

The Nightingale by Kristin Hanna Review

Two sisters separated by and brought back together by war. Both learn that love is the most important thing through loss and reunion.

Isabelle Rossignol is a radical young woman determined to play her role during World War II and help the resistance in France against Nazi Germany. Her sister, meek Vianne Mauriac, tries to remain complacent and obey Nazi rule, but in the end plays her own role in the resistance. Both sister were separated by the outcomes of World War I. Those outcomes shaped them into the two opposite people they became. Each had a role to play in resisting Nazi rule, though they each took a different path getting there. Through great love and great loss, they learned some of the most important lessons in life, love will always remain.

This latest novel by Kristin Hanna was a must read. The book has an amazing insight into the outcomes of World War I and role women played during World War II in France. Though a work of fiction, it has compelling detail about the horrors of war time mixed with a great story and well developed characters. Join Isabelle on a bold journey to help the resistance in France and move unsuspected under Nazi rule to help the Allies. Also join Vianne in choosing between protecting her family and the tough decisions many faced to help even their best friends. Join them as they learn the meaning of love and how precious each moment is in life. Not a breath should be wasted on hatred.

The underlying theme for this book was on love and regret. The author used a piece of historic fiction to illustrate to the reader how precious life is. No one person is guaranteed the next moment. She uses the characters and how they are shaped during war time to point out how we can regret our last words and/or actions to someone.

This tale was a great adventure as I followed Isabelle. I cried at the cruelty that exists in the world. I also drew parallels between what happened in World War II and how the Americans fought back in The American Revolution. The role of women, codes, and code names was very similar and seems to be a pattern through history. This novel really brought to light the importance of women's roles during war time as well as the theme of love.

Overall, this is a fantastic novel. I would recommend this novel for any reader. Be forewarned though, you will be horrified at some of the details.