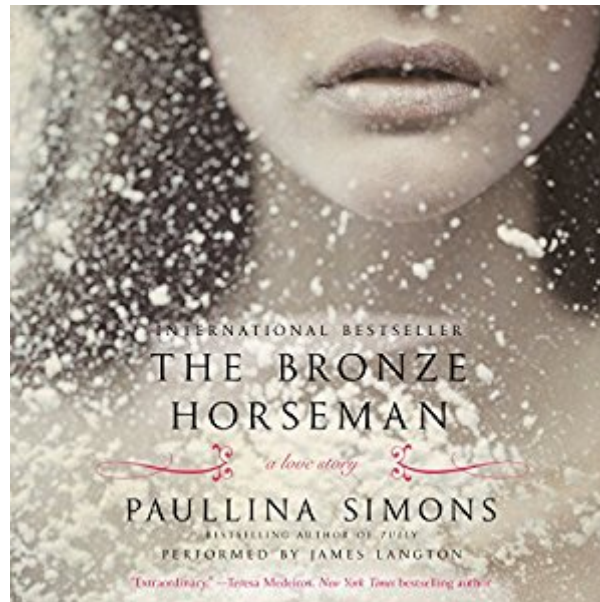




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The Bronze Horseman



Synopsis

The golden skies, the translucent twilight, the white nights all hold the promise of youth, of love, of eternal renewal. The war has not yet touched this city of fallen grandeur or the lives of two sisters, Tatiana and Dasha Metanova, who share a single room in a cramped apartment with their brother and parents. Their world is turned upside down when Hitler's armies attack Russia and begin their unstoppable blitz to Leningrad. Yet there is light in the darkness. Tatiana meets Alexander, a brave young officer in the Red Army. Strong and self-confident yet guarding a mysterious and troubled past, he is drawn to Tatiana - and she to him. Starvation, desperation, and fear soon grip their city during the terrible winter of the merciless German siege. Tatiana and Alexander's impossible love threatens to tear the Metanova family apart and expose the dangerous secret Alexander so carefully protects - a secret as devastating as the war itself - as the lovers are swept up in the brutal tides that will change the world and their lives forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

4.5 starsWow. This story was compelling and complex. Simons' writing was superb. She had me right there. I loved reading about the history of the war from the Russian pov. I felt like I was in Leningrad during WWII watching Tatiana and Alexander fall in love through secrecy, through poverty, through starvation, through people trying to keep them apart. Their love was the one bright spot while their world was crumbling around them. Tatiana was an amazing heroine. She was a slip of a girl, just seventeen years old. Yet she was strong, and generous, and clever, and brave, and

always an optimist while her family was anything but. She just kicked butt all the way to the end. She's a survivor and I loved her. Alexander is a Russian officer. He's courageous, and complicated, and hot-headed, and he loves Tatiana fiercely. But they definitely have obstacles. A major one being Dimitri. He is now up there with Joffrey Baratheon and Black Jack Randall as the most vile human beings in fiction. My only complaint about this book is the monotony. I felt there were a number of scenes where the author droned on and on. I wanted her to move on. It could have been much shorter. Otherwise, I thought it was perfect. I'm looking forward to diving in to book two.

This story is the kind that you don't want to end. For me, this book was an educational one as well. We all have heard of communism, but what is it really like to live like that everyday. The author gives us a very in-depth look of daily life in a communist country. It also makes me appreciate this great country that I am blessed to live in even more. The siege of Leningrad is a story that I was unfamiliar with, when people write of WWII, the Holocaust is often what comes to mind, but Stalin had his own Holocaust to his own people, and again the author describes this in such vivid detail. The love story of Alexander and Tania is one that is unforgettable. I won't get into the storyline, but just say if you have an interest in history, war, and love, this is the book series for you. I enjoyed each book, and highly recommend them all of them. One of the best series of books that I have ever read. THANK You to Paulina Simon's for such an unforgettable story, and for providing me with a much needed escape.

First off let me say that I read all 3 books in this series, starting with this one of course. I enjoyed the series as a whole. I can't imagine reading just one of the books. I got hooked on all the characters. Tatiana especially. I didn't know what the book was about when I first started it. But soon I realized that it was going to be a love story ...a very long & involved love story with lots of ups and downs, twists & turns. Reading books in the Romance genre is not something I do. Except for Outlander. So, some parts of this book & the other two were not that appealing to me (the love making scenes...of which there are numerous). I'm not a prude; just mentioning it for those that haven't started this book yet. If you don't like reading about people having sex, then you might not like this book or those parts of it. I'm not sure what the author's goal was in writing the book this way - I guess she thought it would help the reader to believe that these two were really in love & really loved making love and feeling that connection. It's important to many couples - especially young ones. Or...maybe she enjoys Romance novels herself & wanted to write this historical type of book in a romance novel kind of way. For me, that all could've been left out or downplayed & I would've enjoyed it better just

for the main story line & the history of that time period. Yet, I read it and accepted this was how it was. Moving on...I'm not very knowledgeable about Russia or the history of it in the first World War. Those parts were of great interest to me because it was something new. I loved hearing about how the soldiers were trained & where they went & what they did and how the Russian govt. treated it's soldiers and the regular citizens of during those years. At the beginning of the book, Tatiana is living with her family in an apt. building that is not very private. I almost gave up on reading it during that time; but forced myself to continue. For some reason the way the author was writing seemed rather juvenile or simplistic. It's hard to explain. But it just seemed odd to me. However I continued and gradually either the author matured and got some advice or guidance - but it was just easier to read & make sense of. Some things (like guns & war) Ms. Simons seemed to have really researched & studied. I appreciated that she did all that hard work & was able to write with authority and realism. This really added to the book as far as I'm concerned. She also appears to understand what the average everyday person had to deal with in Russia at that point. Life wasn't easy. And it only got worse as time went on. I didn't like Tatiana's parents at all - they didn't treat her well. It was sad that they preferred her twin brother. But boys have often been revered in certain society's over girls. One thing I must say is that the character of Tatiana was really over the top. She was beautiful and smart - even in her young age. She was brave and took matters into her own hands at all times. For a teenager, she accomplished so much that it was very hard to believe. I guess there are young women out there who have all these qualities; but I'd think they'd be very rare. I've never known any. You want to believe that she is a real person. However, at times it's difficult to do that; just because she can do no wrong. She makes mistakes at times - but even in doing that it all turns out right. She is able to persevere always. She's able to escape & do all sorts of amazing things on her own. But then, she's the heroine of the story. Right? Her great love is Alexander. He's handsome, brave and strong too. He was born in the US - but is a perfect Russian soldier in the Red Army. However, he's older than Tatiana & has been involved with Tania's older sister for some time. Even after he decides he loves her, he keeps up the lie with the sister which isn't very honorable. Alexander does a lot of things to Tatiana in their relationship. Things when she's young & later on in the later books. Things I would call abusive today. And it makes me not like him. In fact many times I wish she'd stay away from him. I liked this book & all the rest. I read them until the end.

Excellent drama of life in the Soviet Union at the start of WW II. Didn't like history in school but love reading about it now. This is a very long novel with two more books to go, and I will read them. Get the tissues out you will need them.

One of my favorite stories (this is the first novel in the trilogy). You fall in love with the relationship between Tatiana and Alexander and watch them go through all of the horrendous and heart breaking things they must endure to be together. Very interesting and informative on a topic I knew nothing about-the blockage of Leningrad during WWII. Very rich in Russian culture, history, love, and the endurance of the human spirit. You will not be disappointed. I love Paullina's writing and have read all of her novels. This is my favorite, but there are some other good ones out there as well.

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