



The Uninvited

Cat Winters

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Uninvited

Cat Winters

The Uninvited Cat Winters

From the award-winning author of *In the Shadow of Blackbirds* comes a stunning new novel—a masterfully crafted story of love, loss, and second chances. Set during the fear and panic of the Great Influenza of 1918, *The Uninvited* is part gothic ghost-story, part psychological thriller, perfect for those who loved *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield or *The Vanishing* by Wendy Webb.

Twenty-five year old Ivy Rowan rises from her bed after being struck by the flu, only to discover the world has been torn apart in just a few short days.

But Ivy's life-long gift—or curse—remains. For she sees the uninvited ones—ghosts of loved ones who appear to her, unasked, unwelcomed, for they always herald impending death. On that October evening in 1918 she sees the spirit of her grandmother, rocking in her mother's chair. An hour later, she learns her younger brother and father have killed a young German out of retaliation for the death of Ivy's older brother Billy in the Great War.

Horrified, she leaves home, to discover the flu has caused utter panic and the rules governing society have broken down. Ivy is drawn into this new world of jazz, passion, and freedom, where people live for the day, because they could be stricken by nightfall. But as her 'uninvited guests' begin to appear to her more often, she knows her life will be torn apart once more, but Ivy has no inkling of the other-worldly revelations about to unfold.

The Uninvited is an atmospheric, haunting, and utterly compelling novel.

The Uninvited Details

Date : Published August 11th 2015 by William Morrow

ISBN :

Author : Cat Winters

Format : Kindle Edition 368 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fantasy, Paranormal, Fiction, Young Adult, Adult, Romance

 [Download The Uninvited ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Uninvited ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Uninvited Cat Winters

From Reader Review The Uninvited for online ebook

Vanessa J. says

It's 1918. World War I is on the brink of finishing, but that doesn't mean the situation is good or desirable at all. There is an atmosphere filled with hatred towards the Germans in the U.S., and there is the influenza to deal with too, so you see, there's nothing desirable about it.

The women in Ivy Rowan's family have the "ability" of seeing ghosts of dead people. The last ghost she saw was like a premonition of her brother's death – she saw the ghost and not long after, she was noticed her brother was killed – and now she keeps on seeing more of them. Thus, she leaves town and settles in another place, where she meets Daniel Schendel, a German whose brother was killed by Ivy's brother and father.

I admit at first I didn't like Ivy's and Daniel's relationship – it felt like insta-love for me. The more I read, though, the more I actually liked them together. Because they were realistic. Because they had real problems that prevented them of being happy together. Because Daniel was looked like an animal, and Ivy as a whore for spending time with a German.

This brings me to my next point, that is, the atmosphere. You can feel all the hatred and xenophobia floating there. You can see how hard life was for the people being despised just because of their origins. And not only that – it was also the time of the influenza, so it reeked of death and loss as well.

The book might seem very quiet, uneventful and calm, but at the same time, it is very violent and full of tension. For example, Daniel is always worried for his life, and Ivy is too worried for him and herself. There is also the sadness that comes with seeing all the people die not only because of the war but also because of the flu.

I have to praise the writing as well, because it got me completely sucked in from page one, and this surprised me a lot, since I am not the one who enjoys romance in a daily basis. The writing fits perfectly the setting: It is apparently calm, but it is full of sadness, and it was beautiful.

The Uninvited is a novel I really recommend, but don't go thinking it's going to be a paranormal mystery, because it's not. Nonetheless, I thought it was very good. If you're not patient with romance (as I am), I say try to forget about it. I promise it will be worth it. Cat Winters has talent and I will certainly try more of her books.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

4.5 stars

After two literary successes for young adults, the amazing Cat Winters is back with The Uninvited, a breathtaking story about a 25-year-old girl fighting the heavy burden of her family's sins. Winters takes us back to final days of World War I, right in the middle of the 1918 flu pandemic, and although it's not her first foray into that very same time period, The Uninvited stands on its own two feet, beautiful and

incomparable with anything she's done before.

The psychology of war is a dreadful thing. The hate, the whispers, dehumanization, strengthened by very loud and convincing propaganda, combine to create an atmosphere of fear and turn regular people into mindless monsters. Winters' understanding of this phenomenon, of the mass hysteria that is so easily created when people fear for their lives, is profound. Ivy's father is one of those war-made monsters, and so is her 17-year-old brother. After they kill a German business owner in their small town, Ivy leaves home, ridden with guilt, to somehow make things right. For all her innocence, Ivy has a backbone of steel. Her moral compass is impeccable and her bravery is astounding. It takes a great person to swim out of that pool of hate and see things for what they are, and our Ivy manages beautifully. It's not something that happens from one moment to the next, but the process itself is a thing to behold.

The unconventional romance is one of this book's many strengths. Bonded by a terrible tragedy and more guilt than two people should ever carry, Ivy and Daniel find solace in each other, first physically, and then emotionally. It's a long, painful road filled with surprises, but it's one worth taking, even when you're crying your eyes out.

While it doesn't quite reach the literary heights of *In the Shadow of Blackbirds* (then again, I suspect nothing ever will), *The Uninvited* is a flawless story by one of my favorite authors in the world. The magic of Cat Winters is very much alive and it seems to be a gift that just keeps on giving.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

The women in Ivy Rowan's family has always had the gift to see the dead. But the ghost of loved ones always heralds impending death. On an evening in October 1918, 25-year-old Ivy sees granny Letty just for a moment, but an hour later her father and brother killed a man. Ivy then decides to leave the farm and move to the city...

The Uninvited is a book that took me completely by surprise. The cover and blurb made it out to be a much darker story than it was and I was in the beginning disappointed that it just seemed to be about Ivy breaking away from her old life, beginning a new life away from the farm and starting to see the brother of the man her father and brother had killed. Nothing bad with that if that's what your after. It was just not that I wanted. I wanted ghosts and creepiness. I wanted to Ivy to see ghosts, but the only one she seemed to see now and then was Billy, her brother that died in the war. I did enjoy ivy's relationship with Daniel.

But then something happened. I quite enjoyed the story as it was thought that at least it was enjoyable for the moment when **WHAM** everything was turned on its head in a twist I hadn't seen coming and then a page or two later **WHAM** twist number two happened. The book went from good to freaking great in just a couple of pages. I mean the last 20% was brilliant. And the ending was perfect...

It's hard to rate this book since the book, for the most part, were good, but not great, that is until the last 20% when everything just went fantastic. But in the end, I gave it 4 stars and I'm looking forward to reading more from Cat Winter.

Thanks to William Morrow and Edelweiss for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

Melissa Landers says

This was SO, SO GOOD! Set during the first World War and the influenza outbreak of 1918, the novel follows Ivy, a small-town American girl who leaves home for the first time at age 25 after discovering her father and brother have murdered a local German man out of retaliation for her second brother's death during the war. Ivy has always been blessed/cursed with the ability to see the dead, who appear as harbingers to warn of impending tragedy; and with people dying in droves from war and influenza, she's receiving more and more uninvited visitors, leaving her wondering who she's going to lose next.

Yes, the tone is spooky, but at its core, this book is a heartwarming romance about Ivy and a German man named Daniel, who heal each other with compassion, friendship, and eventually love. (Oh, and sex. Lots and lots of sex.) :) I'm not going to reveal too many details, because this is the kind of book that **MUST NOT BE SPOILED**, so when you pick this up, resist the urge to peek at the ending. Take my word for it: the end is perfect! I couldn't have asked for a more fitting outcome for these characters.

Love, love, love this one! Go forth and grab it! With Halloween right around the corner, this would make an excellent October book club selection.

TL says

Reread via audiobook:) Like sinking into a warm bath or visiting an old friend *happy sigh*

Narrator did a wonderful job bringing the characters and atmosphere to life. As well as Daniel's accent:) I was impressed with the way she did all the male voices really.

Still highly recommend!

Original review:

Gorgeous, haunting, beautiful.. I could go on;-)

Sucked in from the first page, we meet Ivy Rowan as she is recovering from the flu epidemic of 1918.. rising out of her sickbed to some troubling news.

*Mama paled. "Are you saying that you and Peter killed a man tonight?"
"No." Father shook his head. "That wasn't a man. He was a German."*

The world just faded away as I read this, every time I put it down for "real life" (Real life, we need to have a talk here) I couldn't stop thinking about these people. I read as fast I could without missing anything.

The ability of the Rowan women was fascinating and I loved how it was an integral part of the story.

I admit I didn't know the full history of how the German people in America were treated during this time period... I knew some facts but not the whole story *hides* I don't blame people for being scared during the war but their actions and what they did....

Ivy and Daniel's romance was sensual, beautiful.

"We were music. We were jazz.

We were alive."

~~~

*"Out there"--he nodded toward the window. "is chaos. In here, it's paradise. We found paradise, Liebling. But you have to keep coming back to get it."*

You can feel the weight of what happened and Daniel's secrets between them but it never overwhelms what they have. It's all there, waiting for the right time to come to the surface. Daniel is determined to keep all that in the dark, to protect Ivy but secrets have a way of coming to the surface and these were no different.

When the truth does come out (view spoiler) It shakes Ivy but she rallies herself after coming to terms with it. She helps a few more along the way as well.

I loved that about her, she's stronger than she realizes and she doesn't back down once her course is set, so to speak.

All of the side characters were fleshed out as well and had interesting personalities, even though I wanted to smack Lucas a few times. The Red Cross gals and May were my favorites though, don't tell the others ;-)

After the big reveal, the story doesn't suffer... the writing is still beautiful and parts of the story made me smile. (view spoiler)

Miss Winters descriptions \*melts\*:

*"The world outside smelled of rain. Beneath the streetlamps the sidewalks glistened with the dampness of a recent drizzle, and the trees dipped and made the world feel a tad cleaner.*

~~

*"The young family resided on the northern edge of the Pettyjohns' farm, near Minter lake, in a white colonial-style house with coal-black shutters framing every window. A cluster of thick, gnarled oak trees with half-bare limbs hung over the roof and scratched at the brick chimney. A swing made from a tractor tire still hung still as stone from one of the thickest branches, above piles of pumpkin-colored leaves."*

(view spoiler)

The ending was wonderful and was a fitting way to end this tale methinks... I wanted to walk in there with them so I wouldn't have to leave these beautiful characters.

There are books that leave you with a feeling of making new friends and being sad to let them go even though you know you'll be visiting them again in the future... that you fall in love with everything about them and the world they inhabit.

Needless to say, this was such a book for me <3

Cat Winters, well done once again hun, I applaud you :). Will definitely be getting the only one of yours I don't have as quickly as possible. Eagerly awaiting whatever you choose to write next \*waves\*

----

Ally's lovely review here

Emily's review here

---

## Medini says

It is 1918, in Buchanan, Illinois.

The world is ravaged by a pandemic of the Spanish Influenza, which seems to be claiming those in the pink of their health: young men, women and children. **The stench of death is thick in the air.** Hospitals are crowded and overflowing with bleeding, puking, dying patients. Town halls and homes are being converted into refuges for the sick.

There's also the war. Young men are forced to enlist in the army as soon as they turn eighteen. The American government, headed by the APL (American Protective League), is encouraging the common folk to take law into their own hands ("**Super-patriotism**"); mobs are lynching Germans, people are assaulting and killing Germans, yet the killers get acquitted. The APL reinforces the horrific xenophobia over and over again through endless propaganda. There's the disposal of German names (*Werner to Willow, Schmidt to Smith, Wilhelm to William*, and so on) and the use of government detainment camps for German-Americans. **It's appalling** .

*'If you celebrate Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, you are celebrating German culture. We will question anyone caught singing or playing enemy music. Influenza or no influenza, we are still fighting Prussian devilry twenty-four hours a day. **Germans- not germs- remain our greatest adversary.**'*

Ivy Rowan, a twenty-five year old piano teacher, recently recovered from the influenza, has a **gift** curse. **She can see the 'Uninvited', the ghosts of dead loved ones** when the wall dividing the living and the dead opens a crack and when someone else is close to their death. She leaves her home after overhearing a shocking conversation between her parents.

*"Are you saying that you and Peter killed a man tonight?"*  
*"No." Father shook his head. "That wasn't a man. He was a German."*

Ivy takes up lodgings in the house of an old acquaintance, May Dover, a war widow and later starts volunteering with the Red Cross to transport sick patients to safe houses. To ease her feeling of guilt and heartache, she reaches out to Daniel, the brother of the German her father killed. After some trepidation initially (understandable), Ivy and Daniel form a strange sort of relationship.

My favorite part would have to be the 'creepy' atmosphere throughout; **darkness, death, violence and bloodshed, punctuated by the welcome bursts of Jazz music, the heady alcohol intoxication and the reckless, passionate romance.** Also, Cat Winters adds an air of authenticity to the environment by including fictional newspaper clippings.

I would have given this book 3 stars but for the 'twist'. Being slightly familiar with Cat Winters' writing (Emmeline in Slasher Girls & Monster Boys), I'd kept my eyes open for them and could guess the first one. (view spoiler). But before I could shout it out from the rooftops, there came a second twist which was so unexpected that my jaw literally dropped! (view spoiler)

This is such a unique, tragic book with a **well-researched historical outline, a true-to-life backdrop of war and sickness, an unlikely romance, loads of sorrow but still manages to wrap everything up with a HEA.**

I really should check out Cat Winters' other books soon!

I didn't know Jazz was this beautiful till I checked out the playlist on Cat Winters' website!

---

### **Elesia says**

Every time I read a book by Cat Winters, I go into it thinking 'yes, I'm sooo ready for a nice historical during World War II!' and I always come out with an emotional kick to my feels. She writes historical so realistic and she holds nothing back, she doesn't glorify what the world was like in 1918 and I so love that.

This book had an amazing setting; America, 1918-racism, illness, jazz music. It's a time when young men are being sent to their deaths in war and everyone is also fighting against the epidemic of the Spanish Influenza. Death was everywhere.

"The world's about to end. I can feel it in the marrow of my bones."

When Ivy's father and brother murder a German man, Ivy flees and tries to rid herself of the guilt she feels by approaching his brother, Daniel. From there, a relationship develops between them, where they both connect through their own pain and through the jazz music that plays across the street.

The only thing is this book didn't have as much of a supernatural aspect as I was expecting. The synopsis leads you to believe the story is mostly about how Ivy can see dead spirits but that's really more in the background. The story is definitely more fixated on the war and the Spanish Influenza and how it impacted people but for me that wasn't a problem, although I wish her seeing spirits had been touched on a bit more!

This book was full of so many things. Cat Winter's writing is beautiful and I love the way she can describe the setting. It had me completely sucked in. This book was painfully eye opening and honest, but beautiful all at the same time. I will definitely be eagerly awaiting Cat Winters next books!

Check out my review on my blog!

---

### **Bonnie says**

*"Some spirits get stuck in the places where they died. [...] Some struggle to complete a task they didn't finish when they were alive. Others, they roam the earth, unsettled, restless, unsure what to do or where they belong. And then there are the lucky ones..."*

In the midst of the final days of World War I, there is no peaceful end in sight in the town of Buchanan, Illinois. The hatred towards Germans continues to grow and the recent outbreak of Spanish influenza has many blaming the Germans for releasing the sickness. Most German residents have been ran out of town, but two brothers who own a furniture business still remain. One night, the violence escalates and one of the brothers ends up murdered.

*“The world’s about to end. I can feel it in the marrow of my bones. I’m worried I’m about to miss out on a few things in life that shouldn’t be missed.”*

Recovering from her own bout of influenza, Ivy sees the ghost of her grandmother only to discover a short while later that her father and brother have killed a young German business-owner. The women of the Rowan family are known for being able to see the ghosts of loved ones, but only when death is imminent. Ivy has remained at home, up until the age of twenty-five, in an attempt to shelter her brothers from their fathers violence. When her older brother Billy enlists and dies in battle, their fathers violence cannot be restrained. This recent act of violence on an innocent human being is enough to compel her to finally leave her childhood home and live her life. She takes up residence with a charismatic war widow by the name of May Dover and begins to drive an ambulance for the Red Cross. Her instincts keep telling her to seek out the surviving brother and do whatever she possibly can to free herself of the guilt her family has brought down upon her shoulders.

*“Out there” – he nodded toward the window – “is chaos. In here, it’s paradise. We found paradise, Liebling. But you have to keep coming back to make it stay.”*

When Ivy Rowan first approaches the furniture shop, she finds Daniel Schendel on his hands and knees scrubbing blood from the floorboards. His attempts to run Ivy off fall on deaf ears but instead their lonely souls find peace with one another. Together the two form the most frenetic of bonds, similar to the jazz music that flows through his bedroom window well into the nighttime. Within the walls of his apartment, they find freedom regardless of their heritage but when Ivy begins to see the ghost of her brother Billy, she begins to fear that the small life she’s built for herself is about to come crumbling down and she worries who around her is about to end up dead.

I could not have been more pleased with this book. Most definitely a new addition to my favorites shelf, The Uninvited is achingly lovely and possesses a most unexpected twist that is both harrowing yet hopeful. While the romance is a major factor in the story, it also touches on the more serious aspects of the time. The racism, the hatred, the narrow-mindedness, the deaths. It accurately portrays the difficulty in adapting to the times, living in a society that forces your hatred of a culture or constantly risking your own loyalties to be put into question. Her role as an ambulance driver makes Ivy a most memorable character and I loved this addition to her fascinating story. Truly a wonderful historical fiction tale with a most interesting dash of paranormal that will delight adult readers and Winters’ existing YA fans.

*I received this book free from Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.*

---

## **Trish says**

*The head makes war, but the heart makes peace and, thankfully, the heart ends up ruling more than not.*

This tale is utterly haunting - not in the way I expected when deciding to read this book, but still in a great way. I thought this would be a creepy ghost story before the backdrop of WWI.

Instead I got a story about a small town in Illinois during WWI that was struck by Influenza and the monstrosities humans do to one another. Creepy in its own way.

It wasn't until the 85% mark that the supernatural element really dominated. In retrospect, however, that wasn't bad. It might not have been the horror story I wanted but the description of that small town, the sickness, the paranoia turning neighbour against neighbour, the discrimination that was almost too silly if it wasn't for the internment camps and personal tragedies, ...

The tragic events afflicting immigrants reminded me of my relatives fleeing to the US before WWI and I'm still wondering if they had to endure such things as well (can't ask them anymore because they are dead). I kind of saw that last part of the ghost story / reveal coming, but the execution was so beautiful, and the overall atmosphere so wonderfully haunting (it reminded me a bit of *The Others*, a horror movie with Nicole Kidman) that it didn't matter at all.

Definitely a strength of this book is the poetry (especially that of Emily Dickinson since I love her work as much as the protagonist) and references to classical music, J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* and, of course, Jazz. The only thing marring my enjoyment of this audio version was the horrible German accent of the narrator (funnily enough, the Polish parts were pronounced better) and some inaccurate German words.

What I positively loved and want to point out especially is that this was not a typical YA book with a girl and, eventually, a boy and sappy love scenes or relationship drama. In fact, the characters could be of any age and it wouldn't make a difference; the relationship between the two protagonists was quite unusual too. Everything about this story was delicate and tasteful and beautiful (mirrored by the way the story was read by Emily Woo Zeller). Strangely, although technically this is a story about loss and death, it is far more a story about how to live (and how important that is), about finding the light.

---

## ?Tash says

*\* Review has minor spoilers \**

**1918**, the last year of the first world war and the first of the Influenza/Spanish flu pandemic that infected hundreds of millions and killed millions. It was a killer of a year and this is when *The Uninvited* happens.

Music teacher Ivy Rowan sees dead people, **The Uninvited** as she calls them. Seeing *The Uninvited* heralds the death of someone significant to Ivy's life. After being struck down by the flu for days, Ivy wakes up to a commotion in their home, her father and youngest brother have killed a young German business owner to avenge the death of Ivy's oldest brother, Billy, in the war. Unable to stomach what her family had done, Ivy packs up and leave for town. There, she learns that the world at war had been upended further by the flu pandemic. Everyone's angry and afraid of being struck and of losing loved ones, they want somebody to blame, so they take all the rage and the fear out on the German immigrants.

*“There is a pain in me. A knife blade”—I balled my hand against my stomach—“wedged in my gut. I want to be rid of it. I want to finally live.”*

The world has gone cray and all Ivy wants to do is to atone for the sins of her family, so she seeks out Daniel Schendel, the brother of the murdered man. She is understandably met with hostility, but after a while, with persistence and some compromise, Ivy and Daniel form a shaky and forbidden relationship built on

desperation for some respite from loneliness and pretense of hope, amid the death and destruction.

*"The head makes war, but the heart makes peace. And thankfully, the heart ends up ruling more than not."*

I've been saying this for months now, my tolerance for romance is very low, so I expected to despise Daniel's and Ivy's insta-lust and inevitable romance, but I do not. Yes, you read that right. I felt the reluctance, the anger, the guilt, the denial and the despair every time they climbed up the stairs to Daniel's apartment, but alone together in that pocket of paradise, everything else fades away. I guess that why the romance in this book worked for me, it's distilled and, it seemed to me, came with an expiration date, what with the deadly flu and anti-German sentiments at their doorsteps.

At the same time, Ivy is drawn to the new make-shift jazz club that grows bigger in attendance with each passing night. She also finds purpose anew when she signs up as a driver for Red Cross, transporting the sick and the dying to hospitals and recovery facilities.

*"Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune without the words,  
And never stops at all..."*

Ivy is finally living the life she'd always wanted, but then The Uninvited starts showing up again, and Ivy is desperate to find out who she will lose this time.

This is the first of the many Cat Winters books I will be reading. I am not a fan of historical fiction, but Cat Winters may have converted me to one. She shows us historical events in micro without diluting the horror and the despair, and deftly weaves supernatural elements to it. Her characters are also well fleshed out but I must point out her brilliance in writing strong, distinguishable female characters in context with the time period, who have positive and mature relationships with each other.

As great as this book turned out to be, I can't help but feel misled by the blurb. I somehow expected the novel to focus on **Ivy's life-long gift**. I kept waiting for her to use her gift but it didn't happen and at some point set the book aside because it dragged on for a bit, thus the 4 stars instead of 5. I persisted because I am the captain of the Ivy-Daniel ship, so naturally I wanted to find out where my ship is headed to, and boy did I find out. I was rewarded for my persistence.

If you got to this part of my rambling, kudos to you for your patience, and if you plan to read The Uninvited, I recommend that you **completely divest yourself of any expectations**, especially if you've read the blurb. My utmost recommendation though is to...

---

**Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says**

Cat Winters is known for her beautifully detailed, creative, and imaginative worlds. Worlds that transport you back in time to another place and more often than not, to something other.

It is for all these reasons that I didn't hesitate to pick up *The Uninvited*. I needed that small taste of the other she is so gifted at creating. I needed the beautiful world I knew she could paint and more than that, I needed something unique, original, and enchanting.

Winter's has an amazing ability to blend history with fiction and give us just a touch of the macabre along with a hint of romance that truly makes her novels stand out and shine.

I love this era. So much happens, good and bad and Winter's managed to show the best and worst of both sides. Prejudices, war, death, sickness, but also love, honor, and women really coming out into the world and taking charge.

I loved Ivy's role in the story. How she didn't stand by and let those around her take charge of her life. She didn't let them lead her around or bully her. She saw what she wanted and she went after it. She helped those that needed it, regardless of color, social standing, gender, or origin. She was strong, determined and I loved her character because of it.

The slight paranormal aspect that Winter's weaved into the storyline gave this just enough of that otherworldliness that I have come to crave from her writing and put enough spin and twist on the story that I truly, didn't see the end coming.

Winter's once again created an imaginative tale that despite it's slow start, had me turning the pages eager for more.

---

## Emily May says

*Mama paled. "Are you saying that you and Peter killed a man tonight?"  
"No." Father shook his head. "That wasn't a man. He was a German."*

## Yet another instance where I pick up a Cat Winters novel and the real world just melts away.

Firstly, you should know that this isn't supposed to be a YA book, unlike Winters' other marvelous works - *In the Shadow of Blackbirds* and *The Cure for Dreaming* - but I do think that all her books have a lot of crossover appeal. The romance is more mature, more sexual, and the characters themselves are in their mid-to-late twenties, but that's where the differences end.

Winters is a master at blending horrifying historical fact with beautifully eerie supernatural elements. This is her second story set in 1918 America, a time when America's young men were sent to their deaths in Europe, and the home front was fighting an entirely different war against the Spanish influenza pandemic. Hospitals were full, untrained young women were performing nurse duties, and the scent of death constantly filled the air.

But *The Uninvited* is also different from Winters' *In the Shadow of Blackbirds* because it tells another story - a dark underside to American life in 1918. In 1918, being "American" was of utmost importance and the American Protective League roamed the streets looking for German sympathizers. German immigrants were often murdered and the police didn't care enough to investigate the crimes. **It was a time of panic, suspicion**

and xenophobia.

*"The world's about to end. I can feel it in the marrow of my bones."*

When Ivy Rowan's father and brother murder a German man, she leaves home and gets taken in by an old acquaintance. Unable to cope with the shame she feels on behalf of her family, she approaches the dead man's brother - Daniel - in an attempt to alleviate her guilt and offer some solace.

From this, their relationship develops. What starts as a means of seeking comfort on both their parts becomes something more. But both Ivy and Daniel must constantly keep looking over their shoulder. The APL is on the warpath and they certainly wouldn't take kindly to a romance between a German man and an American woman.

**It's a sensual, frightening and eye-opening book.** The author once again crafts wonderful female characters and develops complex and humourous relationships between them. It's so strange how the book can be at once a quiet, introspective read and a fast-paced, supernatural adventure through the horrors of history.

I impatiently wait for her next book, adult, YA or otherwise.

Blog | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | Youtube

---

## Navessa says

If I could sum up this book in two words, those words would be haunting and atmospheric.

Winters captures a dark time in American history and humanizes every character. This book is colored in shades of grey and shadowed in darker tones of charcoal and onyx. Not a light read, but one I cannot recommend enough for anyone looking to take a brief break from their usual, favorite genres and read something as unique as it is compelling.

Blog | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | Pinterest

---

## Gabriela says

\*Review en [español](#) en mi *blog*: <https://backstreetbooksblog.wordpress...>

It's been a long time since a historical fiction book (or any book) caused me the feelings "The Uninvited" made me feel. With a beautiful history of World War I seen from the American side, Cat Winters created **one of the best books I ever read.** American nationalism, an epidemic of deadly flu and a "paranormal" touch make this story set during the year of 1918 a book worth reading.

I loved every single second of this book. It perfectly captures the atmosphere that was experienced in the United States during World War I. Nationalism is something that arises in its most radical way during a

period of war, and in the USA the open rejection of the Germans was something that marked the lives of many immigrants from that country who were in America and who were not to blame.

*"Are you saying that you and Peter killed a man tonight?"*

*"No," Father shook his head. "That was not a man. He was a German."*

I enjoy reading books that do not portray Germans as the only bad guys in history. And this book shows that it was not only the people within Europe who suffered the consequences of the War by giving us a clear example of this, with German families that, although far from the conflict, flee and suffer rejection solely by their nationality.

The context of the story is complemented in a wonderful way with each of the secondary characters who fill it: nurses who risk their lives to run an ambulance looking for patients with the flu, widows who lost their husbands in the war, German families displaced by racism, young people to whom the war permanently changed.

Within this beautiful story a romance takes place and I swear it captivated me completely. In the midst of so many bad things happening, the love between the main characters causes you to get involved in a more sentimental way into the story. It is not a romance that feels forced, it is not a cheesy romance and it doesn't feel out of place, it is one in which given the circumstances in which it occurs is strong, passionate and beautiful.

The ending ... **just perfect.** I can not say anything else without ruining the story and I could not forgive myself if I ruined this wonderful book for someone. All I will say is that it left me breathless, literally, without air. Highly recommended book!

---

## **Vishakha ~ ReadingSpren ~ says**

Thank you so much Saanchi for recommending this wonderful book. (her review)

The Uninvited is set in America during World War I when the infamous 1918 influenza pandemic hit the country. Its an era of jazz, fear, death, romance and xenophobia.

*Mama paled. "Are you saying that you and Peter killed a man tonight?"*

*"No." Father shook his head.*

*"That wasn't a man. He was a German."*

Ivy is an all-American girl in her mid-twenties (considered too old for a girl to be unmarried during that time) who has just lost one of her brothers to war. Her father and the remaining brother have murdered a local German shopkeeper in anger and grief. Not able to digest such meaningless violence, Ivy decides its time to leave her parents' house and live life on her own.

Lot of things happen to her. She starts sharing room with a young widow. She starts helping two Red Cross nurses in driving around an ambulance to pick up Influenza victims. She starts falling in love with the murdered German's brother, Daniel. During a time, when even playing German music is considered an unpatriotic act, sharing a bed with one definitely makes her a target for the more aggressive patriots.

Her town is polluted with hatred, disease, death and repercussions of war. Her heart is gripped by guilt and fear. Her soul is revelling in jazz music and uninhibited love-making.

*“Ach.” He reached out and tucked a stray strand of my hair behind my ear. “Du begehrt mich.”*

*“Ach. You desire Me.”*

The music, in fact, plays a very important role in this book. I suggest anyone reading this book, should do so while listening to the soundtracks mentioned in the book. Both Daniel and Ivy share a deep connection through their love of music.

Here are some YouTube links I found while reading, all of them mentioned by the characters:

Gun-Cotton Rag by Merle Von Hagen  
SLIPPERY HANK by Earl Fuller's Famous Jazz Band  
Jelly Rolls Blue by Ferd Morton  
Tiger Rag by Original Dixieland Jas Band  
Joe Turner Blues by Wilbur Sweatman  
I'm Sorry I Made You Cry by Henry Burr  
Last Night was the End of the World by Henry Burr

I have never listened to Jazz or Ragtime much, but after this book I have become a fan of these genres. Its sensual, glamorous, romantic, soothing and haunting; just like this novel.

The fact that Ivy can see spirits of her deceased loved ones gives a beautiful horror undertone to the story. Reading this book was scary in both the normal and paranormal sense.

The research done is extensive and deep. I read about many of the historical occurrences in Wikipedia that are mentioned in the story and its amazing how Miss Winters has brought together reality and fiction. She truly brought 1918 Illinois to life and when I finished the last chapter I had to remind myself who I was and where I was. If this doesn't prove that Cat Winters is an amazing story-teller then I don't know what will.

---