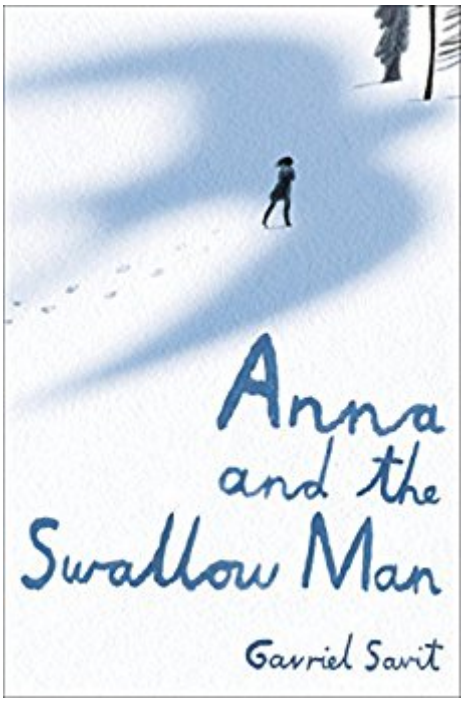
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Anna And The Swallow Man



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Synopsis

A New York TimesÃ Â Bestseller A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year A Shelf AwarenessÃ Â Best Book of the YearA Bulletin Blue Ribbon Book Winner of the Indies Choice Book AwardÃ Â Winner of the Sydney Taylor Book Award "Exquisite." Ã¢â ¬â •The Wall Street Journal"This is masterly storytelling." Ã¢â ¬â •The New York Times Book ReviewA stunning, beautiful, and ambitious debut novel set in Poland during the Second World War perfect for readers of All the Light We Cannot See and The Book Thief. Ã Â KrakÃƒÂ w, 1939. A million marching soldiers and a thousand barking dogs. This is no place to grow up.Ã Â Anna Ã…Â•ania is just seven years old when the Germans take her father, a linguistics professor, during their purge of intellectuals in Poland. SheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s alone. And then Anna meets the Swallow Man.Ã Â He is a mystery, strange and tall, a skilled deceiver with more than a little magic up his sleeve. And when the soldiers in the streets look at him, they see what he wants them to see. The Swallow Man is not AnnaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fatherÃ¢â ¬â •she knows that very wellÃ¢â ¬â •but she also knows that, like her father, heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s in danger of being taken, and like her father, he has a gift for languages: Polish, Russian, German, Yiddish, even Bird. When he summons a bright, beautiful swallow down to his hand to stop her from crying, Anna is entranced. She follows him into the wilderness. Over the course of their travels together, Anna and the Swallow Man will dodge bombs, tame soldiers, and even, despite their better judgment, make a friend. But in a world gone mad, everything can prove dangerous. Even the Swallow Man.Ã Â Ã Â Destined to become a classic, Gavriel SavitÃ¢â ¬â„¢s stunning debut reveals lifeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s hardest lessons while celebrating its miraculous possibilities.

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Customer Reviews

The three central characters draw you in. You soon find yourself caring for them, and will want to know what happens to them after the book ends--but even then you will not be entirely sure what will happen next to either of the two more important ones. Also, for most of the book, you will not be quite sure about the true character of the definitely odd and possibly creepy Swallow Man, and the clues to his real identity can easily be missed. Therefore I would recommend the book mainly for readers who are relatively comfortable with uncertainty, and also like to spend time teasing out deeper meanings rather than just reading for plot.As for those plot readers, they will probably enjoy the way the book draws them on, and will read to the end, but they may feel let down by the uncertainties that remain after they're done.

I bought this blindly because a friend said his book club was going to read it. This is amazing. It presents Poland during WWII from a unique perspective. Anna is indeed precocious at age 7 when the story begins, not just because she speaks 8 languages but the way she studies and understands others. When Anna meets the Swallow Man she has been abandoned, her mother had died previously and her professor father was taken by the Nazis from the university, not because he is Jewish but in a round up of professors, and the "friend" who was looking after her told her not to come back. We learn Swallow Man speaks several languages and that he carries a hidden baby shoe but not much else about his identity or past. Not until the end does the author reveal why the Swallow Man has chosen to walk endlessly through Poland avoiding contact with other humans except for rare, carefully calculated and brief occasions, living mostly off the land, sleeping in fields even in winter. It's a short novel, but one I had to put down periodically to process and fully absorb.

Sometimes I read a book and immediately think, I need to read this again. This is one. This story of how to survive during under unimaginable circumstances, yet maintain a humanity, is an amazing testament to the strength of the spirit. The stories are enhanced by a language poetical in its prose. There were passages and descriptions that I would read again and again, wishing I could commit It to memory. I plan to visit this book again.

I was lucky enough to have my own Swallow Woman in my life, in the form of my grandma. This was such a lovely, sweet, sad and bittersweet story. I found myself near years several times. Anna, Reb Hirschl, and the Swallow Man were incredible characters and, now that I'm finished the book, I'll miss them greatly.

I was able to anticipate the ending well before I got there but couldn't wait to see how it would be revealed. I loved the book. On a par with A Man Called OVI. Another one is The Hundred Year Old Man Who Escapes Out the Window and Disappears. Loved all three of them. They are so unusual and heart warming.

Loved this book. Savit is a master storyteller. I read it through without putting it down.

I've never written a book review before. But I so rarely read a book I really love, in spite of reading constantly. And oh, I loved this one. The story takes a horrific circumstance and turns it into a dark almost-fairy tale of survival. In no way did I feel like this was simply a young adult story though I can see a young adult enjoying it. But it's richer than that and I won't bore you further with my interpretation of the allegory. I will tell you to read it and enjoy it. I hope to find more from this author soon!

Didn't really understand the point of the story. Seems like there was symbolism there that passed me by. Kept waiting for explanation of who the swallow man really was, but it didn't come.

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