



Resistance

Carla Jablonski , Leland Purvis (Illustrator) , Hilary Sycamore (Color)

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Fighting on a secret front of World War II

Paul and Marie's bucolic French country town is almost untouched by the ravages of WWII, but the siblings still live in the shadow of war. Their father is a Prisoner of War, kept hostage by the Germans. When their friend Henri's parents disappear and Henri goes into hiding because of his Jewish ancestry, Paul and Marie realize they must take a stand. But how can they convince the French Resistance that even children can help in their fight against injustice?

Resistance is the first volume of a trilogy written by acclaimed teen author Carla Jablonski and illustrated by Leland Purvis.

Resistance Details

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Author : Carla Jablonski , Leland Purvis (Illustrator) , Hilary Sycamore (Color)

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From Reader Review Resistance for online ebook

Dov Zeller says

I semi-enjoyed this one. I was between a 2 and a 3 in terms of stars. The story and characters lacked depth and the tone was a little strange (forced optimism?) for a story about the resistance. Maybe the author/artist team were trying to make the war kid-friendly? But kids appreciate complexity and this book seems almost condescending sometimes in tone. A lot of potential in terms of characters and storyline for a book that is meaningful, challenging, emotionally engaging and funny, too, if that is what the artists are going for. I am curious if and how the next book in this series will deepen the story.

Malbadeen says

yadda, yadda, yadda, blah, blah, blah, authors note, blah, blah, "didactic" by some and yet, and so on and so on, bleepedity, bleepidity, bloop, education and what not, uh-huh, uh-huh, I liked, yah, yah, yah.

Travis says

This was interesting book and a very easy read. It started off a little confusing, but then as the story developed it became clear. I recommend the book for someone who is interested in WWII.

Reading is my Escape says

Resistance series

This is a great middle-grade graphic novel series on the French resistance during World War II. Kids play their part and there is danger, but it is not overwhelming. My son brought this series home from his school library. He loved it and wanted to share it with me. I love when he does that!!

Alex (not a dude) Baugh says

Resistance is the first graphic novel in a trilogy about young resistance workers in southern France during the Nazi occupation of their country. These graphic novels for young adults are a collaboration of Carla Jablonski, noted children's author, and Leland Purvis, artist and writer of comic books.

At the beginning of the story, Jablonski has included an explanation about how France was divided between the occupied northern half and the so-called free southern half after it signed an armistice with Germany to stop the fighting in 1940. Now, it is 1942, and up this point, life wasn't too terrible for those who are living in southern France, certainly better than those who are living in the occupied areas.

Paul Tessier may live in the “free” part of occupied France, but his father is German prisoner of war and no one knows anything about him. And now, the Nazis everywhere, more brazen than ever, always threatening the daily life of the French and helping themselves to whatever they want. . Angered by all this, Paul is no longer content to simply post his anti-Nazi posters about town.

Besides owning their own vineyard, Paul’s family has taken over the hotel owned by their friends, the Levy’s, who can no longer own it because they are Jews. But when the Nazis requisition the hotel for their own use, the Levy’s disappear. Afraid for them after hearing about the round ups and deportations of Jews in Paris, Paul worries about what will happen to the Levy’s, especially his best friend Henri Levy. But he finds Henri in the woods, hanging out by a pond, completely unaware of what has been happening to the Jews in town.

Paul and his younger sister Marie decide to hide Henri in one of the wine cellars at the Tessler’s vineyard. One night, Paul catches his older sister’s friend, Jacques, trying to get into the vineyard and discovers that Jacques is part of the Resistance. Paul and Marie both want to join it, too and after passing a test, they are given an assignment - get Henri to Paris and safety using false identity papers.

The plan goes well, but when the three of them arrive in Paris, Henri is in for a big surprise waiting for him.

This was a very well done graphic novel. The textual part of the story is succinct and yet completely comprehensible, one of the amazing feats of good graphic novels. In an interview, Jablonski said that she used her experience as a playwright to get dialogue and gesture to convey the story. As a playwright, she said, one must think visually and graphic novels rely so much on the visual to make the story come together.

And that also means that just the right images have to be incorporated into the story. And Purvis has done a brilliant job at rendering Jablonski’s novel, so that dialogue, gesture and image are wholly in sync. His lines are hard and sometimes severe reflecting the the stress and tension of living in such an oppressive situation. Purvis also differentiates his images from Paul’s, an artist in his own right, providing two perspectives of the action - Purvis’s show what is going on around Paul, while Paul’s drawings often reflect what he is thinking/feeling.

But it was the cover of Resistance that first caught my eye - an effective up to date rendering of the biblical David and Goliath story - it says so much about Paul’s story in particular and the resistance movement in general.

The idea of young kids being part of a dangerous movement like the resistance may seem difficult to accept, but, in fact, there were many young people involved in these underground activities in all the occupied countries. But young kids can get away with things that adults could never pull off and Jablonski makes their willingness and usefulness very clear in this first graphic novel of the trilogy.

On the other hand, in her Author’s Note, Jablonski writes that resistance workers were brave, but they were not saints and she has remarkably captured the range of their feelings - the fear, the anger, the frustration, the sense of oppression and even the bickering among themselves, giving the whole thing are great touch of reality.

This book is recommended for readers age 12 and up.

This book was purchased for my personal library.

Resistance was a 2011 Sydney Taylor Honor Winner

Resistance was named a 2011 YALSA Great Graphic Novel

Paul says

Resistance is a book about the French resistance forces in France after it was taken over in WWII, it's not exactly the most original topic to write about but it is still a monumentally important time and hearing many different people's stories is important. The story follows a kid named Paul and his sister Marie who accidentally help the resistance but are then recruited to fight the Nazis. Seeing that even children had to be used in order to stop what was going on certainly makes a powerful statement, but at the same time that's really all the book is. Besides Paul and Marie the other characters seem to float in and out of the story affecting it but never giving us time to get attached to them or really care about them at all. Paul and Marie's main goal is to help Henri their Jewish neighbor find his parents which they do, and that's really it. None of the characters are never put in any real danger, they have to walk in front of several Nazi officers and trick them into thinking they aren't with the resistance but they never seem to be in any real danger. Anyone with even a small education could probably tell you about some of the terrible things that happened during the holocaust, but it would have helped me care what happened to these characters if the book showed what would happen to them if they were found out, the most I got was a person being captured and dragged away. Resistance is a book about a terrible time and is trying as many other books have to prevent something like the holocaust from happening again, but I can't just excuse poor writing a lack of character development, and a story that seems to just happen and be over with quickly just because the book has a good message.

MichaelM says

Resistance was a great book. I liked the graphics in the book, and the point it was trying to give you. I thought it was really interesting since I like WWII. You should read this if you like world war two!

Sarah says

Resistance was a really good, quick graphic novel. Beautiful pictures and great writing. I love learning about World War II so I got really excited when I saw this. My feelings towards graphic novels aren't exactly positive, but I was pleasantly surprised. My only complaint was that in the very beginning I was very confused. But now that I think back on it, I think my confusion was because I am not used to the set up of graphic novels. The last time I read a graphic novel, after all, was two years ago. I recommend to anyone looking for a quick and easy graphic novel. It honestly took me less than an hour to read. But good nonetheless.

||Swaroop|| says

This is an interesting graphic novel by Carla Jablonski about the French Resistance during the time of World War II. The novel is about young resistance workers in southern France during the Nazi occupation.

It does feel like many of the young kids were drawn into the resistance without them really understanding the cause.

Calista says

This is a simple story about the complex time during the French occupation of Germany on the French people. One family discovers how complicated life can be when politics becomes deadly. The art helped to tell the story, and it wasn't amazing.

The tale is good and it centers on kids trying to get their jewish friend reunited with his parents. They find out how scary life can really be. There are 2 more books in the story and I am interested.

It was such a horrible time in history and it seems we are about to repeat all those mistakes accept we will be the axis of evil. Positive, I need to be more positive. I'm having a hard time. Signs are pointing to the nazi's rising to power again right here.

Sesana says

Super straight-forward story set in the French countryside during World War II. Yes, it's the Resistance, but starring two young kids. Not such a bad idea in the case of Paul, age about twelve or so. He's bright, quiet, motivated (his father was captured by the Germans, and his best friend his Jewish), observant, and he's a good artist, all qualities that could definitely be useful. In the case of the significantly younger Marie... She's loud, impulsive, and has apparently been completely sheltered from every reality of the war. I guess she's meant to be cute, but I found her irritating. Paul and Marie have one real mission in the pages of this book, and it's predictably easy and almost entirely free of drama. Yes, I know that it's middle grade, but I remember being on the edge of my seat reading Number the Stars when I was ten. This just feels safer than it needs to be.

Oddly enough, this volume closes with an essay about the moral ambiguities of living in occupied France. The Resistance were not all good, labeling somebody a "collaborator" might not be the whole truth, etc. What's odd about the essay, which is actually rather good, is that it doesn't seem to relate at all to the story in this volume. All the Resistance really are good, and they really are all trying to do the right thing for the right reasons. Unless it's foreshadowing for the next volume, I really don't see the point of arguing that reality is sometimes morally ambiguous in a book that's entirely unambiguous.

Nicola Mansfield says

Reason for Reading: This is a Cybils '10 nominee and required reading for me as a graphic novels panelist.

The book starts with a one-page non-fiction narrative that places our story in history. We are told how France was invaded, occupied, surrendered and the results of this. The graphic story focuses on a French family living in Vichy, the 'free' part of France, a mother, two daughters and a son, the father is off fighting in the war and no word has been heard since France's surrender. One by one we learn how certain members of this family and village are part of the French resistance and when one of them learns that the children are hiding

a Jew in their wine caves he enlists their help thinking children will make perfect resistance members as they will not be suspect.

The book is quite dark emotionally. We see images that hint at the horrors going on and some brutal events do happen but it is the looks of outrage and fear on the children's faces that truly brings the emotions to the reader. The story involves the round-up of Jews in their village and the children's mission as resistance fighters. It is exciting and full of fear at the same time. The book does a good job of bringing the reality of living in an occupied country to the reader. There are a few instances when the plot is a little too unbelievable, someone just happens to turn up in the nick of time at the place where they were looking, that sort of thing. But otherwise, a compelling story which takes an interesting stand in its two-page non-fiction conclusion where it explains the French Resistance and whether participating or not participating should ever be reason for judging someone.

Dominick Garrison says

It was a very interesting book and gave me all of insight of the things going on during the holocaust and how tragic it was for so many family's.

Devon says

I usually don't read graphic novels, but this book made me wanna keep reading. Towards the end of the book, it got tense and mysterious by making you wonder what was going to happen to the family(s). I feel this book gave a nice overview of what really happened during World War II and what events played along with it. Pretty good book that I recommend!

Dasha M says

Art wasn't great, story felt shallow and oversimplified
