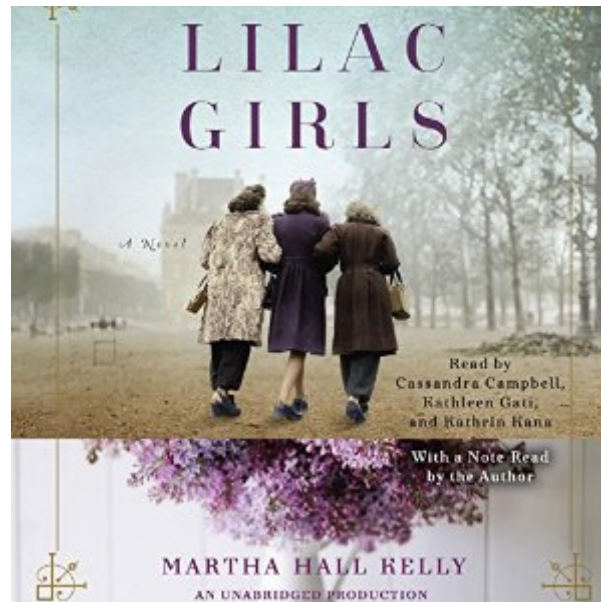


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Lilac Girls: A Novel



Synopsis

Inspired by the life of a real World War II heroine, this powerful debut novel reveals an incredible story of love, redemption, and terrible secrets that were hidden for decades. New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939 - and then sets its sights on France. An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences. For an ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems like her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power. The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens, and Kasia is sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents - from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland - as they strive and sacrifice to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten. In *Lilac Girls*, Martha Hall Kelly has crafted a remarkable novel of unsung women and their quests for love, happiness, and second chances. It is a story that will keep listeners bonded with the characters, searching for the truth, until the final moments.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 17 hours and 30 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: April 5, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01CUK3V76

Best Sellers Rank: #23 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical Fiction
#142 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical #196 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

Customer Reviews

I have strong mixed feelings after reading Martha Hall Kelly's debut historical novel *Lilac Girls*. It took me considerable time to warm to the novel and its characters, but by the time I finished it, I felt pleased with what I'd read. I felt I'd spent my time reading something worthwhile, enjoyable, and uplifting. I was planning to give it a strong four-star rating. But then I read the Author's Notes at the end and did a little investigation into the lives of the real-life characters covered in the book. Unfortunately, the more I read, the more I started to dislike the novel and wish I'd spent my precious time reading something else. Let me explain.

Lilac Girls is a work of historical fiction inspired by the life of a real World War II heroine, Caroline Ferriday. The book focuses in particular on her work (a decade after the close of WWII) to help the surviving Ravensbrück Rabbits. These were a special group of approximately seventy Polish women who survived internment by the Nazis in the Ravensbrück concentration camp. They were special because they had been used in that facility for inhumane medical experimentation. Following the War, they returned to the Poland (which eventually became closed off behind the Iron Curtain); there, they continued to suffer without adequate medical attention for their physical and psychic war wounds. Caroline Ferriday heard about them and spearheaded a philanthropic program (a decade after their release) that was successful in bringing thirty-five of the surviving women to the United States for intense medical and (posttraumatic stress) psychological rehabilitative treatment.

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