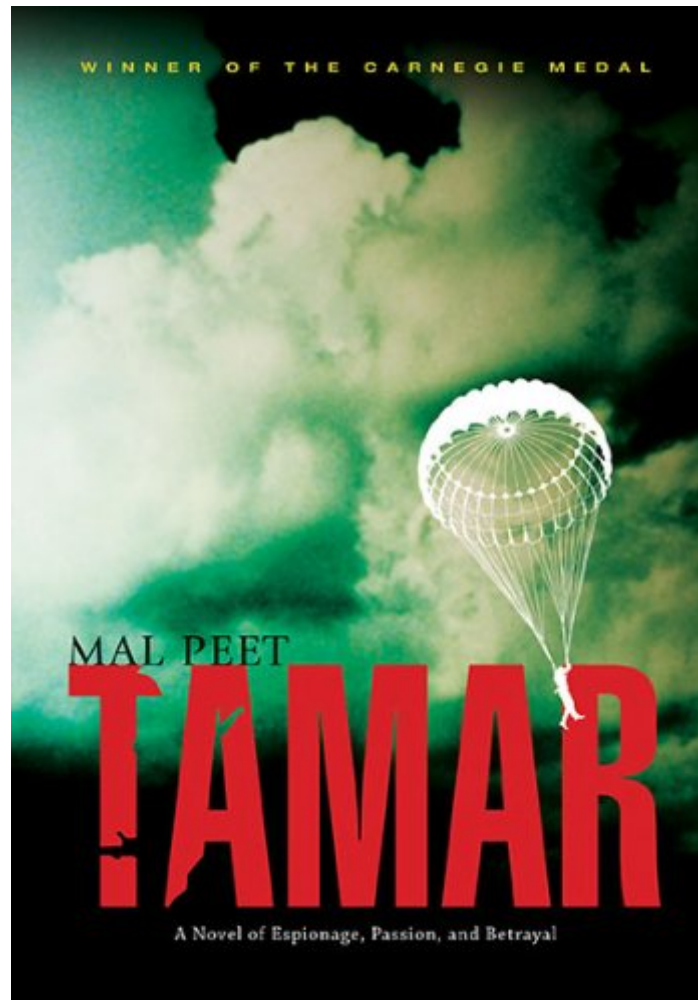




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Tamar: A Novel Of Espionage, Passion, And Betrayal



Synopsis

From acclaimed British sensation Mal Peet comes a masterful story of adventure, love, secrets, and betrayal in time of war, both past and present. When her grandfather dies, Tamar inherits a box containing a series of clues and coded messages. Out of the past, another Tamar emerges, a man involved in the terrifying world of resistance fighters in Nazi-occupied Holland half a century before. His story is one of passionate love, jealousy, and tragedy set against the daily fear and casual horror of the Second World War -- and unraveling it is about to transform Tamar's life forever.

Book Information

File Size: 976 KB

Print Length: 434 pages

Publisher: Candlewick Press (December 7, 2010)

Publication Date: December 7, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B004EYSPA0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #201,189 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #14

in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discovery](#) #51 in [Books > Kindle Store >](#)

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Customer Reviews

Excellent tale of espionage and human relationships during WWII. The scene shifts back and forth from present day England to WWII Holland, but it is never confusing. A young girl investigates a box of mementos she inherits from her beloved grandfather, and reveals a surprising story of resistance fighters, military and civilian. The book allows a close-up glimpse into the day to day concerns of the populace and their trained resistance leaders, who parachuted in from England. This is a story

of ordinary folks doing heroic acts, in aid of freedom. The Germans are starving them out and killing people almost randomly, but the citizens resist the terror and learn to cope with the most horrendous burdens. In the present day story, the young heroine has to unravel a series of clues left to her, to ultimately reveal a secret kept since the war. It is a war story, and there's a fair amount of action and much suspense, but you never feel overwhelmed by the horror, at the expense of interest in the people. It is fairly uplifting, in the end.

I love stories about WWII, but only if they are very well written and edited and very realistic. I read many of the reviews on this book before buying it, always starting with the one-star, going to the two and three-star reviews before making my decision. I decided to take a chance on this book and am very, very glad I did. Very well edited. The author obviously did a fantastic job researching the subjects, archived war files, even interviewing a surviving veteran parachutist who worked with the Dutch resistance just as the main characters did. The characters are so real, wonderfully crafted and developed, they pop off the page. Descriptions of the environments and scenery - just wonderful. Great suspense, mystery, twists and turns. So very accurate, even the weapons used by the Allies and Germans throughout the story. The story moves at a perfect pace, does not bog down. It was hard to put this book down, and I always looked forward to getting back into the story. Long chapters, alternating between 1944/45 and 1995 when the granddaughter becomes interested in her grand parents mysterious past stories. In my mind this is a clear five-star story. Mal Peet - congratulations on a wonderfully crafted tale of high adventure, personal experiences, the horrors of war and the evil inflicted upon the Dutch civilians by the invading Nazis. If you are interested in the subject matter, I recommend Tamar.

Love story, military story, betrayal all the making of a good read. Es back and forth between 1945 and 1995 as a granddaughter follows clues her grandfather left after his suicide

I realized my review is coming years after this wonderful book's release, but I wanted to say how much I enjoyed it. Enough to use it in a book group I conduct. My heart was pounding from the start as I anticipated the men parachuting into Holland during World War II. The love story, the competition between underground factions as well as the competition between the two young men were well handled and riveting. The details about the horrors the Dutch endured under the Nazi occupation educated me about something I never knew. I believe Peet's handling of the material is well-suited for both adults and young people. Well done!

I wanted to give TAMAR five stars, it was that good. I thought about it off and on for days after finishing. (And normally I forget a book once it's read, except when I buy it again and realize after a couple of chapters I've already read it!) TAMAR grabbed me right away, when an old man asks his son to name his coming baby Tamar. The son complies and the stage is set for the story to unfold. When Tamar is fifteen, she sets out on a journey up the Tamar River in England, going to places her grandfather marked for her. She hopes to discover his past. Part of the book is written from her POV on her journey. The other parts come from the POVs of two Dutchmen, code names Tamar and Dart, who were parachuted into Nazi occupied Holland during WWII to aid the resistance. The switch between present and past is effortless, probably because Tamar always uses first person for her accounts. Peet gives a moving picture as to life in Holland under the occupation. An unwed mother serving as a courier. The fearful heroism of people who risk their lives to keep radio signals between England and Holland alive. The food shortages. The soldiers' threat. We follow Tamar and Dart's mental processes, watch them deteriorate, panic, rise up in heroism. And there's a love story, between Tamar and the namesake Tamar's grandmother. The one thing that disappointed me was that the plot came apart toward the ending. Present day events came about that depended on events during the war being known to the current cast, that (unless I missed something and I very well could have) we the readers knew, but left us puzzled as to how the others not involved knew them. If it hadn't been for that, the plot coming apart toward the end, I would surely have given it five stars. This book's for anyone -- not just young adults -- who likes history, romance, and good writing.

Historical fiction doesn't get much better than this. The author cleverly paces the wartime events with the modern 'detective' work of a pair of teens trying to unravel the past - and find out it's far more tangled than they could have ever imagined. The story is bleak at times but I particularly admire the many issues the author explores by the end - jealousy and betrayal brought on by the pressure-cooker of occupation and resistance, the guilt and silence of the survivors, and finally the nature of forgiveness. The ending is very good, leaving an open question to the readers - would you have forgiven? You will wonder for days afterward. I read the Kindle edition and for the Kindle readers, this was a very well edited product and many notches above the usual horrid quality of ebooks. It's time to hold the publishers accountable for shoddy workmanship, so in that spirit, thumbs up to Candlewick for doing justice to Mal Peet's brilliant story.

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