



The Diplomat's Wife

Pam Jenoff

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*How have I been lucky enough to come here, to be alive, when so many others are not? I should have died....
But I am here.*

1945. Surviving the brutality of a Nazi prison camp, Marta Nederman is lucky to have escaped with her life. Recovering from the horror, she meets Paul, an American soldier who gives her hope of a happier future. But their plans to meet in London are dashed when Paul's plane crashes.

Devastated and pregnant, Marta marries Simon, a caring British diplomat, and glimpses the joy that home and family can bring. But her happiness is threatened when she learns of a Communist spy in British intelligence, and that the one person who can expose the traitor is connected to her past.

The Diplomat's Wife Details

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From Reader Review The Diplomat's Wife for online ebook

Christina says

The Diplomat's Wife is a sequel to The Kommandant's Girl, but the novel follows the life of Marta, a supporting character in the life of Emma. But unlike The Kommandant's Girl, I had a hard time getting into the story or, even, caring about Marta.

I think my lack of sympathy for Marta stems from the fact that The Kommandant's Girl presents her as an unlikeable person. She falls for Emma's husband, although she had no idea Jacob was married, and still cannot let go of him in The Diplomat's Wife, despite having her own Jacob. In addition, Marta comes off as cold in the first book, and I never could warm up to her or get over my distaste for her in the second.

The Diplomat's Wife also reads like a poorly written spy novel, and the idea that Marta would go gallivanting across Soviet-controlled Europe seemed completely unbelievable, although in a way it was more in line with her characterization in the first book. The "operation" is forced at times, and, at others, doesn't make any sense.

On a side note, since this is a semi-sequel to The Kommandant's Wife, I appreciated knowing what happened to Emma. While it wasn't exactly what I had dreamed up, it was nice having a little closure because the ending of the first book was so open-ended.

Colleen says

I read this one because the title caught my eye, and was seriously disappointed. The beginning of the story tracing Marta's ordeal with the Gestapo and her subsequent time in a refugee hospital was by far the best part of the story, but once Paul's plane crashed, both the story and the book headed downhill.

Thought it opened strongly, the book never really took off for me- neither of the two big shockers were at all surprising to me because they were so telegraphed ahead of time (though knowing they were coming didn't make them any more realistic or believable...) The book had potential, but I feel like it just glossed over the issues it raised, and I never really connected with any of the characters. I certainly won't be rushing out to pick up the Kommandant's Girl because I fear it will be an equally shallow treatment of a potentially interesting story.

Leslie says

So this book is the follow up to The Kommandant's Girl but I didn't realize this until I started reading it. It takes one of the supportive characters from the first book and then tells her story as the war ends. Loved it! Lately I have really been intrigued with this period of time in history. Again, just like the first book, I stayed up until the wee hours of the morning to finish it, but I will say there are events that are a little too far fetched. Even so I would highly recommend this book. Love the ending but my heart broke as you learned the outcome of the character from the first book. The character from the second book experienced more pain and suffering repeatedly than I can imagine but also was allowed a break once in awhile, a "sweep you off your feet and knock you out" romance and in the end became a strong, powerful, successful woman. Girl power!

Jenny says

I liked this book.

It was exciting (most of the time). It had a nice pace (most of the time). It held my attention, except on those few occasions when a word or a smell or a rock would send my mind drifting back through time, and I would recall the time I hid in a cave with Peeta. But I knew I mustn't think of him, and I would throw myself back into the book at hand.

I loved the setting, both historically and geographically. I liked hearing the stories from Marta's time working with the resistance, and of Jacob and Emma. I wish I would have read book one first, because that setting sounds even more exciting and interesting.

The plot twists were deliciously unlikely, almost campy ("I heard a familiar voice. But, no. It couldn't be... I slowly turn around/lift my head/search the crowd/walk around the corner.

Paul?/Charles?/Emma?/Simon?/Dava? It can't be!") HOWEVER, I found myself enjoying the tangled plot and watching as it all came together nicely at the end.

As a love story, it fell short, I'm afraid. Marta and Paul's relationship felt two-dimensional and artificial. I found myself more interested Marta and Simon's more complicated relationship, and hoping that they would fall in love (that was before he tried to kill her of course). But at least there was an interesting tension between Marta and Simon. With Paul, it was surprisingly easy. The author just told us they were instantly in love, without really showing us how or why that happened.

As a suspense, I very much enjoyed it. In fact, I was happy reading about Marta going along on her own in Prague and Germany, and when Paul showed up out of nowhere, I was almost disappointed.

While I was reading it, I could not stop thinking about two old movies from my childhood. Ones that I loved and watched over and over. The first is *Shining Through*, a 1992 movie starring Melanie Griffith and Michael Douglas. You should rent it if you haven't seen it. It's a spy/romantic drama movie set in the same era. The second movie is *American Dreamer*, from 1985. It's a suspense/comedy, hil-air-i-ous, and gave us such lines as "Rebecca Ryan slowly unbuttoned her blouse." and "I told you I always get my man ... even when he's a woman!"

Thanks for picking it Cristin!

Interesting facts I got from my Kindle.

This phrase:

"Wait here." <--was in there 23 times

And this phrase:

"I don't understand." <--was in there 52 times

Erin says

A sequel to *The Kommandant's Girl* which follows Marta, a friend of Emma's, a Resistance fighter who is imprisoned by the Gestapo and soon rescued by an American soldier, Paul. Marta is soon put in an Austrian

refugee camp so that she can recover from her injuries and she soon meets up with the dashing American soldier that rescued her. Paul and Marta agree to meet in England and then sail to America. However, Paul never arrives and Marta's life takes a different path than what is planned. Years later, Marta's Resistance training is once again needed by her adopted nation and what she finds brings feelings long ago suppressed.

Pam Jenoff presents another thrilling wartime page turner.

Karen says

This is another book I picked up because of the cover. Also it's set in post-WW2 Europe, a subject I've immersed myself in. This plot has more holes, completely implausible twists, and bad comic book-esque dialogue than some fan fiction I've read. (Sample of actual dialogue: "Thank you, she said." "No, thank you.") Another nitpick: despite the characters coming from different parts of the globe (Poland, England, US, etc.) they all "talk" the same. Characters are supposed to have different voices. A refugee from Poland should not use the same language and syntax as a well-educated Briton. Gah!

Dawn says

Such a great story. The characters were likable. The story sucked me right in. A little bit love story, a little bit spy mission. I got a sneaking sense, fairly early on, about a key factor in the story, which proved correct, but there were at least two twists I never saw coming. This book was easy to read, difficult to put down, sad to see end, and successfully immersed me so well in the story, I would find myself trying to read faster and faster during some the more intense scenes.

Harmonyofbooks says

"Yüzük harika," diye yanıtladı. "Yalnızca her şey o kadar şeradan ki. Muhteşem, kusursuz bir şeradanlıkta."

"Aksine ben," diye yanıtladı. Saçma geriye atıp alınma bir öpücük kondurarak, "bir günümüzün bile şeradan geçeceğinden üşpeliyim."

4,5/5???

Herhangi bir beklentim olmadıkça halde beni büyük bir beşeniyle karışlayan kitaplara bayılıyorrum ve kendisi de onlardan biri oldu. Kilemeden oluşan serinin ilk kitabı olan Kumandanın A???'nı okumamıştım ve bu yüzden ikinci kitabı tek okursam kurguda her şeyi anlamam konusunda bir şeyler eksik kalırmı diye kafa yoruyordum. Her ne kadar ikinci kitabın ilki okunmadan okunabileceğini öğrensem de yine de eksik bir şeyler olmaz diye umut ediyordum. Kitabın başlangıcında Marta'nın hücrede çektiği işkencelere ve oradan kurtulmasını okuyoruz. Neden bu işkenceye maruz kaldıkça üzerinden anlatılsa da başta tam olarak geçmişteleri yaananları bilmiyoruz. Onu kurtaran asker Paul'e neredeyse ilk görüşte aşk oluyor. Sonrasında iyileşme sürecini, edindiği dostlukları ve Paul'le tekrar karşılaşmalarında aralarında filizlenen tatlı aşk hikayesini okuyoruz ama aslında böyle bir hisse kaplıyorsunuz. Okuduğunuz çou geliştirmeye boşa yazılmı gibi geliyor çünkü kitabın arka kapağında Paul'un tam evlenme kararı aldığından sonra bindiği uçak dümesi sonucu öldüğünü okuyoruz. Yani kitabın arka kapağında ilk yüz sayfada yaananların aşırı bir hüzne varacağına habercisi niteliğinde. Paul'un bebeğiyle ne yapacağını bilemeyen ve üzüntüden kahrolan Marta ise kısa bir süre sonra ona işteklifinin ardından evlenme teklifi eden diplomat Simon ile evleniyor. Buraya kadar her şey detaylı bir anlatıma sahipken Simon ve Marta'nın evliliğinin

geçen iki senesi neredeyse birkaç paragrafa s??d?r?l?yor. Bu aceleci yaz?m stili elbette beni rahats?z etti. As?l ana konunun ba? gösterdi?i k?s?msa Marta'n?n eski ba?lant?lar? sayesinde tehlikeli bir göreve at?lmas?yla ba?l?yor. Bundan sonras?nda kitap heyecanlı? ve sayfalar?n elimden akt??? bir ak?c?l?kla devam etti. Son yüz sayfa ise beklemedi?im bir ?ekilde harika ilerledi. Özellikle son bölümlerde ortaya ç?kan s?rlar beni ?a?k?nl??a u?ratt?. ?lk kitaptaki ana karakter Emma'n?n ya?ad?klar?na da k?sa bir özetle ikinci kitab?n sonlar?na do?ru de?iniyoruz. Böylece iki en yak?n arkada??n?n yollar?n?n nas?l birle?ti?ini, birbirlerinin hayatlar?n? nas?l kurtard?klar?n? detayl?ca okumu? oluyoruz. ?çerdi?i a?k hikayesiyle harika güzellikte bir kitapt?. Bunun yan? s?ra ortaya ç?kard??? ummad?k s?rlar, o zaman?n tarihinin havas?n?n kitaba yans?t?lmas? ve kurgunun genel hatlar?yla övgüyü kesinlikle hak eden bir kitapt?. Ayr?ca yazar?n bu serisi sadece iki kitaptan olu?uyor. Umar?m di?er romanlar? da bir an önce dilimize kazand?r?l?r. Size de can? gönülden okuman?z? öneririm..

ba says

I have no recollection of how this book ended up on my Nook. Presumably it was a free or heavily discounted promo. Regardless, I read it in its entirety. I found it to be towards the international thriller end of the bodice-ripper to international thriller axis. It was an easy read, and quite enjoyable. It was the sort of book one would buy at the airport and read on the plane, or find on the coffee table of the house when one is cat sitting.

At the end, I came to realize that there had been at least one previous book in the series, but that in no way diminished my enjoyment of the story.

Amanda Tuinstra says

recensie volgt op mijn blog

Jean says

The author looks like she's twelve and she writes like it too...the premise is interesting but it is soooo predictable. They meet, they part, they meet perchance again, they get caught in the rain, they take shelter in the garden shed, they kiss, they share a blanket and shiver, they have sex, they part, ...you get the picture! I know some loved it but I found it really poorly written.

HÜLYA says

Serinin ikinci kitabı..Bu kitabı da çok severek okudum..Hatta epeyce de heyecanlıydı..Birinci kitaptan tanıdığımız Marta'nın hikayesi idi. Önceki seruvende Emma'nın hayatını kurtararak Nazilerin eline düşüp Gordugu iskencelerden olmayı dileyecek kadar acı çekiyordu.Ol ek üzere iken bir Amerikalı asker hayatını kurtarır...O asker hayatının a?k? olacaktır....

Ancak yasanacak cok macera vardir..
Ask, macera , casusluk , temalarinda guzel ve farkli bir roman..
Yazarin kalemini sevdim...Devam edecegim....

Dani says

Another WWII book, that was amazing. I truly wish this book is made into a movie. It was very well written, and it got your attention right at the beginning. The last 100 pages had my up until 2am, biting my nails while finishing it. Although, I did predict a key part of it, there were still some twists and turns, that I was totally not expecting. A great read!

Trudy says

My friend, Henry and I chose this book strictly because we loved the cover. Henry discovered that it is the colorized version of a New York Penn Station photograph taken for Life Magazine during WW2.

One of the strengths of this book is how it moves from one genre to another.

This book began as historical fiction with a disturbing scene from a women's camp/prison. Admittedly I was ready to abandon it because I'd just finished LILAC GIRLS which dealt with the same subject matter.

Within a few pages, the mood lightened and became a huge romance story. It was all enchantment, flirtation, passion, lite and airy frivolity. Some of the expressions, and all that "burning" and "breathing" were so sappy, I laughed hysterically. Great fun!

Then things became somber at which time it transformed into an action thriller. It was full of international intrigue and suspense and I couldn't stop reading. Suddenly, I was yelling at the characters (yes, aloud) by rooting for the good guys and hissing at the villains. There were several juicy little twists which caught me off guard as well.

WARNING: So, you have to just " read and enjoy" this book. If you analyze the situations, actions of the characters, the coincidences, and the time lines, you just might close the book while exclaiming, "No Way." HOWEVER, don't analyze. Have fun with it and enjoy yourself. I did!

Debbie says

This book is getting a perfect seven star rating from me. What a wonderful way to finish up my 2013 reading challenge! The author *Pam Jenoff* had me hooked when after reading only the first chapter, just the first few pages and I was immediately connected to our main character Marta and brushing tears from my eyes. I would say this is the absolute success of this book. The lightning fast bonding to each character as they were introduced.. you longed to know what would happen next to these people to whom you've quickly formed an attachment. I couldn't put it down. I've owned this book within my personal library for some time and I'm kicking myself for not having read it sooner. It was great!

This is the ultimate fiction book. Even though it technically falls within the Historical fiction genre, that I so

love, I just can't tack on that limitation with this one. The ultimate fiction, it contains within this one novel all the genre's that I enjoy reading: historical, romance, mystery, action, thriller, espionage. This reader seriously couldn't ask for more.

This is the point in a review where I would usually give a little synopsis about the book. I won't. You just **must** read it. I don't want to spoil a single thing for anyone. You must jump right in, feeling everything, meeting the characters and going for this ride. I'll say the synopsis on the jacket of the book gives you a slight peek into what the book is about if you need that information but it doesn't nearly do justice to this novel as a whole. Pick it up, buckle up and I'm sure you won't be sorry at all. Since I'm not giving a synopsis I'll give some adjectives: struggle, love, pain, fear, excitement, curiosity, determination, stubbornness, truth, lies, secrets, surprise. I talked to this book... a lot! I cried with it. I sat with twisted lip & eyebrow raised flanked with suspicion. I reread sections that pleased me. I was even so happy to see a particular character I at one point even put the book down and kicked my feet for several minutes out of extreme excitement! I loved it! (clapping hands)

Yes, I DO recommend this to fiction readers of all kinds. Yes, I most definitely will read more books by this author. Actually, I think *The Kommandant's Girl* may be the prequel to this book as there was a slight alluding to it but this book never made me feel like I needed to go read it first.. although, I now plan to read it. Again, seven perfect stars from me. Bravo to the author. Bravo to the book. Bravo to me for picking it up. Bravo to a happy ending to my reading challenge.
