

LoveReading Reader reviews of The Earth is Singing by Vanessa Curtis

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Nia, age 17

Heartbreaking, emotional, stunning.

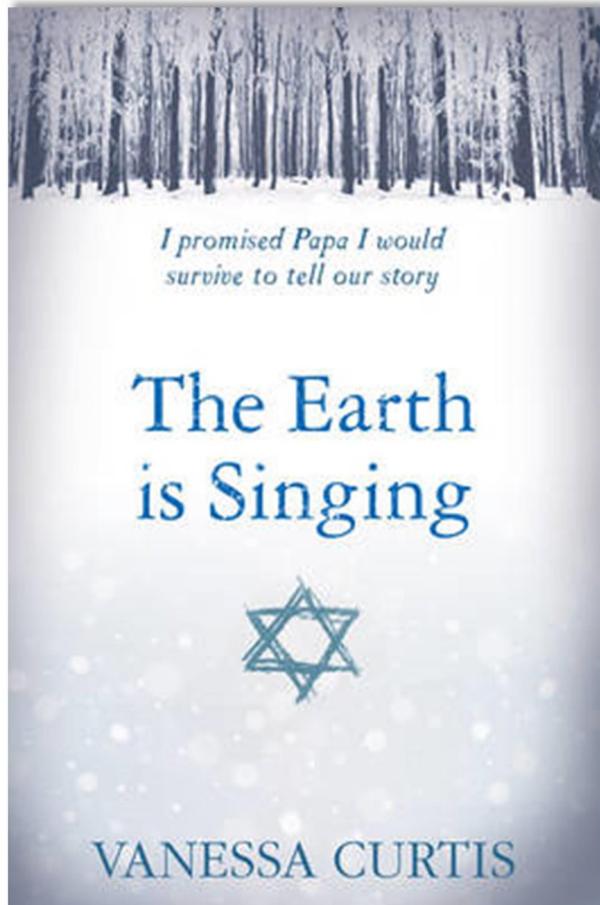
'The Earth is Singing' is an amazing, emotional book that I am incredibly glad to have read. The book takes place in Nazi occupied Latvia where we follow the story of 15 year old Hanna, a Jew.

The novel is only partly fiction, based on the story of one of the few survivors from Riga. Although it is based on truth, at first I didn't have much of an opinion on Hanna, she didn't seem quite real and the language she used was very basic. However, about 100 pages in Hanna and her narrative developed and I felt she became a lot truer. She had matured, and the book with her.

I found myself in Hanna's shoes as Vanessa Curtis' writing drew me into Hanna's life. I did not want to put the book down, in fear of Hanna suffering without me there to comfort and live it with her.

This truly heart wrenching story was dealt with truth and respect, producing a stunning book that I strongly recommend everyone to read.

Twitter: @amianotherstory



Monisah Ali, age 16

'The Earth is Singing' was a beautiful, empowering book with a storyline so powerful, it's enough to make anyone emotional. It was so capturing, you won't be able to turn the pages fast enough!

The characters were so loveable, you couldn't help but empathise with them during their tragic story. The storyline was so moving, especially as it was based on a true story. It really made you think about the history of the holocaust, and I am so excited for its release in January!

www.twinsturnpages.wordpress.com

Delilah Acworth

*'The Earth is Singing' was a harsh reminder of the cruelties that the Jews faced during the holocaust. It placed the normal life that a teenage girl had, dreaming of her future and tiptoeing around her new relationship, and then completely destroyed it. **The writing was brilliant and terrible in equal measures, it presented such a painful subject in quite a soothing way before completely tearing the reader apart with its harsh realities. A definite recommendation.***

Edel Waugh

*This is the story about three women from one Jewish family at the time when the Nazi's invade their town. This is **a remarkable well told story that both astonishes and is heartbreaking while being beautiful written.** These three strong women from three generations are to be admired, they are resilient, smart and courageous, it was a pleasure reading about them and the emotions and struggles they went through, you really feel for these people. There were moments I had a lump in my throat and I think that is something special when an author can do that. The youngest girl in the family is called Hanna and she is the narrator, her father has gone away and no one is sure where he has gone or if he will be back, and with the invasion of these terrifying troops it is a fearful time, her mama is trying to support and care for her and her own mother or as Hanna calls her Omama.*

I recommend this book for any fans of 'Anne Frank'. Unforgettable and touching!

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.com>

Farah Alam, age 19

This book follows the journey of Hanna from the living as a normal teenager in the Latvia during World War Two. German occupation results in her experiencing what many Jewish people experienced during this horrific time. Even though, this is fiction, it is still very much based on real experiences of victims of the war. I really enjoyed this book as I generally find books set in World War Two to be interesting. Moreover, Hanna herself is an interesting character and, there is character development throughout the book of her.

Overall, this book was really good and, has made me interested in reading more of the author's work.

Cara Mcilroy, age 14

An amazing book that I couldn't put down. It makes you think hard about what children had to endure just because they were Jews!

Suitable for 12 years upwards.

15 year old Hannah Michelson is a young Jewish girl who never gives up. She believes that a promise is a promise. She lives in a small apartment with her mother and her grandmother. Her papa was taken away to fight and to protect the country. With lack of food and warmth, Hanna and her small family find it hard to survive. She looks out her window and sees that as the days pass the outside world becomes more dangerous. Her mother often tries to trade her precious belongings for food for her family until she found out that Jews were posted regulations such as not being able to walk on the footpaths of the road. Hanna feels perfect when her boyfriend visits and she loves him with all her heart. She attends a dance school and her mother believes she will grow up to be a professional dancer. Soon, Hanna finds out that her family have to move out of the small apartment and live temporarily in her aunt Brigita's house due to gunshots and the fact that they are Jews. Soon the Gestapo arrive at their door threatening to kill them unless they move to the Ghetto. Hanna becomes very ill and sick but she realises that her main focus is her family. As time goes on the Jews left are called out to be thrown into the pit where they will be shot. It is Hannas mission to keep her promise to her father that she will stay alive and protect her family. I loved this book as there were many cliffhangers which created suspense. The storyline is great!

Amy Laws, age 13

This book is amazing, I really enjoyed it. The author really describes what it was like to live in a Nazi society, just before World War Two, as a Jew.

I really enjoyed this book because it was really well told. I found it really easy to empathise with the characters and the book showed the injustice of the Nazis, how they tore families apart, like Hanna's in the story.

Louisa Cunliffe, age 17

A true treasure of a book that will stay with you long after you finish the final page.

Hitler, The Holocaust and the terrible atrocities that faced many under Nazi rule are well known and there are many historical fiction books written, but 'The Earth is Singing' stands out amongst the crowd.

Hanna Michelson is a fifteen year old girl, dreaming of becoming a ballet dancer and marrying her handsome Latvian boyfriend, but when the Nazi's invade her world is torn apart. Why? Because Hanna is a Jew. She is now fighting to keep her life, her loved ones and her dreams. This is no fairytale, 'The Earth is Singing' transports you into Hanna's world, there is no holding back on the harsh conditions and terrible fates that faced all Jews in occupied Nazi lands. It exposes the true depths of depravation, cruelty and humiliation that they faced and never failed to shock me how one human could inflict this upon another. However, even among the darkness there is a flicker of light. There is kindness, love and bravery even among the fear, death and starvation that engulfed Hanna and her family.

*This is what makes 'The Earth is Singing' so special it humanises what is often unrelatable to many. Instead of imagining millions of people suffering this fate you see someone you have grown to be fond of face it. This has the effect of making the entire period in history more horrific and haunting. It is **a must read.***

Twitter: @LouisaCunliffe

Sophia Ufton

Wow, not many books leave me speechless but this did.

This is the story of Hanna Michelson she is 15 and she lives with her mother and Grandmother. The Nazis have just invaded Latvia and Hanna is a Jew.

What will happen? Please read this book, amazing!

Ieva Galinauskaite, age 14

I really enjoyed reading about Hanna's life and I would recommend this book to my friends.

I have enjoyed reading this book about a Latvian girl called Hanna Michelson. Her father has been taken by the Russians and she lives with her mother and grandmother. This book is based on Hanna and her life during the Second World War. You get a glimpse of how she lives and her ordinary day. Hanna loves dancing and is training to become a dancer when she is older. She has a boyfriend called Uldis and she thinks that when he holds her hand everything is perfect, she feels safe and loves being around him. They used to live near each other but Hanna had to move to hide from the Nazis as she is a Jew.

Phoebe

A truly amazing story and a book that I would definitely recommend. Thumbs up to Vanessa Curtis on magnificent masterpiece!

Hard hitting, yet beautifully written. The Earth is Singing covers the tragic story of Hanna Michelson, a Jew from Latvia, following the twists and turns of her life once the Nazis begin to arrive until Ghettos are full to the maximum. This was a book that I could not put down, no matter how much each turn of a page broke my heart just a little bit more. It captures the horror and despair of the lives of the Jews in Latvia during this period, but also shows the hope that many had, still managing to see the possibilities that the future, no matter how unlikely, could hold for them. I think this is what truly gives the book it's truly captivating quality and makes you hold on to every word, eagerly waiting for the next and saying 'just one more page' before reading another three chapters!