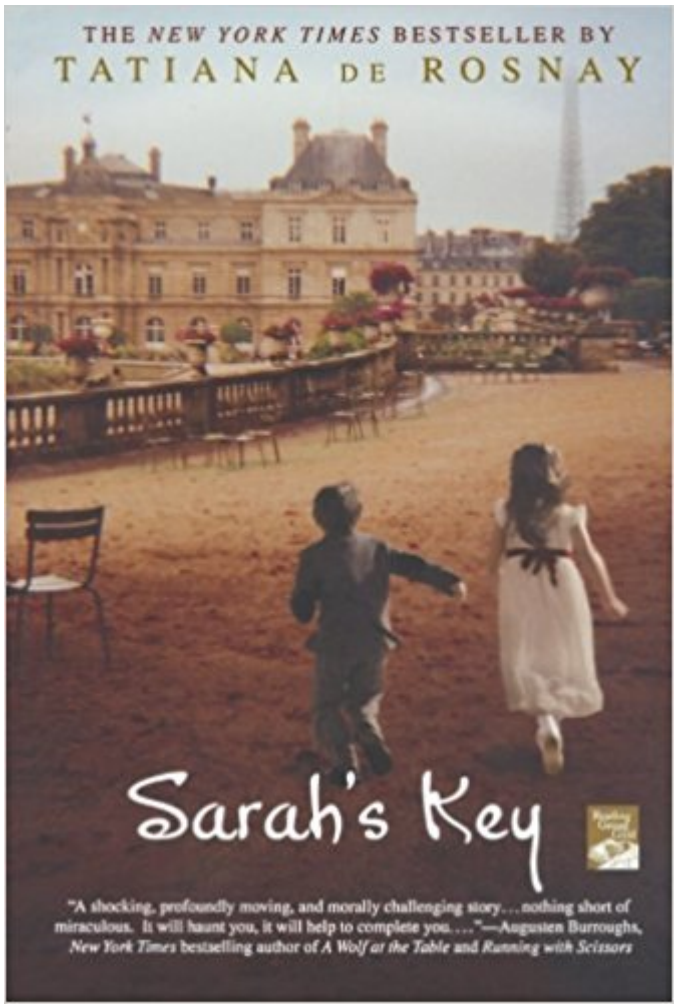
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Sarah's Key



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Synopsis

Paris, July 1942: Sarah, a ten year-old girl, is brutally arrested with her family by the French police in the VelÃ¢â ¬â„¢ dÃ¢â ¬â„¢HivÃ¢â ¬â„¢ roundup, but not before she locks her younger brother in a cupboard in the family's apartment, thinking that she will be back within a few hours.Paris, May 2002: On VelÃ¢â ¬â„¢ dÃ¢â ¬â„¢HivÃ¢â ¬â„¢s 60th anniversary, journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this black day in France's past. Through her contemporary investigation, she stumbles onto a trail of long-hidden family secrets that connect her toÃ Â Sarah. Julia finds herself compelled to retrace the girl's ordeal, from that terrible term in the Vel d'Hiv', to the camps, and beyond. As she probes into Sarah's past, she begins toÃ Â question her own place in France, and to reevaluate her marriage and her life. Tatiana de Rosnay offers us a brilliantly subtle, compelling portrait of France under occupation and reveals the taboos and silence that surround this painful episode.

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. In the summer of 1942, the French police arrested thousands of Jewish families and held them outside of Paris before shipping them off to Auschwitz. On the 60th anniversary of the roundups, an expatriate American journalist covering the atrocities discovers a personal connectionÃ¢â ¬â •her apartment was formerly occupied by one such family. She resolves to find out what happened to Sarah, the 10-year-old daughter, who was the only family member to survive. The story is heart-wrenching, and Polly Stone gives an excellent performance, keeping a low-key

tone through descriptions of horror that would elicit excessive dramatics from a less talented performer. Her characters are easy to differentiate, and her French accent is convincing. De Rosnay's novel is captivating, and the powerful narration gives it even greater impact. A St. Martin's hardcover. (June) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ã¢â ¬Å"This is a remarkable historical novel, a book which brings to light a disturbing and deliberately hidden aspect of French behavior towards Jews during World War II. Like Sophie's Choice, it's a book that impresses itself upon one's heart and soul forever.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Naomi Ragen, author of The Saturday Wife and The CovenantÃ¢â ¬Å"Sarah's Key unlocks the star crossed, heart thumping story of an American journalist in Paris and the 60-year-old secret that could destroy her marriage. This book will stay on your mind long after it's back on the shelf.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Risa Miller, author of Welcome to Heavenly Heights

We all know (or should know) of how the Jewish people were tortured, murdered and worse by Hitler a mere 70 years ago. Although there wasn't a lot said about it in my 1970's History classes, we did learn a bit about that horrible time and that it was the Germans who perpetrated the crimes. Sarah's Key has revealed to me the far reaching extent of the Hitler atrocities. Set in France after they surrendered to Hitler's army, Sarah's Key is a touching story about a true tragedy, adding details that I had not previously known of how Jews and others were mistreated, about how much further than Germany the Nazi monster's influence reached. The story tells of how one young girl never got past the loss caused by her innocent, lovingly performed act which ended in a way she would have never dreamed possible, an innocent act of love that went oh, so horribly wrong and haunted her for the rest of her life. Well-written, with prose that translates well into visuals in your mind, Sarah's Key will appeal to all of humanity. It recreates, through the eyes of a survivor, one of the terrors of human history that we should never be allowed to forget. I am glad that I read it.

I do believe this is one of the best books I've read, or at least, the first in a looong time that has had me carrying the book with me wherever I went, on the chance I could read a few more pages. It was very hard to put down! Even if I hadn't studied French for five years and made several trips to France, I would have loved it. That was just like a little icing on the cake. Despite my knowledge of French history, like Julia, I was not aware of Vel'd'Hiv. What a travesty! And how marvelous is it that we have authors like Ms de Rosnay to enlighten us and bring it to the forefront.I have since learned

that there was a movie made of this story. I wasn't even aware of the book until recommended it to me. Thank you, !

This novel tells the heart wrenching tale of a ten year old girl, Sara, thrust into the horrors of the Holocaust as discovered by an American journalist, Julia, living in Paris. The novel moves between the years 1942 and 2002. Julia, the American journalist, her Architect husband and daughter have inherited the apartment from which Sara and her family were forcefully taken during the Vel' d'Hiv', the round-up of French Jewish citizens by their own countryman. Julia becomes haunted by Sara's story and her determination to find her becomes intertwined with her own personal issues and challenges. The novel moves along quickly (I hated putting it down when life intervened) to a satisfying and heartfelt conclusion.

Read this in one setting and enjoyed it! It goes back and forth between 1942 France when a little Jewish girl and her parents are taken away from their home by the French police and sent to different camps. The little girl is insistent about escaping for a very urgent reason that the entire story is based upon. There's also the alternating more present-day story of an American journalist who lives in France with her French husband and her little girl. She's given an assignment to do a story of the rounding up of Jewish families by the French police on July 16, 1942, which led to the almost immediate deaths of several thousands of Jews, including nearly 4,000 children.I love historical fiction during this time period, so I especially found that part of the story interesting, although I found it incredibly annoying that the author refused to state the name of the little girl until page 118, and that was only a nickname. Her true name and that of her family members was not given until page 132. I was also unhappy with the abortion "dilemma" in the present-day story, the spinelessness of the wife who would even consider killing her unborn child because her husband was a pompous, self-centered, egomaniac who claimed he didn't want to be an old dad (boo hoo) and insisted that she get rid of the baby or he was leaving. Good riddance! Thankfully she finally came to her senses and made the right choice, but that should have been a no-brainer. You can't very well complain about the French or the Germans killing innocent Jewish children and then kill your own baby to pacify your husband, can you?I appreciated the "closure" in the end, but found the phony "romance" thing between the journalist and a member of the Jewish girl's family to be very contrived and unbelievable. I think the author is a very good story teller and could be great! I enjoyed the book very much and give it 4-1/2 stars.

Another favorite novel, which I gifted. The interwoven story of Sarah, a young Jewish girl, and Julia Jarmond, an American journalist living in Paris. Set in Paris in 1942 and 2002, the story is told of Jewish family sent by the French ultimately to Auschwitz. As they are rounded up, Sarah locks her brother, Michel, in a hidden cupboard with a promise to return for him. Her story is told along with Julia's story of researching the sixtieth anniversary of the tragic events. As Julia's research continues, she becomes obsessed with finding out what happened to Sarah despite the effect it is having on her own family. A stirring, emotional read...mesmerizing, and highly recommended.

Very good read that I didn't want to put down. The reason I gave it a 4 and not 5 stars is there were two parts that didn't explain how it happened and it would have been impossible. I don't want to be specific so not to ruin the read for someone.

Well-crafted story about an American journalist in France investigating a World War II round up of Jewish families in Paris on July 16 and 17th 1942 by the French. As her investigation develops, one story in particular, Sarah's, becomes interwoven with her own life story. Historic facts portions of the story are compelling and sensitive; so much so, that her own life dramas seem trifling by comparison...and makes it hard to feel as much sympathy for her as you should. Nevertheless, it's written well enough that you want to read one more page before you sleep, and maybe makes you call in late/sick to work once. Very satisfying--I'd give it a 3.5

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