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The Orphan's Tale: A Novel



Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller!"Readers who enjoyed Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale* and Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants* will embrace this novel. " *Library Journal*"Secrets, lies, treachery, and passion. I read this novel in a headlong rush." *Christina Baker Kline*, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Orphan Train*A powerful novel of friendship set in a traveling circus during World War II, *The Orphan's Tale* introduces two extraordinary women and their harrowing stories of sacrifice and survival. Sixteen-year-old Noa has been cast out in disgrace after becoming pregnant by a Nazi soldier and being forced to give up her baby. She lives above a small rail station, which she cleans in order to earn her keep. When Noa discovers a boxcar containing dozens of Jewish infants bound for a concentration camp, she is reminded of the child that was taken from her. And in a moment that will change the course of her life, she snatches one of the babies and flees into the snowy night. Noa finds refuge with a German circus, but she must learn the flying trapeze act so she can blend in undetected, spurning the resentment of the lead aerialist, Astrid. At first rivals, Noa and Astrid soon forge a powerful bond. But as the facade that protects them proves increasingly tenuous, Noa and Astrid must decide whether their friendship is enough to save one another; or if the secrets that burn between them will destroy everything.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I just finished this book, and as I wipe away my tears I have to tell you that this is an original, riveting story about courage, love, friendship, and family. A while back, someone asked if there were too many books written about WWII, and my answer was no....there are millions of stories to tell. The Orphan's Tale is a great example of this, telling a story about events and acts of bravery that I knew nothing about. In this masterful tale, Astrid is an aerialist whose family had owned a circus in Germany; but her family was Jewish, and had disappeared when she returned home after being cast aside by her husband, a German officer. Noa is a young girl whose single act of bravery leads her to the circus, an uncommon but welcome refuge for her. This story is told with such passion and enormous heart, with pulse-pounding suspense as Astrid, Noa, and the rest of their circus friends are under constant threat of the Nazis. I highly recommend this book to all book lovers; it is sure to enthrall everyone.

I go through several books a week. As soon as I finish one, I am ready with the next. The Orphan's Tale made me stop, wait, think and want to absorb it before I went on to the next book. I'll admit I am interested in books about WWII and oddly, about historic circus life. This was a fascinating blend of the two, so I was in heaven! This is a book I wish I'd written...the writing, the plot, the characters...I didn't want it to end. Do yourself a favor and read this one.

This book was an awesome combination of history and circus lore. I enjoyed the fluid writing style, and cared about the characters. The author did a wonderful job weaving a story around actual events and people. Great book, do not hesitate, get this book NOW!!!!

I would like to thank the Publishers, HarperCollins, Mira, and Harlequin Enterprises Limited, as well as Pam Jenoff for the Advanced Reader's Edition of "The Orphan's Tale" by Pam Jenoff. This has to be one of my favorite Pam Jenoff's novels. The historical fiction novel takes place during World War Two, and the Holocaust. This is a turbulent and devastating period in history. Pam Jenoff's description of the isolation and depravity of the towns and villages as well as the attitudes of people during this time period is extraordinary and exceptional. The author has

been so ambitious in weaving her tale, there is so much to absorb. One of the main characters, Noa, gets pregnant by a German soldier, and is forced to give up her baby. Noa's family is intolerant and throws her out, where she is forced to clean near a railway station. Noa discovers a railroad car filled with Jewish babies, some alive, destined to a concentration camp, and decides to take one of the babies. She names him Theo, and is forced to escape in the ice and cold with no papers. Noa winds up in a German Circus. The owner of the Circus, has tried to provide safety for Jewish people, and offers Noa a job. At this time Noa meets Astrid, an acrobat in this circus. Astrid is Jewish, and was part of a Jewish Circus. Astrid is instructed to teach Noa how to do acrobatics. The two of them have a conflicted friendship based on a lack of trust and a need for survival. Astrid does not know where her family is, and is divorced. We do meet a number of complex characters. In my opinion, Pam Jenoff compares the indifference and immorality of people with courageous, caring people who offer hope, faith and love, and are willing to take risks. Kudos to Pam Jenoff for telling an amazing story, and bringing a different perspective to light. I am left with so many provoking thoughts and questions. I highly recommend "The Orphan's Tale" as a wonderful novel of historical fiction genre.

This book captivated my attention from the first page. Although fiction, I found it a poignant portrayal of the horror of Holocaust and the despicable acts that were a part. Jenoff gives the reader a spellbinding tale showing the reality of the inhumane suffering of Jews and their sympathizers.

I read this book in one day. It was so good I couldn't put it down. The author does such a great job of telling the story of these two girls. You become so immersed in their story and can feel every pain or happiness they feel. It is not often you find a book that you fall into their world and don't want to leave until you know everything that happens. The ending was very unexpected but true to the story.

I started out liking this story quite a bit, but by the end, I wasn't in love with it. I think part of it was that she tried to do too much in one story and her notes on the writing of the story kind of reinforced that feeling. So much seemed implausible. I read it for a book club meeting, so it will be interesting to hear other's takes on it. I'm still glad I read it.

Interesting on many levels like the courage some people show in adversity; the bonds of family and loyalty; and the simple story of love and its consequences.

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