



Greater Than Angels

Carol Matas

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In the Face of Evil In the autumn of 1940, Anna Hirsch, her friends, and her family are rounded up by the Nazis and deported from Germany into France. They are placed in Gurs, a refugee camp where conditions are inhuman. But even worse is the terror that the Jews will be relocated to one of the Nazi death camps.

Relief workers arrange for Anna and the other young people to be sent to Le Chambon, a tiny village in France. There, the villagers agree to care for the Jewish children. But as the war rages on, Jews in France -- and those who shelter them -- are in increasing danger. Will Anna and her friends survive? Award-winning author Carol Matas presents a powerful and unforgettable story of courage in the face of evil.

Greater Than Angels Details

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Author : Carol Matas

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From Reader Review Greater Than Angels for online ebook

Dariaburnett says

Greater then Angels, written by Carol Matas. Greater then Angels is a book about a family who got deported to the south of France from the Nazis. However, the citizens in France agreed to take care of the young Jewish people to prevent them from being sent to horrible camps. It allows you to follow Anna, Klara, Rudi and Peter to love and freedom.

The best thing about this book is Anna's and Rudis'relationship. I liked it because in the begining of the book, they couldn't stand eachother! However, going threw the Holocaust is definately not easy, so if you're going through something at that extent, it would most likely bring you closer to eachother. Anna and Rudi grew to like eachother a lot, they became quite affectionate with eachother. By then end of the book, they were a strong couple who could do anything together.

Yes, I do think the characters are interesting and realistic. There were 4 main characters, Anna, Klara, Rudi and Peter. Anna and Rudi were kind of like the leaders out of the 4, they would never show weakness and always know what to do. Klara was more of the worrier, she was always scared as to what was going to happen next. But of course if you are going through something like that, there is going to be a person who will be scared. And then there is Peter, he was more of the risk taker. He always knew what he wanted and when he wanted it. And if he couldn't have it, he would do whatever he could do to get it.

Bookeater.dk Bookeater.dk says

Anmeldt af Moeslund på bookeater.dk:
(<http://www.bookeater.dk/vbforum/histo...>)

Større end engle er en virkelig gribende bog, som giver et nyt perspektiv til historien om Anden verdenskrig, - som man ellers skulle kro var godt dækket, - og den sætter nogle tanker i gang hos en, for Anna's gåpåmod og evne til at holde hovedet koldt, selv om hele hendes verden er ved at falde sammen om ørene på hende, er utrolig.

Annas far døde da hun var lille, og hendes storebror Max, og storesøster Ilse er flygtet, til henholdsvis USA og England, så hun bor sammen med sin mor, moster og mormor, som alle sammen prøver på at hjælpe andre, men de har hver deres måde at gøre det på.

I og med at Anna kan holde hovedet koldt, og tænke klart, så er der mange der er afhængig af hende, og selvom hun er meget yngre, end de fleste af dem der har brug for hende, så svigter hun dem ikke, og hun er altid klar med en vittighed eller to, hvis dagende bliver lidt for lange i de uhumske barakker.

Selv om Anna har meget ansvar, så er der stadigvæk plads til venner og kærlighed.

De ting der sker med jøder under Anden verdenkrig, for Anna, - og mange andre, - til at sætte spørgsmålstege ved Gud, for hvorfor hjælper han dem ikke? Har Gud ikke en plan med alle mennesker, og hvis han har, er Jødernes plan så at blive mishandlet, dræbt, og behandlet som dyr?

Anna stiller ikke kun spørgsmålstege ved skabelsen, og Gud. Hun stiller også spørgsmålstege, ved hvad der

burde have første prioritet. Burde det være mad, eller musik? For hvad er mad egentlig vær hvis ingen er glade og kan se meningen med at fortsætte livet?

Handlingen er meget enkel, men selvom jeg allerede ved hvad der skete under Anden verdenskrig, så blev bogen ved med at overraske mig, og jeg fik lov at se krigen fra en anden vinkel, i og med at vi i Danmark ikke så tit hører historier, fra folk der har levet i Frankrig og Schweiz under Anden verdenskrig. Bogen er baseret på virkelige hændelser, hvilket også går at det hele føles rigtig virkelighedstro, og det får en til at blive endnu mere grebet af historien. Man får også et virkelig detaljeret billede af hvad der sker, taget i betragtning at bogen er ret kort, og man føler med Anna hele vejen igennem.

Melissa says

I still love this book. I fell in love with it in 6th grade when I picked it up at the book fair because I needed something to read. It's a really good story about a teenager's struggle through World War II and hiding from the Nazi's, since she is Jewish. She goes many places and has a lot of close calls. I especially love the quotes at the beginning of each chapter - Shakespeare, one of my favorites. My essay on this book got me into the honors program my 9th grade year, and I still enjoy reading it after 6 years.

Jackie says

It takes place during the holocaust. The main character Anni and her family are taken away in a train to paris. As the book goes on, Anne is moved from camp to a place that takes in children. They work there and sleep in homes. Anni Then started to do things with her friend that could get her in a lot of trouble, everything that has happened to her taught her so much. Things happen for a reason. Another one could be is Things that seem tough to get through are things that teach you the most. I feel like this represents the book a lot more. Though it can be taken any way.

This novel was a very good novel. Though it was about something that is used a lot in novels, this one ad a different type of feeling that came off. This novel had a lot of happy moments but also very sad moments. It made you feel things that were different and new.

Deji says

In 1940, a war crazed time, a fifteen year old girl Anna Hirsch, her aunt Mina, and grandma Oma are rounded up by Nazi's. Anna and her family are Jew's, so they were sent to a refugee camp in France. The living conditions in the refugee camp are just bearable enough to get by. The food at refugee camps weren't good and there wasn't a lot, so many starved to death. Anna and the rest of her family had a hard time adjusting to the atmosphere and environment of a refugee camp; they hoped that they wouldn't get sent to a death camp. Not knowing many, Anna was happy to find her friend Klara there. Anna and her friend Klara had an opportunity to go to school in Le Chambon, but this meant that she may not be able to see her family anymore. Anna's and Klara's family did not hesitate when sending them away because they wished for a better life for them. It seemed peaceful at first, but conditions soon became dangerous for the Jewish people and children, causing Anna and Klara to be on the run from the Gestapo.

This novel is a fictional novel based on stories that probably happened back when there was a war with the

Nazi's. Greater than Angels is a powerful book that will give you insight on how life was for the Jewish back when you could be killed just for being Jewish. This novel will take you on a journey of the courageous young woman, Anna Hirsch as she runs into many bumpy roads and dead ends. She perceivers no matter the situation and never loses hope. I recommend this book to teachers who want to teach students on what life was like for Jew's during the 1940's and to people who like books with courageous personalities and especially history.

Grace Taylor says

Greater Than Angels is a Historical fiction book regarding the Holocaust. This story is about a young teenage girl named Anna Hirsch. We journey with Anna as she struggles to stay out of the grasp of the Nazis. Throughout the Holocaust, instead of centering her focus on herself, Anna's attention is directed to other Jews in need of help. Time and time again you will find yourself in awe of Anna's willingness to help. Carol Matas shows that even during the most tragic events, happiness can be found. The author demonstrates this theme when Anna is staying at a refugee camp in France. Even though the residents are in dire need of food and cleaner living conditions, Anna is able to lift the cloud of immense dreariness surrounding the camp by performing concerts for the refugees. These concerts brought laughter and smiles to the women, even if it was only for a few hours. What I thought was note-worthy about this book was how the topic of religion was discussed. Matas doesn't make the effort to try and convert you, instead she reveals to you Anna's struggle to believe in a God who would allow such evil to dominate in the world. Greater Than Angels is a great story about discovering what you are willing to do for those you love. Read about Anna's personal growth through the Holocaust and watch as the strength of her heart multiplies.

Sandy says

Just finished reading this book out loud to my class today. I decided that since we didn't get to WWII in our social studies and I had already read them Number the Stars, I would stick to the Holocaust theme so they'd at least get some background that way.

This was another book I had read in upper elementary myself. I enjoyed it more than Number the Stars... There is more action and deeper relationships. I think it may have been a little over some of my lower reader's heads but I kind of liked that challenge for them. I know they at least followed the story line. And the best part was the groans and "ew gross"'s that came from them during the subtle romancey parts- completely innocent enough for their age range.

So recommended as similar to but a little faster and more fun than Number the Stars.

Karen Vedel Salicath says

riktig god bog.

Louise says

Greater Than Angels, by Carol Matas, is a short novel telling the story of a group of children living their lives and trying to escape from the evil during the time of World War II. Though the story is fiction, this novel is based on a true story of the French village that hid the many Jewish children from the Nazis and helped to save their lives.

Anna Hirsch, her friends, and her family are rounded up by the Nazis and deported from Germany into France where they are placed in Gurs, a refugee camp where conditions are inhuman. Worse than this is the fear that the Jews will be relocated to one of the Nazi death camps. While Anna tries to make people feel somewhat less miserable by putting on concerts with some of the other refugees full of songs, dances and jokes, their lives have still been destroyed. After one year at being at Gurs, relief workers arrange for Anna, her friend Klara and brother Rudi, along with some other young people to be sent to Le Chambon, a tiny village in France. There, the villagers agree to care for the Jewish children. Their mothers do not hesitate a moment about sending them, even though they know they will probably never see each other again. At Le Chambon, the children are allowed to attend school and live a relatively normal life. They are even allowed to send and receive letter from family at Gurs and Anna even gets permission to return there to see her mother at one point. But as the war continues and things start to go badly for the Nazis, word comes to Le Chambon that the camp residents have all been deported east. It also becomes too dangerous for the children at Le Chambon to stay as well, so Anna, Klara and another young boy named Peter set off to escape to Switzerland where they hope they can find refuge and be safe.

The author has created an interesting, realistic novel based on true events. Although short, it is a powerful story and at times filled with nail-biting tension. The author also used many references to theatre plays and other famous literature which gave the book character. The author of this book also wrote it with a lot of flashbacks. The whole story is basically a flashback on what happened to them until the characters try to escape for freedom.

I liked this novel a lot. I am not usually one to be interested in the history part of things, although this was quite an interesting book which had a lot of history in it. It was also a bit emotional as well. Even though it is short and an easier read, I would probably still recommend it for slightly older readers just based on the content. Overall, Greater Than Angels is probably one of my favourite books that was a simple, yet fascinating read.

Mazzou B says

I loved this book! The characters are very likeable and the story exciting and easy to follow. Unlike other books about World War 2/ the Holocaust, this one is appropriate for younger readers.

I am partial to the type of simple romance included in the final chapters of this book, too. :)

Luke says

I liked the strong protagonist and her jokes, and the theological discussions between the characters. However, I found the plot a little bit disjointed -- sometimes it was hard to follow how one event led to the next.

Compared to other reading I've done, this was certainly a "lighter" perspective on the Holocaust (if such a treatment is possible). I didn't understand how the young Anna was allowed to run free through much of the

story while her own mother and aunt were detained and eventually sent to Poland. Were there really such different statuses among Jews in Southern France in the early 1940's?

Mrs. Tongate says

1940 when Anna Hirsch, her mother, her Aunt Mina, and her grand Oma are rounded up by Nazis and deported to Gurs, a refugee camp in the Vichy, France, they see little hope for their future. Food is scarce, and the living conditions are horrible. No bathrooms, sleeping on straw, always cold and hungry, sadly, it doesn't take long for Oma to succumb to it all. But, at least, Anna's friend Klara was there. Their nightmare is the fear that they will be relocated again to one of the death camps.

Almost a year after arriving at Gurs, Anna and Klara are given the opportunity to live in a children's home run by the Swiss Red Cross in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon along with Klara's brother Rudi and others, their mothers do not hesitate a moment about sending them, even though they know they will probably never see each other again.

At Le Chambon, the refugees are allowed to attend school and live a relatively normal life. They are even allowed to send and receive letters from family at Gurs and Anna even gets permission to return there to see her mother at one point. But as the war continues and things start to go badly for the Nazis, word comes to Le Chambon that the camp residents have all been deported east.

Eventually, conditions in Le Chambon become dangerous for the Jewish children. Anna and Klara find themselves on the run from the Gestapo who are looking for them, but they always manage to find a place to hide with the French residents, but they know that they can't continue to run and a permanent solution needs to be found or they will be arrested.

Anna and Klara are fictional characters, but they could have been any one of the over 3,000-3,500 Jews who were hidden and saved by local French residents of Le Chambon under the guidance of André Trocmé, a Huguenot pastor and pacifist.

Greater than Angles is a short, but powerful novel about courageous people - both the French who also risked possible death for sheltering the young Jews from increasing the danger of the Nazis and the young Jews themselves, whose will to survive is admirable, even in the face of unspeakable conditions and loss.

Based on actual occurrences during the German occupation of France – author Carol Matas unveils a goodness that permeated one corner of a region enveloped in evil, and celebrates the courage that made these citizens "greater than angels."

Review from The Children's War <http://thechildrenswar.blogspot.com/2011/05/greater-than-angles-by-carol-matas.html>

*The above website links to an article from the Holocaust Museum of some of the actual young survivors of Le Chambon

Miss Amanda says

WWII Vichy France. 13 year old Anna, along with her mother, aunt, grandmother, and neighbors, is deported from her home in Germany to a refugee camp in Gurs, France. Living conditions in the camp are difficult with very little food, but Anna tries to keep people's spirits up by helping to organize performances and concerts. When Anna and some of the children are offered a chance to go to Le Chambon where the residents have agreed to care for and hide Jewish children, Anna's aunt and mother insist she go even though it means she must leave them behind. Before she leaves, Anna's mother makes her promise to that she'll be alright. Anna promises and is determined to keep that promise no matter what.

**The children survive, but their parents, left behind in the camp, do not.

Celinedumont says

- 1) i loved this book so much. the only thing that i think could have been changed about this book is that they started it off too quick. also, closer to the ending, they got a little bit repetitive. the things i liked the most about this book was that they had information in it.
- 2) the best thing about this book was the names of the characters because they were unique. i also really loved the ending. the ending was very sad, but very intense.
- 3) the characters were very interesting and realistic. they were unique, and they all had a different personality. some were mean, some were nice.

Alana says

I thought this was a really amazing book that offered a really clear view of World War II through the eyes of a child.

The historical fiction novel followed a girl and her friend through their journey. First in a concentration camp and then in a village where they were hidden. The main character's observations about love, life, and loss are insightful and add to the story.

I personally enjoyed this book, however I would enjoy a sequel as I thought the book was left a little unfinished.

If you are looking for a quick read with great content this is a great choice.
