



Resistance

Anita Shreve

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Now available in mass market paperback for the first time, this novel by the #1 New York Times bestselling author takes readers on an unforgettable journey into a harrowing world where forbidden passions have catastrophic consequences.

Resistance Details

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Author : Anita Shreve

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From Reader Review Resistance for online ebook

Christi says

This is a terrific book to curl up with on a rainy day and just read and read. The setting is WW II Holland and the love story that ensues will sweep you off your feet. I did not truly understand what the people of Holland risked when they hid our American soldiers that had been shot down. They were selfless and devoted to a cause greater than their own safety. A truly inspired read.

Kelly says

I was really pleasantly surprised from this book. From all the Shreve novels I've read so far, there is always some tawdry affair. The affair concept is completely tiresome. I keep reading her books because I bought a whole lot of them off Ebay and had read an excerpt and noted that I really loved how she wrote. I've started getting really agitated because EVERY single book, so far, there has been an affair. This one wasn't an exception...but I guess it's accepted knowledge that there is going to be an affair somewhere in a Shreve book. I get it. Literature for adulterers. Yay.

Okay, so that's not me, but what I did really love about this book was the setting and the nearly-palpable tension she creates wondering if Claire will be discovered caring for the American pilot that she and a boy from a small village in Belgium rescue after his plane crashes nearby. There is an urgency in the beginning of the book - who will get to them first? The Germans? Or will they be taken to shelters in the homes of daring Maquis (Resistance) supporters? In this case, a young pilot (Ted - why am I reminded of Ted the pilot from the Airplane movie?) is rescued and hidden in the attic of a Resistance supporter and unofficial nurse, Claire. They develop an attraction, which thankfully, isn't the central focus of the story or it would be really boring to read about love scene after love scene in someone's attic.

Instead, Shreve targets the fear of discovery and the horror that falls upon the village in which an American plane happened to fall near after being shot down by Germans. There are betrayals and a few chilling moments in the end where you have to put the book down and hope you're not about to read of the untimely ending of the characters. I won't spoil it for you. Then, it's wrapped up at the end, which most readers seem to like. There is no open-ended ending. You do get to hear more about the effects of the story long after the main story has ended, which is a nice touch. Overall, it was a pretty good read. I liked it even though Ted's character, as someone else already noted, just didn't sound like a farmboy from Ohio. I'm from Ohio so I know those types, too...and this guy just doesn't sound like one of them. Farmboys from Ohio could give a rat's butt about English poetry. I'd love to see Shreve's writing applied to more realistic, lively characters. I didn't shed tears, as some say they did - I wasn't that much in love with the characters - but I did find myself very wrapped up in the story and reading quickly to find out if they would be discovered.

It was kind of like 'A Farewell To Arms'...only with characters that weren't quite so endearing.

Elizabeth (Alaska) says

Plot-driven novels are generally quicker reads than character-driven ones. Overall, they have less to offer.

Still, I found the WWII setting in Belgium enough different from my normal fare to be interesting. An American plane crashes in a Belgian pasture and the survivors are quickly hidden by the Resistance and moved to safety. As one might expect, one fellow was a bit more seriously injured than the others and had to remain in the small village for a few short weeks to heal and recuperate.

It's been some time since I've read Anita Shreve. Snobbishly, I'll say that in many ways I've outgrown her. But I'm also glad to have been reminded that she can be perfectly enjoyable and that she can continue to have the occasional spot in my reading. I see some of the titles on the Readers Also Enjoyed section for this are what appear to be sleazy romances. If they are, I don't think this fits with those, although there is a romance.

It was a decent story. Her prose may not be superb, but it's good enough and will stand well over time. This isn't entirely devoid of characterization, but that aspect wasn't the point, I thought. This probably sits right at the line between 3- and 4-stars, but I enjoyed it enough to give it the higher rating.

Charly says

Another engrossing work by Shreve that kept the pages turning. Perhaps less complex than some of her work but twists up to the end. Shreve is not going to brighten your day with an up-beat novel in this one, but as usual she brightens it with a well written entertaining work. For the most part you like her work or not.

As an aside, I seem to have drifted into a bit of a WWII resistance genre this year without consciously planning it that way.

Connie says

An American B-17 bomber makes a crash landing into a field in a Belgian village during the Nazi occupation. Resistance workers hide the wounded airmen in homes in the village. Claire Daussois nurses the pilot, Ted Brice, back to health in the attic of the house she shares with her husband. A passionate relationship develops between Claire and the pilot, giving them a few weeks of happiness in a terrifying world. Meanwhile, the Nazis are carrying out reprisals against the villagers. There are some villagers who are cooperating with the Nazis, so the Resistance workers do not know who they can trust.

There were good descriptions of the bombing mission, the Belgian village, life on the farm, and the dangerous work of the Resistance workers. This was both a love story and a tribute to the courageous people during World War II. There was one incident when Claire and Ted ventured out of the house to a public place because Ted wanted to feel "as if there were not a war, and they were just a normal couple" that seemed very unrealistic considering the danger. But overall, the story seemed plausible and kept my interest.

Mary says

Set in a Belgian village during World War II, Claire Daussois is struggling to keep her marriage alive amidst severe depletions in her Nazi-occupied village. All the happiness and joy seems to have bled out of her marriage. She and her husband have been sheltering refugees from the war - Allied pilots, fleeing Belgian soldiers and Jews are among some of the people they help.

Claire nurses the wounded, acts as interpreter and waits anxiously for the war to end. One day, when Henri, her husband is doing Resistance work, Claire discovers a downed American B-17 Bomber and a young boy turns to her for help in nursing the injured pilot. As the pilot Ted Brice recovers in Claire's attic, she awakens to the possibility of love. For twenty days, Claire and Ted are sheltered until the war returns with shocking suddenness leaving them with haunting memories of their time together.

I really enjoyed this book, even though it was extremely sad. I give this book an A+!

Diana says

Claire Daussois is a woman trapped in a troubled marriage to someone she doesn't love. Living on a small farm in Belgium, they are in the center of activity of WWII. Claire and her husband, Henri, shelter people hiding from the Nazi troops. The Germans have taken most of the living supplies out of the town and yet they keep looking for more. An American plane goes down near the town. A school boy rescues the pilot of the plane and he ends up at Claire's shelter. Claire nurses him and when he is better, he gets transferred to another place. During his time with Claire, Ted Brice falls in love with Claire and she with him. However, Claire's husband discovers this.

There is so much tension in the lives of these people and everyone worries about their lives ending at any time. They see others in their village killed and worry about who is next.

With Claire's husband being so aloof and gone much of the time, you can easily see how she would fall in love with Ted.

People who help others during war time are to be greatly admired and Claire is no exception.

Elin says

Probably closer to 3 stars, but I read it after having read several other WWII books, and it pales in comparison to *The Nightingale*, etc

Florence says

A monument is being dedicated in Belgium to the crew of an Allied plane that was downed during World War II. This event is a connection to a brutal past. A small village endured the Nazi occupation. Extreme conditions brought out the best and the worst in the local population. Danger and desperation worked as an aphrodisiac for one ill-fated couple. A poignant and painful tale.

Rubi says

Waste of time. Too mushy. I only bought this because Borders was selling it for like a dollar. Now I know why!

Helena says

While Anita Shreve does a wonderful job capturing life in a small Belgian town during the occupation, certain elements of the main story line made me groan. After a horrifyingly well-drawn picture of the Retributions that would occur to instill fear in the locals in which several prominent members of the town are hanged (one, ironically, from his own balcony), the love story between Claire, the local Resistance fighter, and Ted, the downed American pilot, continues unhindered. At one point, Ted suggests that they go out in public in some semblance of a normal "date" - despite the terrifyingly non-normal times in which they find themselves. Admittedly and thankfully, I've never lived through anything even remotely close to Nazi-occupied Belgium, but I feel my response to such a psychotic idea would be something along the lines of, "You know what, honey, now's not the best time." Instead, Claire takes the truck (which they aren't supposed to have) uses gasoline (very rare) to go to a neighboring town so they can have coffee in a local cafe. Hello, worst-idea-since-the-conception-of-eugenics. At that point, it was clear that romance rather than reality was key to the story. After such a strong and chilling start, this was a big disappointment.

Maya says

It's really too bad I can't give this zero stars. It's probably one of the worst, most cliché books I have ever read. Stay away from it!

Kirsty says

This was my choice for Belgium in my Around the World in 80 Books challenge. I love reading about the resistance movement during the Second World War, which is what Anita Shreve's *Resistance* largely concerns itself with. I was a little sceptical, as I have not been a great fan of Shreve's writing in the past due to its simplicity and detachment. These criticisms worked well with the ensuing storyline here, however, becoming almost qualities of the novel; they are just right for capturing the battle scenes, it seems.

Resistance, whilst still not a favourite of mine, was a lot more engaging than I was expecting. Shreve does a good job of highlighting the bravery of ordinary people during World War Two, and the ways in which they made so much difference to lives. *Resistance* kept me engaged for the most part, but it is certainly fair to say that it follows quite a lot of clichés. The ending was really quite terrible, and I feel it really let the whole down.

Mary says

Anita Shreve's books are all so different but written in a way that instantly grabs you.

This one is set in WW2 in occupied Belgium.

Ted an American pilot's plane has crashed.

A very moving story of the harsh realities of war.

Claire's husband Henri is a member of the resistance.

Young Jean finds the injured pilot and brings him to Claire who hides him in their loft.

I loved this book and so didn't want it to end.

Sadly told and heart wrenching.

Nancy says

Oh my God.

Just...

Oh my God.

Words can't even express how incredible this book was.

You all need to go out and read it.

Like now.

Full review to come.

OH. MY. GOSH.

I knew, going into this book, that it would be emotional. Most books set during world wars are, and as someone who's experienced Anita Shreve's work before, I knew how capable she is of ripping your heart out and stomping on it.

But I didn't expect this.

This was most definitely a character-driven story, and the characters were so well developed that they genuinely felt like real people. Even with a small cast of characters, I fell in love with each of them and became completely engrossed in their stories. Claire was a brilliant main characters; very realistic and very relatable. Nothing felt forced with her, and I could totally believe that her thoughts and actions were ones that a woman living in Nazi-occupied Belgium would think and feel. I really admired her bravery; It was always apparent that the resistance work being done by her and Henry was being done primarily because it was what she wanted to do, and because she was brave enough to fight against the Germans from within. To everyone ragging on her because she had an affair: get over yourselves. She and Henri did not have a happy marriage, that is very obvious, and if she wasn't happy then she didn't have an obligation to stay with him. Claire loved Ted, he loved her, and nothing else should matter.

Speaking of Ted, I really liked him as well. He provided a bit of lightness to a very dark story and had a cheerful, lighthearted personality that I could definitely appreciate. I loved getting to know his backstory and learning about his life in America and the early stages of the war, and I really feel like that allowed us to see what life must have been like for American soldiers: one minute living a perfectly normal life, the next thrown into war.

Jean! He was adorable; I completely loved him and would have loved to know more. He was so young but he managed to be just as brave as some of the Resistance soldiers, sometimes even more so because he was also facing his father. I think he represents a lot about children during WWII; children who lost their innocence very young and were forced to grow up too quickly.

I could read an entire separate book about Emilie, Leon, Anthoine, Madame Dinant and the other Resistance soldiers. There was so much bravery there and so much character that was unexplored, and I would have loved to know each of their stories: how they got involved in the Resistance, backstories and points of view, their fates in the end...

The way that the war itself was handled was phenomenal. It was very eerie to see plane crashes, torture,

reparations and imprisonment being handled so normally, as if they happened every day, but in this world, they probably did. The townspeople handled these events very believably- with horror and fear, yes, but also with the expectation because they knew that these things happened.

And the ending...

I had expected tragic and for gods' sake, that's what we got. I hadn't expected (view spoiler)

Lisa says

Belgium in the Second World War. My grandmother was Flemish, and it never even occurred to me that she and her family lived through the war in occupied territory. I approached this book as a window onto my own blurry family history, and this personal connection to the subject matter drew me in. Belgian collaborators, Belgian resistance fighters, Belgian children caught in the middle, and every one of them changed forever. What I would give to sit my grandmother down and have a chat with her over a good, strong beer. Sadly, we never met.

The war is the backdrop to the story Anita Shreve wants to tell which, according to the blurb on the back, is one of "impossible love" and "forbidden passions". I would mark this as a spoiler if it weren't scrawled across every summary, since those "forbidden passions" graciously aren't ignited until the second half of the novel. Romance is not my usual genre, so forgive me for admitting that I didn't have the stomach for the long descriptions of shapely mouths and gratuitously long looks where reams of meaning leap through the universe and lock their souls together. The characters seemed like cartoon shadows of themselves, stumbling along a predictable story line riddled with improbable events. There is a constant narration of their (simple) thoughts that smacks of lazy writing. I want an author to *show* me what they're thinking, I want to *feel* the novel seeping through my pores, I want the ideas to leap off the page at me and send my mind reeling. But alas, this is not great literature.

A vaguely satisfying but ultimately forgettable literary bag of chips that I ate compulsively even as my lips started to smart at the excessive salt and my stomach yawned at the lack of substance.

Patricia Williams says

I was surprised at how much I loved this book once I had finished it. It is a wonderful love story. It is in the beginning a typical World War II story, pilots crashes plane, found by local people, hidden from the Germans as long as they can. But then the love story begins and it is such a sweet and wonderful story. It makes you feel good and although it does not have a happy ending for the two main characters, I was happy with how the story ended and it made me feel good. I started this book after the passing of Anita Shreve. I have read a lot of her books and enjoyed them all, some better than others. This was the only book I had of hers that I had not read, so decided to read it in honor of her memory. I was then pleasantly surprised at how much I loved this story. Definitely recommend.

Danielle says

This book takes place during WWII in Belgium. An American pilot goes down in his plane while trying to bomb Germany. He is rescued by a group of resisters in the small town where his plane crashes. I found the book pretty boring, and I didn't really see why I was supposed to care about any of the characters. If it hadn't been really short I don't think I would have bothered finishing it.

Kris says

I like Anita Shreve's books. I enjoy her writing style. This book was sad, no happy endings for anyone.

Connie says

I have never read Anita Shreve before, but I will again. The story is set during WWII, in Belgium, during the German occupation. Her story is vivid. I could picture pretty much everything that happened. There is joy, sadness and fear throughout the story. Worth the read.
