



Saboteur: A Novel of Love and War

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The year is 1943, and Andy Gledhill's months of training as a paratrooper have culminated in his being assigned to the 89th Airborne. But he soon learns that the government has other plans for him. The newly formed Office of Strategic Services needs soldiers with language talents like Andy's to drop into Europe behind enemy lines and help fight the war from the inside out. Andy's new life of deception and sabotage is worlds away from his upbringing in sleepy little Delta, Utah. But even that town is changing, as the nearby Topaz relocation camp ignites racial tensions. And Whisper Harris, the girl Andy left behind, is caught in a maelstrom of conflicting emotions brought on by the war. Should she release Andy from the promises they've made, as he seems to have released her? Or should she keep on hoping?

Saboteur: A Novel of Love and War Details

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Trisha says

I really enjoyed reading this book because it made me think so much about so many different things. Things like war, love, right and wrong, and my gratitude for those men and women that fought in the war and the ones at home who supported and lived for letters and news. It made me really think about what it would've been like to go through something like this. I also like how Dean Hughes shows Utah in the right light. He doesn't make it seem like it is the most wonderful place in the world, it has its problems, it has people who are good but also people who are bad. That not everyone over there is a perfect Mormon, that people struggle to choose the right even when everyone around them is LDS. I will say that I was frustrated with all of the characters in the book at different times! But I think that is another reason this book was good! I felt really involved and wanted to keep reading!

Anita says

3.5 Stars

This is our Book Club Pick for the month of June. I found myself sucked into the story and wanting to read a lot, or it might have just been that I needed a break from my own reality. Either way I enjoyed the story and the time period. I'm looking for some discussion questions or ideas so if anyone has any suggestions I would appreciate it.

Andy Gledhill is the supposed golden boy of Delta, Utah. Growing up with a French mother, Andy is fluent in French and is recruited to be a special agent during WWII. Andy is dropped into occupied France to help train Resistance teams and to gather intelligence. - Basically, he's a spy. On the home front his family is going through their own struggles. Andy's father is the Bishop and the Mayor. His little brother, Flip is trying to take care of Andy's girl, Whisper and works with a Japanese boy on the family farm who is staying at the Topaz internment camp.

I enjoyed the story and the family. The Japanese angle was interesting. There is quite a bit of action, but it's not gory. A good story. I did feel the end was a tad abrupt.

Angie says

With lots of downtime in airplanes, taxis and buses, it's nice to have something to listen to that is engaging and clean.

I enjoy this author; if you've read other books he has written, you will likely enjoy this as well.
WWII era fiction dealing with: Spy work in France. Japanese internment camp in the US. Women's changing roles.
LDS fiction

Heather says

Having read the author's other books I was intrigued by the spy storyline. Unfortunately the storyline was incredibly choppy and none of the characters seemed fleshed out well enough. It seemed the ghost of the story of Alex and Wally from the Children of the Promise, except it wasn't long enough to do the story justice. The nicknames in the story were very distracting and took away from the story instead of being cute or endearing the characters to the reader. The ending was quite abrupt and disappointing.

NovelReaction says

Dean Hughes has done an amazing job in writing *Saboteur*! It is the first book of his that I have read, and I couldn't put it down! Dean's descriptions are just amazing when it comes to the scenery and the characters.

Andy is training to be a paratrooper in 1943. The government contacts him and wants him to be a spy in France before the invasion occurs to feed back information on German troops. He takes this job as a boy, and soon learns he must become a man to fulfill it. Andy isn't allowed to tell anyone what his new job is not his family, or Whisper, the girl he has asked to wait for him. Andy soon finds himself injured and trying to fit in behind enemy lines and deals with the questions as to what he truly believes in.

Whisper is just trying to keep up hope for her one love, Andy, but struggles when she goes months without hearing a word from him and then when she does, he says to find someone else. She leans on Andy's little brother, Flip, and learns what true friendship really is.

Flip, a young boy, is eager to join the army and fight for America. He wants to enlist, but his father won't sign for him. Flip becomes friends with Tom, a Japanese inmate at Topaz, while Tom helps him with his farm duties, in little Delta, Utah. Flip soon realizes that Tom is just as American as he is and struggles with why Tom is locked up.

Saboteur is one of the best books I've read in a long time! I was drawn to the characters and their personal struggles with their lives. It put me back into the time of World War II. Such a hard thing that families had to go through, and to struggle with just trying to survive during the war. I would recommend this book. There is some gore in it with the fight scenes and a little kissing. No bad language at all.

Kathryn says

a novel that will keep you in suspense to the very end. WW11 has broken out and Andy had a bright future ahead of him. He has most of his college education behind him, he has a girl back home, Whisper that is beautiful inside and out, he's athletic and handsome and he has enlisted. After doing training to be a paratrooper to drop behind enemy lines, he is called in to NY. He is asked about his family and background of knowing french because of his mother's french heritage and then asked if he would be able to kill someone point blank, or if his LDS, country do good upbringing would prevent him from doing that. He wants to prove that he can and is trained to be a spy, who will be dropping into france to gather intelligence to aid in the war effort. He goes in with one other spy and is met with hardship from the beginning. He lands from the plane in a tree and the germans start searching the farm houses the morning after the drop. He is finally caught and tortured for info, then rescued at the expense of more lost lives. He kills before he is killed only

to feel a void of the spirit. When he is able to write home, he is defeated and tells whisper not to wait for him. Meanwhile his brother, Flip is just trying to save Andy's girl for him, but ends up seeing all his idolized brother is doing that is hurting the one he is supposed to love. Flip befriends a Jap, tom, and tries to make things right by helping him only to meet with resistance in it and he loses hope in people doing what is right and keeping promises.

Michelle says

A bit disappointing. I absolutely LOVED Hughes' Children of the Promise series but I just couldn't get into these characters. I'll admit to skimming through many passages along the way & I'd just hoped that it would get better. I couldn't help but see Whisper as anything more than pathetic and kept thinking, "Oh. My. Gosh girl, just leave this town!" Also, if Hughes was trying to make Delta, UT sound like a quaint little farming town out in the country, he totally missed the mark! I ended the book confirmed in my feeling that that town (which I've been to, by the way) is hardly even worth a pit-stop during a road-trip to someplace else...

Mallory says

Not my favorite of Dean Hughes. It felt like a rip off of the Children of the Promise series (I don't know if he wrote this before or after?), but still worth a read!

Andrea says

This book reminded me of the Children of the Promise series by the same author, which I loved by the way. It is about a family in WWII times and their son who goes to war and the lives of the other family members. The father is a church leader, one of the sisters is rebellious, etc. You can probably see the similarities already if you've read Children of the Promise. Some of the phrasing and character traits of people are also very similar, which bugged me in a way because I felt like I had read all that before.

Still an interesting book about a young LDS guy who is a spy during WWII, his experiences, his family's experiences during the war, and of course his girlfriend back home. The French angle was refreshing.

This book started out very original, but I thought it was a little predictable at the end. A happy ending...

Nikki says

I enjoy Dean Hughes most of the time- I do have one tiny problem with him though. He tends to try to tell too many stories in one novel. I wish he would tie up the loose ends at the end of the book. I am never quite satisfied with how the stories end.

Saboteur was a WW2 novel about a boy from Delta, UT who becomes a spy in France for Allied forces. The novel tells not only Andy's story (the main character), but also tells of life in small town Delta and of the Japanese Internment camp in Topaz, UT. I like the conflicting human emotions portrayed in the novel- i.e., knowing the reason for killing, and disliking it at the same time, but somehow I didn't think these characters were quite complex enough. I doubt that a soldier's perspective can be accurately portrayed by someone who

has never served as a soldier themselves.

Maegan says

Well if you've read the Children of the Promise and loved it don't read this book! I love Alex and Wally in Children of the Promise series, don't get me wrong! But if you've read those books you'll know and have pretty much the whole plot before you've even started it. Although Andy's, the main character, experiences are very different in the end the plot mirrors Alex's very closely, even the whole "unworthy" stuff going on and the "I'm not as spiritual as I was when I was five," thing because he killed people. I love Dean Hughes for writing both Children of the Promise and its sequel series Hearts of the Children but really besides no mention of a wedding and Andy not having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder it could have been Alex all over again. Whisper, Andy's love interest, even wears a green and yellow dress not unlike Lorraine in Children of the Promise.

In essence too predictable and cliché when it's Dean Hughes writing about the same old thing. I LOVE WWII stuff but just another carbon copy... that's why it's getting a two star rating.

Casey says

I loved Dean Hughes Children of the Promise series, but was slightly disappointed with Saboteur. The story takes place during WWII so Andy is a spy for the U.S. and is dropped behind enemy lines to gather information. I actually enjoyed the war part if you can believe that. What disappointed me the most was the characters themselves. Where do I begin? First, before he leaves for war Andy tells this girl Whisper that he loves her and that he wants her to wait for him until he gets back. She of course is delighted because she has loved Andy for a long time. So before he leaves, Andy has his little brother Skip promise to watch over Whisper while he's gone and to protect her. Then he leaves and can't contact any of his family for long periods of time. Then because he's afraid he'll die in war he writes Whisper and tells her not to wait for him because he doesn't think it's fair to her. Long story short, Whisper starts having doubts about Andy's affection only months after he's left and starts dating other people, Andy starts flirting with a French girl, meanwhile little brother Skip starts falling in love with Whisper who is way too old for him. Then Andy comes home from war Whisper and him realize they were meant to be together and the whole family lives happily ever after...NOT! What really happens is, Andy comes home from War and him and Whisper are able to sorta patch things up, and Skip is somewhat angry at Andy and isn't really sure how to deal with his emotions. The End. That's really how the story ends. Andy and Whisper are pretty much going to "see where their relationship goes" and Skip is just confused and angry. Like I said "and they all lived happily ever after!"

Liesl says

This was another good Dean Hughes book. I listened to this one instead of reading. The narrator did a really

good job. It was right along the lines of his other WWII books. This one explores the way the Japanese Americans were treated at that time. There were a few times I was brought to tears. A good read.

Cynthia says

I liked Dean Hughes' others books about WW2 so I picked this one up as well and was not disappointed. I listened to this on Cd and really liked the narrator. Thirteen hours later and I really felt like I knew most of the characters.

I would say of all the LDS fiction authors, I like Dean Hughes the best. He is a great story teller, his characters are well developed and likable, and there isn't the sugary-happiness that often abounds among other LDS authors.

Alyse says

I love this book so much!!!! I wish it were a series. It was so good!!!! It kind of resolves things in the end, but it doesn't go through the whole war, and there is a ton that could be written about in a sequel, like Andy and Whisper's wedding, and Andy going back to war, and what Flip does, and what happens to Tom, and.... It's just so hard to let characters you love go.
