

Book Review: “The Nightingale” by Kristen Hannah
Eva Westein | Entertainment Editor



Kristen Hannah’s book “The Nightingale” is a historical fiction book that takes place in France during the course of World War II. The plot follows two sisters, Isabelle and Vianne, and their contrasting experiences with the German occupation of the world around them.

Through Vianne, the reader sees the experience of the women in the war whose husbands were off fighting while they stayed home and were forced to host the enemy and do whatever it took to stay alive and under the radar. Through Isabelle, the reader sees the alternate experience of the unsuspecting women who took on a more active role in the war because of their desire to stand up to the enemy.

The main reason why I enjoyed this book was because it offered an interesting female perspective, from both sisters, on World War II that featured plotlines wider than a war romance. Not to say that there wasn’t any romance at all in this book, but I appreciated that it wasn’t the main point. I felt like this story was a solid representation of the more complicated and morally gray aspects of living through World War II that women faced. It really made me think about the

intricacies of the lives of those who were affected by the war but weren't directly soldiers. I'm not a history expert by any means, so I can't speak to the accuracy of the situations that were depicted, but there weren't any instances that made me pause and think "Oh that can't be right." Just to be safe, I think this is a book that you would read for the plot, not necessarily for historical accuracy.

As someone who doesn't typically reach for historical fiction books, the first few chapters were a little slow for me. However, once the plot got moving, I became invested in a lot of different pieces of the story. I even cried a little at a few points. This book actually managed to pull me out of a reading slump, which I think is saying something. Overall, if you are looking to try a new genre or diversify the genres that you are reading, this book isn't a bad place to start for beginners in historical fiction.

Photo: Alexander Grey –

<https://unsplash.com/photos/assorted-books-on-wooden-table-eMP4sYPJ9x0>