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Rose Under Fire (Code Name Verity Book 2)



Synopsis

While flying an Allied fighter plane from Paris to England, American ATA pilot and amateur poet, Rose Justice, is captured by the Nazis and sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious woman's concentration camp. Trapped in horrific circumstances, Rose finds hope in the impossible through the loyalty, bravery and friendship of her fellow prisoners. But will that be enough to endure the fate that's in store for her? Elizabeth Wein, author of the critically-acclaimed and best-selling Code Name Verity, delivers another stunning WWII thriller. The unforgettable story of Rose Justice is forged from heart-wrenching courage, resolve, and the slim, bright chance of survival.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Elizabeth Wein tells the story of Rose, a civilian who had a critical role in WWII. Through Rose, we learn of the sacrifices of the many civilians who helped in the Allied War effort, without any of the "honors" afforded the military personnel. She also brings out the many human aspects that blur the lines between friend and foe both in her life prior to being a concentration camp prisoner and during it. How strangers, in extreme circumstances, become our family. An interesting and thought

provoking novel.

I read this book for two reasons, with the first being it is the Goodreads February Discussion for Books Hot Off the Presses and the second is my participation in the 2014 HUB Reading Challenge. This book is on the list of the 2014 Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults. Rose Justice is a transport pilot, who grew up outside Hershey, PA. It is during the war that Rose's plane is intercepted, she is captured by the Germans and taken to the Ravensbrück concentration camp, where she is a prisoner for six months. Rose and the other captives (who are there much longer) endure beatings, torture, experimentation, and deprivation. It is during her imprisonment and after, as she recuperates in Paris that the full story emerges. What was so wonderful about this story was the "family" Rose formed while in Ravensbrück and it was these bonds that enabled them to endure and in many cases, survive. Wein weaves the importance of family throughout the whole book; with Rose's Hershey family, her pilot friends who are her family before her capture and the Rabbits, Lisette, Irina, Roza, Karolina and others who are her camp family. Rose uses her poetry and storytelling with her concentration camp friends to as a way to remember life before and survive each day whatever way they could. It is during her imprisonment (and after) with the Hamburg Ravensbrück Trials and the Doctors' Trial against Nazi war criminals that Rose emerges as a much stronger person; a writer and medical student, and is able to bear witness in her own way to the atrocities of the camp and let the world know the names of all 75 of the Rabbits who were maimed (and many killed) by Nazis due to their experimentation. Readers will love the women (pilots, survivors, and those who do not survive) in this book; their bravery, fury, compassion, defiance, craziness, and beauty. Highly recommended!

Follows six months after Code Name Verity, with Rose, an American pilot joining Maddie transporting airplanes for the RAF. But Rose is captured and sent to the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp and what follows is a harrowing account of not only her ordeal, but those of her fellow prisoners, including the Polish women who were used for medical experimentation. The horror of the camp is captured, but also the bonds that were formed between the women of different nationalities thrown together in appalling circumstances. Again, well researched, with strong female characters and builds to a satisfying conclusion.

This book is just beautiful in its emotional wallop and engrossing story telling. And when I say beautiful, I definitely don't mean the world our characters are in. The author does not pull the

punches in dropping her readers into the harsh and gritty world of the concentration camp our characters are in. Within that horrific world, though, she's able to shine a light on the camaraderie between these women as they struggle for survival and the light of hope they refuse to let extinguish. Our main character, Rose Justice, at first made me raise an eyebrow. I had a hard time believing that the British government would hire an 18 year old girl to do any kind of flying for them, no matter what training she had. But overall, whether that point is true or not, Rose won me over with her pluck, her determination, her strength of character, and her courage. Despite the truly horrid circumstances she finds herself in, she won't give up the struggle to survive. The other women in the camp were extremely three-dimensional to me. They were all unique individuals caught up in this atrocious place and struggling to survive it in their own unique ways. Some used sarcasm, some used sheer grit, some used emotions, and some used intelligence. I liked that variety as it gave the everyone their own personality and made it so that no one was a background character. The horrors of the setting and the emotions they evoked were definitely not glossed over. Whether it was bombed-out London, the interior of the camp, or the Nuremburg trials, everything was vivid and stark in its reality. I felt the emotions inspired by the setting that the characters experienced. I experienced the settings with the characters: the horror of the camp, the freedom of flying for Rose, the tenseness in the courtroom, and the moments of readjusting and panic in the Hotel Ritz. Everything was vivid and stark in its realism and emotional wallop. This book was an incredible look at WWII, the Holocaust, and its effects on the individuals that experienced both. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who isn't afraid to read this subject matter and be emotionally moved. It's a book to savor and contemplate long after reading.

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