

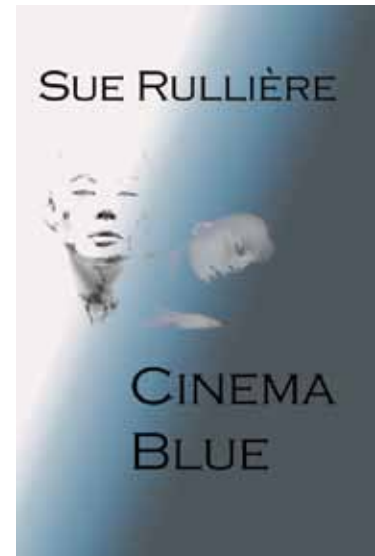
# Cinema Blue

by Sue Rullière

## The perfect reading group choice

*Cinema Blue* tells the story of Frankie, a young woman scarred by events in her past. Keen to make a fresh start, she rents a *chambre de bonne* at the top of an apartment block in Paris. There she meets the mysterious Antoine and is drawn into the murky world he inhabits—a world where nothing is quite as it seems.

The city of Paris, and the world of surreal art provide the backdrop for this intense and disturbing story. It is told from two viewpoints: Frankie, struggling to build a new life for herself, and Francesca, the woman her husband wanted her to be. As Frankie struggles to establish her own identity, Francesca haunts her dreams and her waking life.



'A skilfully crafted novel with a wonderful use of language. The gradual revealing of the control JP exercised over Francesca and the domestic abuse theme is really well handled as is the movement between the present and the past.'

*Alison Hunter, East Lothian Libraries*

Here are some suggested questions for a reading group to use when discussing this book:

- What would you say are the key themes of the novel?
- What is the reason for the two viewpoints (Frankie and Francesca)? Do you think this works as a narrative device?
- Do you sympathise with Frankie when she becomes involved with Antoine? Do you have friends who are often attracted to the wrong people?
- Which of the three potential suitors (Antoine, Simon, Xavier) would you have chosen for Frankie?
- Why did it take so long for Frankie to leave JP? Do you think her experience of domestic violence is typical?
- What impact has Craig's death had on Frankie and how has it affected her relationship with her parents?
- How important are the minor characters (Jude, Nathalie, M Villet)?
- Do you fear for Frankie's sanity at any point? Are you hopeful for her at the end?
- In what ways is the line between dream and reality blurred in the book?
- Would anything be lost if the novel were set in London or New York instead of Paris?
- Do you mind that there are no chapters in the book?
- Do you think *Cinema Blue* would work well as a film?

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