night practice; otherwise we were free, except we were required to stay on base. Bed check was at 11:00 PM.

**Q:**

Did Major Taggett ever tell you what you should do if you were stopped and questioned? Things to say or not to say?

**A:**

All soldiers were instructed if stopped to give only rank, name, and serial number. My instructions were the same. That was the only information I ever gave them.

**Q:**

What do you think the men in your army platoon were told when you left to go undercover?

**A:**

The other members of my unit were told I was on special assignment at the Seventh Army headquarters in Frankfurt. Many knew I was a college graduate in prelaw and assumed I was helping on a case.

**Q:**

Which month/year did you start at the University of Berlin in your assignment to take an economics class?

**A:**

I started at the University of Berlin in approximately April or May of 1961.

**Q:**

Did you have to show ID whenever you crossed the East German border?

**A:**

I always was required to show ID when entering East Germany. Of course it was a fake ID.

**Q:**

Do you still have the letter from Adolf?

**A:**

Unfortunately, I no longer have the letter. When the Teton Dam broke, I was living in a basement apartment in Rexburg. Everything I owned was taken by the flood.

**Q:**

Did you ever go to Professor Schmitt's presentations? What were they like? What type of people attended?

**A:**

I did attend his presentation because one of my assignments was to take notes and type them and give them to Professor Schmitt. The presentations were very dry. I thought the information was off and outdated. The people who attended were middle aged or older. There were communist leaders and some college professors. What resources they had in East Germany came from Russia. By attending those meetings they could move up in the communist party.

**Q:**

What types of nuclear targets were you plotting? Bunkers? Military housing? Government buildings? Weapons storage?

**A:**

I targeted any military installation including government buildings, freight yards, weapon arsenals, communication towers and centers, anything military was fair game.

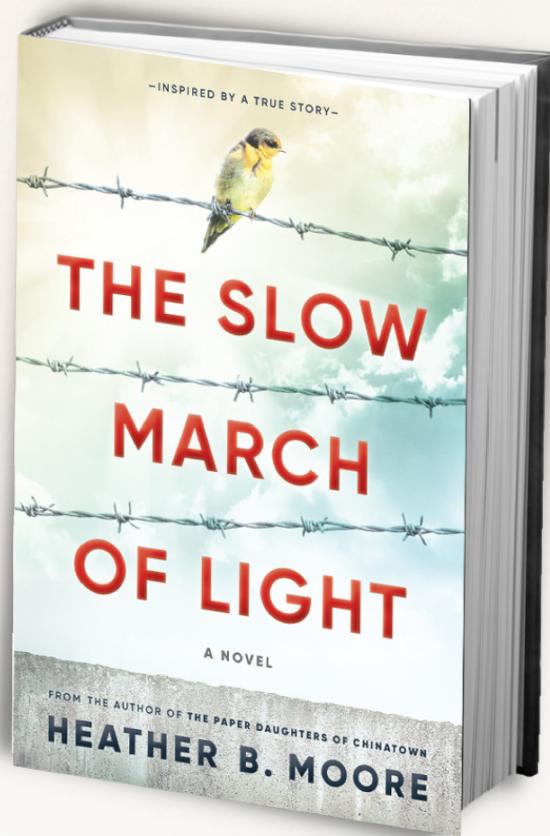


# ADVANCE PRAISE

review from the leading book discovery

“Bob Inama is an aspiring lawyer who is drafted into the army and stationed in Frankfurt, where he meets Luisa Voigt, a nurse and daughter of a German police officer, at a church social. They quickly become friends but are abruptly separated when Luisa's father moves the family to West Berlin. Their paths unexpectedly cross again when both are committed to dangerous missions. Bob is working undercover to gather intelligence for the U.S., and Luisa is part of a covert organization attempting to smuggle refugees, including her grandmother, from behind the newly erected Berlin Wall. The narration alternates between Moore's fictionalization of the true story of an American soldier who survived imprisonment in East Germany during the Cold War and Luisa, a fictional character inspired by individuals who risked their lives to help others escape to freedom in West Germany. As with her debut, *The Paper Daughters of Chinatown* (2020), Moore conveys extensive historical knowledge without sacrificing the emotional impact of the stories of two protagonists whose Christian faith helps them survive and make a difference in the face of epic adversity.”

—Booklist



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*Inspired by individuals  
who risked their lives to  
help others escape to  
freedom in West Germany*

## *About the Author*

# HEATHER B. MOORE

USA TODAY BESTSELLER AND AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

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Heather B. Moore is a USA Today bestseller and award-winning author of more than seventy publications. She has lived on both the East and West Coasts of the United States, including Hawaii, and attended school abroad at the Cairo American College in Egypt and the Anglican School of Jerusalem in Israel. She loves to learn about history and is passionate about historical research.

# RESOURCES

## PUBLISHER'S WEBSITE:

SHADOWMOUNTAIN.COM

## AUTHOR'S WEBSITE:

HBMOORE.COM



## GROUP FOR AUTHOR:

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