



Resistance

Mary Brock Jones

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What comes first: honour, integrity, or the lives of the people you have promised to protect.

Two worlds clash in an epic tale of hidden identities and high adventure.

Five long years ago, the Terrans invaded Hathe and life on a once peaceful and wealthy world changed forever. Major Hamon Radcliff is one of those Terrans. He does what he can to mitigate the brutality against the Hathians yet knows the Terran occupation must succeed. Earth cannot survive without the urgonium found only on Hathe.

But all that changes when Hamon falls for a woman of the long-lost Hathian ruling class. He suspects Marthe asn Castre of being an undercover agent, but she's so much more. She's a key player in a secret resistance force.

Now Hamon must choose.

Protect the woman he loves and watch millions of his people die.

Or break her, find out what she knows, and save Earth from a long and torturous end.

Marthe and Hamon's story concludes in "Pay the Piper: Hathe Book Two".

Resistance Details

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Author : Mary Brock Jones

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From Reader Review Resistance for online ebook

Kathleen Dixon says

If I had a shelf called 'Old-Fashioned Space Opera Science Fiction' then that's where I would place this book, but that would be rather silly on my behalf because then I'd have to look through all my Speculative Fiction shelf (into which I placed ghost stories and science fiction and fantasy and everything else that isn't solidly based in the here-and-now (in the interests of tidying my shelves somewhat, and solving the problem of deciding quite where some books fit)), and I'd have to read the blurb of half the books in that (Speculative Fiction) shelf in order to remember what they were about because I read books 'in the now' and once the now has passed I rarely recall much about them. Needless to say, I'm not going to do that.

So, this old-fashioned space opera sci-fi novel has a completely up-to-date writing style (I never did enjoy the 50s and 60s style - it always felt like over-acting) and the completely up-to-date ability to let us know the mind and heart workings of Marthe and Hamon, the enemies who fall in love. She's one of the best undercover agents in the Resistance; he's second in command (though barely tolerated by the commander, and his concerns ignored) of the Terran invaders. Hamon had actually seen Marthe 5 years earlier, prior to the Invasion, and had been smitten by her then. So when she is placed as his cleaning servant it is inevitable that he will discover her identity. She, on her first surreptitious appraisal of him, shocks herself by thinking, "Yet a smile would have softened that hard face." Ah ha, thinks the reader. And yes, we already know from the blurb that this is a star-crossed lovers story (or should I say 'duty-plagued lovers', which puts it more correctly).

I had a moment's groaning about the idea of enemies falling madly in love, but then was reminded that it can happen. I've read accounts of women in wartime, trying to live normal lives while their country is occupied by the enemy, who have had that unfortunate experience. This author writes it well. And of course, that is what drives the whole story. While Marthe and the Resistance are actively preparing for their uprising, and Hamon is struggling to find evidence about his sure feeling that major plans are being made and that the peasants are not what they seem, their love grows along with their desperate desire to keep that love separate from their dedication to their own people's needs.

A peripheral thing I really like about this book is while there are a few little slips (as it were) that make us aware that the planet is not Earth, and not like Earth with its plants or wildlife, there's no labouring to make us "see" what Hathe looks like. The novel is about the people, so great descriptive passages about the planet would have been unnecessary. So thumbs up for the subtle way of building this world.

Anna says

I found this book quite difficult to read but mainly because I disagreed with the main stance of the Terrans, their reasons behind why they conquered Hathe. That the lives of the people on Earth were worth more than the lives of the people on Hathe.

Hamon is supposedly more tolerant of Hathians than many other Terrans and yet even he feels no compunction against slamming his fist into a native's face when he's overly frustrated, torturing a woman he is attracted to with sleep and food deprivation to get information and all because this Earth race are too ignorant and proud to ask for help.

It was very difficult to find sympathy with their plight and I couldn't understand how Marthe felt anything

for him as he was written with little to no redeeming features.

Because this theme is so strong throughout the book it did ruin my enjoyment of the book as a whole but it doesn't stop this from being a well thought out and reasonably well written story. Quite slow in its progression, it does get to the point eventually, with only a few slightly confusing changes in point of view to hinder the reader.

InD'tale Magazine says

4.5/5.0

Brilliant! This book is so epic, poignant, beautifully penned and lovingly crafted that it is a challenge for readers to tear themselves away.

Read full review in the 2015 October issue of InD'tale Magazine.
