



# The Survivors

*Kate Furnivall*

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## **The Survivors** Kate Furnivall

Discover a brilliant story of love, danger, courage and betrayal, from the internationally bestselling author of *The Betrayal*.

*Directly I saw him, I knew he had to die.* ' Germany, 1945. Klara Janowska and her daughter Alicja have walked for weeks to get to Graufeld Displaced Persons camp. In the cramped, dirty, dangerous conditions they, along with 3,200 others, are the lucky ones. They have survived and will do anything to find a way back home.

But when Klara recognises a man in the camp from her past, a deadly game of cat and mouse begins. He knows exactly what she did during the war to save her daughter. She knows his real identity. What will be the price of silence? And will either make it out of the camp alive?

## **The Survivors Details**

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Author : Kate Furnivall

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# **From Reader Review The Survivors for online ebook**

## **Kathy says**

There are a lot of WW2 books written and I do love WW2 stories that take you to a time and place that we as the reader can only imagine, but this book was a little different mainly set directly afterwards in a Displaced Persons Camp which I didn't really know about before. Characters were amazing and I was able to feel the horror and desperation in each page. They were brave people for sure and I was invested to see how it all came out in the end and if they got out. A nice little twist at the end also that I didn't see coming. A great, gripping read.

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## **Sue McQuaide Kitt says**

Historical novels are one of my go to genres when I find I need a break from crime.

The Survivors was a bit different from the normal books I read about the war, this was set directly after WW2 , in 1945, we don't often read about the millions of Displace People with no money, no home and for many, no hope. For most they have lost everything, and not just wealth, entire families have been killed and they have nowhere to call home.

Klara Janowska was separated from her young daughter Alicja several years into the war and everything she did from that point on, was to survive and be reunited with Alicja.

Klara and Alicja have walked for weeks to get to Graufeld Displaced Persons camp. In the cramped, dirty, dangerous conditions they, along with 3,200 others, are the lucky ones. They have survived and will do anything to find a home, in their case it is with family in England.

But when Klara recognises a man in the camp from her past, a deadly game of cat and mouse begins.

Everything from this point is about survival and Klara's devotion to Alicja and she will stop at nothing, and I mean nothing to protect her daughter.

Fantastic characters, Klara, the wonderful Frenchman Davide and gutsy and brave little Alicja.

A wonderful and emotional journey of love and survival with loads of excitement and heartbreak.

This is my first book by Kate Furnivall and I look forward to many more.

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## **Magdalena says**

Kate Furnivall's writing is just exquisite. The Survivors is an excellent read, full of emotion and underlying

tension, this moving story of war survivors is compelling and impossible to put down.

Furnivall wrote a well-rounded and interesting characters. Especially Klara, her determination to protect her daughter, made her such a compelling character, I could not help but feel for her. The grit and strength she needed to survive, all that she went through, her story will stay with me for a long time.

This is my first book by Kate Furnivall but it definitely won't be the last. The story is engaging and beautifully written. I'm happy to recommend it.

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## **Helen (TBC) says**

4-4.5 stars - loved it, a book set in post WW2 Germany, centred around a displaced persons camp.

As always with this author the writing is engaging, the characters are wonderfully drawn and the descriptions of the displaced persons camp, the bombed cities and the dangers and travel restrictions between the four military occupation zones and are vividly absorbing and were (for me) really educational. I LOVED that the lead female Klara was a strong, highly intelligent woman who will do anything to keep her daughter safe and the way that the author shows that even in the most brutal environments help, compassion and innate goodness can be found.

The desperation of these displaced people and the chilling sense of unease when Klara sees her nemesis (a Nazi SS officer from her past) keep the tension ramped up - lots of suffering, brutality and deceit are tempered with the love and care Klara has for her daughter and with the gentle friendship growing between Klara and Davide.

Highly recommended to those who love either Historical fiction or mysteries

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## **Kylie D says**

"Today I will kill Oscar Scholz.

Are you shocked?

I am. The thoughts in my head are on fire."

Klara and her 10yo daughter Alicja find themselves in a Displaced Persons camp in Germany after WW2 after fleeing from their native Warsaw. Klara, being half English, is trying to make her way to England to find family and to try to create a new life for them after her fighter pilot husband was killed in combat. Both Klara and Alicja have been forced to do things that they would much rather not during and after the war, solely in order to survive. They do find some semblance of community in the camp, but these are dangerous times. Then one day Klara catches sight of a newcomer in the camp, and her blood runs cold...

For Klara knows exactly who this man is, and he in turn knows her secrets.

So begins a deadly game of uneasy truces and fear. But Klara hasn't come this far to lose all now, she will do anything to protect her daughter.

The Survivors is a powerful tale of courage and endurance. It tells of one woman's tenacity and ingenuity in the face of adversity. Klara is a feisty heroine and her daughter Alicja is wise beyond her years, but an

absolute delight.

I quickly raced through this book, I couldn't get to the end fast enough. I had to find out how Oscar and Klara knew each other and how he had a hold over her. It is a beautifully written story, the characters are well drawn and come to life on the page. You can feel Klara's despair and desperation, and Alicja's fierce protectiveness. Kate Furnivall's meticulous research makes this book a captivating and compelling read. I recommend it to all lovers of Historical Fiction and feisty heroines.

My thanks to Simon & Schuster Australia for a copy to read and review. The opinions are all my own.

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### **Ken says**

I must confess that I wasn't aware of the Displaced Persons Camps that sprung up in Germany after the Second World War.

Serving as a safe place for refugees or concentration camp survivors it makes sense that something cataclysmic would take time to resolve, especially as borders changed and homes were bombed.

The Survivors follows Klara Janowska as she strives to give her daughter Alicja a better future, with Klara being half British they arrive at a camp in the British sector with the intention of eventually making it to England.

Whilst at the camp Klara spots someone from her past...

The horrible day to day life is vividly portrayed, the dirty cramped nature of these ramshackle locations show how tough it must have been for those that had already faced horrendous conditions during the war.

Though Klara persistence and determination for her daughter gives an optimistic tone to the story.

The mystery of Klara's past really drove the narrative forward, I was desperate to find out what happens next.

Not only was I swept along with the story, I also felt that I'd learnt something that I hadn't previously been that knowledgeable about.

Highly recommend!

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### **SissiReads says**

Let me start my review by saying that I picked up the book on a Saturday morning and I wasn't able to put it down for the whole day until late in the evening. I finished it in one single sitting! It was absolutely amazing. It tells the story about Klara Janowska and her daughter Alicja who endured and finally escaped the horror of the Second World War and came to a Displaced Persons camp set up by the British army in Germany, where they could finally look forward to a future and start a new life somewhere in Europe. However one day Klara saw a man from her past in the camp and she instantly knew that in order for her and her daughter to start a new life, this man had to die...

This is such a highly addictive, fast-paced but also powerful story about endurance; about courage and love

in the face of adversity and trauma; about what we would all willing to do in order to save our loved ones. It is such a captivating, dangerous, thrilling and emotional read which I absolutely adore.

?Kate Furnivall is excellent in creating vivid characters. Klara is tough, strong and determined while Alicja is protective, quiet and intelligent. I instantly connected with them and all the characters in the story. I was hooked from page 1 because I needed to know who the man was and what events happened in the past that had driven Klara to make such decision. It is impossible to stop once you start reading the book!

?What I also love about this book is the multiple POVs telling the story from different perspectives and the way it alternates between the past and present events. It is so well thought-out and structured. One event led to another and the readers could not help but got completely engrossed in the story.

?While I was reading the book, I noticed the amount of research the author has put into writing this book. To be honest I thought I knew a lot about WWII as this is a period of time that I love to read and have read about the most. However it was a shame that I didn't know about the Displaced Persons camp until I read this book. Kate Furnivall has precisely captured the desperation of war and the inhuman tragedies people had been through; it serves as a reminder to all of us about the horror of war and the lessons we all should have learnt from it.

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## **Nat says**

Well that was a quick paced read right through from start to finish, I would have read this one in a couple of days easily if it wasn't for my roles and responsibilities in my life interrupting...

Kate Furnivall has a magical way of making you a spectator in the midst of the action like you are visiting their world but they can't see you but you can see and feel what is happening... I have read a few war stories as its one of my favourite eras of time to read about but I haven't come across one around the Displaced Persons (DP) camps.. I loved the strength of Klara you can see its for survival and the strong convictions she holds and the love of her daughter.. The choices she made during the war and now although war is over, they now have to survive a new kind of war fare.. I never knew much of DP camps and I never had a chance to ask my grandparents who were DPs themselves to hear what it was like for them and then the relief when they made the trip to Australia but wow if it was even half of what I read in this book then hats off to every single person who had survived the war and then survived those camps..

Love Kate Furnivall book's and have a couple in my tbr to get too.. Might move them up the line now since this awesome reminder of why I enjoyed her writing in the past. It is with thanks to Simon & Schuster Australia for my free uncorrected ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Carolyn says**

Five Diamonds! \*\*\*\*\*

The Survivors by Kate Furnivall set in post-war Germany tells the story of Klara Janowska and Alicia (her daughter) and the Graufeld Displaced Persons Camp.

It's a story of power, struggle, survival and a fight for freedom.

Spies, Nazis, Soldiers in post-war Germany.

Bombs, explosions.

Diamonds ... thousands of diamonds.

I covered myself in diamonds as I read this book.

Subtle descriptions of fashion.

I read The Survivors over almost one night and day - totally gripping and un-put-down-able.

Superb storytelling once again by Kate Furnivall.

Thank you, Kate for another captivating and thrilling read.

Highly recommend.

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### **Jeanette Lewis says**

Many thanks to Simon & Schuster for this book to read and review.

The author has created a beautiful and complex thriller. The end of WW2 and all of Europe is in turmoil with millions of displaced people. The Allies have set up camps to house as many as is possible, to feed, clothe and to try and re-establish identities for those who have lost or had personal papers destroyed and eventually to try and repatriate them with any family still alive. There are also Nazis hiding within the camps with new identities, those Nazis who haven't escaped to South America and for whom need to be held accountable for war crimes. Klara Janowska and daughter Alicja are in a camp in Germany run by the British. Under an assumed name, the Nazi Sturmbannführer who interrogated and tortured Klara and who knows her secret is in the same camp under an assumed name, her dead brother's name. Why did he choose this name?

Discovering his presence at the camp throws Klara into a further state of anxiety with memories flooding back to her and of his promised threat when in Warsaw. Davide Bouvier, a Frenchman who is assisting the British Colonel running the camp has great affection for Klara. He has lost all his family and suffers with lung disease from his time as a POW. Oskar Sturmbannführer has more to pursue from Klara than she imagines and unbeknown to her she is pursued also by the Russians, who have her transferred from the British camp, she escapes is finally recaptured but not before obtaining the knowledge she has wanted from her German lover's sister. The author adds a further dimension to this read that would seem to thwart her plans of being with Davide. Klara throughout all her struggles has kept the light for her husband burning even though she believed him to be dead, however in the end this light was not reciprocated.

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### **Vanessa Wild says**

Set just after WWII in a refugee camp in Germany. Klara and Alicja Janowska are survivors of the horrors of war and find themselves living in Graufeld Displaced Persons Camp. Klara recognises a man from her past, someone posing as a refugee and therefore hiding his true identity. Klara believes that she and her daughter are in grave danger and she is left with a dilemma.

This is an exciting and gripping story about greed and revenge. It's quite the page turner, a rollercoaster of a

ride. I was virtually on the edge of my seat on occasions! There are some great, well rounded characters, including a strong and courageous mother with an even feistier daughter. I've never considered refugee camps after the war before, all those people homeless through no fault of their own and living in terrible conditions but still finding something to smile about. It seems to resonate with today's world somewhat, so a tale told from this perspective was interesting and revealing. The research which has gone into this book is admirable. I wasn't too sure about the ending. I thought it was a little too neatly tied off but this is just a small point.

I thought this was an excellent piece of storytelling, a must for those who enjoy historical fiction. I very much enjoyed it.

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### **Brenda says**

Klara Janowska and her ten-year-old daughter Alicja had managed to evade capture after their escape, but the desperate looking women, determined to have their ounce of flesh just about destroyed Klara. Once again they had nothing. Their arrival at the Graufeld Camp - home of thousands of Displaced Persons - which the British had set up after the end of the war, was a safety of sorts. At least they had a roof over their heads, and food (although very little) in their bellies. Klara's determination to head to England and her grandmother was foremost in her mind.

Until she saw a man from her past – a man who was a danger to both her and Alicja. Would she have to kill him to rid them of danger? Klara did her best to keep her daughter safe; she enlisted the help of three other children she trusted, and Davide from the administration office. There was also Hanna, mother of one of the boys, and in charge of the laundry. But the past had a way of making itself known when it was least expected. What was she to do? Would they ever be safe again?

*The Survivors* is another brilliant historical fiction novel by Kate Furnivall which I absolutely loved. This is the third I have read by her, and I've thoroughly enjoyed them all. Her research is meticulous; her character building is powerful; the story heartbreaking and traumatic. Wonderful! Highly recommended.

With thanks to Simon & Schuster AU for my uncorrected proof ARC in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Gill Paul says**

Kate Furnivall's heroines are always smart, tough and feisty but Klara Janowska is the most powerful yet. Stuck in a displaced persons' camp in postwar Germany, she has to fight to protect herself and her daughter Alicja from an unwelcome arrival from the past, and to stay out of the grip of the ruthless Soviet army. Beautifully written and impeccably researched, the novel gives a vivid, evocative picture of the claustrophobia of the camps, where they slept in bunks within large airless huts, and where some areas are too dangerous to venture. Everyone is simply doing what they must to survive. Klara's love for Alicja is absolute and unshakeable, a beacon in the bleakness – and then along comes a man called Davide to ignite another spark of something that may or may not become love.

We are rooting for Klara from the start: she has endured unspeakable horrors yet she clings to the hope of a better future for her and Alicja. You will not be able to stop reading this gripping, raw story of love in the



darkest of times.

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## **Emma Crowley says**

Kate Furnivall is one of my all time favourite authors and once again with her new book *The Survivors* she has crafted another masterpiece, it's a gripping story from beginning to end. It's packed full of tension, danger, manipulation, mystery and intrigue with the theme of survival being the focal point to the plot. Right from the opening pages I was instantly drawn into the world of Klara Janowska and her young daughter Alicja as theirs was a story that was absorbing, thrilling, powerful and in a lot of ways haunting for all they had to endure. Klara is a character who will really get inside your head as you journey with her as she attempts to get to England where she has relatives and where she feels she will be safe following the conclusion of World War Two. Unfortunately Europe is in chaos following the downfall of Hitler and travelling from Poland to England is no easy feat with threats and danger lurking at every corner. But Klara is resourceful and intuitive and she is determined to complete her task no matter what happens. She needs to both for herself and Alicja as she knows a better life has to be out there for them.

The path to a peaceful more happy existence does not run smoothly and soon the pair find themselves in Graufeld Camp in Germany, a holding camp for displaced persons. For those who have survived the atrocities of war yet lost their homes and in some ways their identity and sense of self. Europe is on the move with a huge mass migration in full flow. Will this be the last stopping place for Klara and Alicja or will they battle through to reach their intended destination? It was so refreshing to see an author putting a new slant on World War Two in the fact that the war itself was not the major focus rather the fallout from all that had occurred for six long years.

We've all read and enjoyed, if that's the word you can use, historical fiction set during the war but admittedly I have given scant thought to what happened afterwards. By setting this novel in the camp Kate Furnivall has shone a light on what happened post war and how Europe coped with so many people migrating or fleeing the Russians in some cases. The research and detail throughout the story was phenomenal. The writing was excellent and visually descriptive giving the reader a real sense of time and place. I really do think that *The Survivors* would make a great mini drama series for television as it has it all - a brilliant storyline that you reels you in and keeps you hooked and guessing, characters you become deeply invested in and of course a love story.

The descriptions of the British run camp were so real and never once did the author spare the reader from what actually went on there. It really was everyone for themselves as they waited in a kind of limbo to move on in the next stage of their journey if that was at all possible. Klara essentially set up a new life for herself but she didn't become bogged down in the fact that she may never leave the camp. She knew she had an end goal in sight and was courageous and determined that she would carry these through right to the bitter end. I felt Klara was a very restless character that she could never sit still for long as she was always observing her surroundings, the comings and goings at the camp and essentially she was wary that could she ever really trust anybody.

Davide Bouvier, an administrative assistant to the camp Colonel Whitmore, proved to be an ally and a friend to Klara when she needed resources and help the most. The affections bubbling away between the pair developed at a slow and relaxed pace but for the most part I felt this was more on Davide's side rather than Klara's. Again I think this goes back to the fact that she was always on high alert and always plotting different ways to get out of the camp. She used her time and acquired resources wisely, she wasn't just

existing from day to day like some others. She was cunning in a good way and was always looking at their bigger picture. Everything was carefully planned and worked out and what she had been up to during the war years stood her in good stead as her cleverness and resilience shone through the further we delved into the story.

Klara has to be one of my favourite characters that I have read in a book this year. Kate Furnivall put her heart and soul into creating a character that had such a strong voice and brilliant mind. But above all else her love and devotion towards her daughter was heart warming to see and she wanted nothing but a positive future for Alicja given their enforced separation during the war. Every so often chapters from Alicja's viewpoint came about and although they were interesting to read and showed a child's viewpoint in relation to everything that was unfolding Klara's chapters and story still remain my firm favourite. Alicja in some ways was an innocent and then in others she surprised me with her actions. It showed she was observant and very devoted to her mother. She too wanted to leave the camp and begin a new life but the secrets from the recent past will have a strong forbearing on the present and future as an old face appears at camp.

When Klara sees this person she is like a cat defending her new born kittens. Her hackles rise and the sense of urgency that is ever present throughout the book only increases as I rapidly flew through the chapters. To understand why the appearance of this person sets Klara in a panic the author interspersed the chapters with recollections as Klara looks back on how she spent her time during the war years in Poland. An enforced separation from Alicja and the strong urge to reunite kept her going through the darkest of times. I don't think she would say she was proud of some of the things she had to do but again this goes back to the fact that it was all about survival, about being alive come what may in order to make a new life for herself and her daughter without her husband who was lost while fighting.

Given what we learn about Klara and some of the compromising situations she went through there could have been a danger my opinion of her would have changed but I sensed there had to be a further more complicated reason behind everything. Why was she so guarded and always so worried about self protection? What kept her on high alert at all times? Why was the past really like the shadow that never leaves you? I had a feeling that there were major revelations to come but that was not before some major twists, turns and surprises that left me thinking would Klara and Alicja ever achieve some form of happiness? But against all the odds and no matter what the powers that be threw in her direction I knew Klara was gutsy enough, determined and brave enough to just keep on keeping on as they say. Klara's hardened outer core was present for a reason but at the back of my mind I kept wondering just what was the truth behind Klara the person and had her actions affected Alicja so much that she had lost the innocence, lightness and exuberance a young child should have?

No doubt about it Klara was a remarkable character who could have let hatred all consume her but she just held herself back from the brink and exacted everything in the most awe inspiring and riveting manner. Revenge is a dish best served cold and the reader is left guessing until the last possible moment to discover if all the plotting and planning will come to fruition. I was thrown by the last few chapters when we reached the culmination of everything but thrown in a good way. Kate Furnivall had certainly pulled the wool over my eyes and I was left gasping in shock at some of the revelations. On reflection I should have been more astute but I think I was too caught up in the pace and development of the story to read further into circumstances and people than I did. The twists were mind blowing but slotted in perfectly with the overall story, scenarios and picture that the author was trying to achieve.

The Survivors blends imagination with historical fact to absolute perfection and by the time you reach the last page you will be disappointed to leave such amazing characters behind. Kate Furnivall never fails to disappoint and with The Survivors being the fantastic, spell binding story that it was she has yet again not

disappointed this reader. Long may things continue in this vein.

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## **Thebooktrail says**

Visit the locations in the novel

Until this book, I can't say I'd read a novel quite like it which described the post war conditions of those who survived the war. I've read books about the conditions in Auschwitz etc and other camps and indeed in Jewish ghettos but this story about the Displaced Persons camp was new and utterly fascinating if not grim and heartbreaking at the same time.

It's set largely inside such a camp. The people there come from all walks of life and I was horrified to learn that a woman or man tortured during the war by the Nazis could now be forced to live with them in one of these camps supposedly where they were waiting to be rescued . These camps were not safe places but rather waiting rooms of sorts and the struggles of Klara to keep herself and her daughter safe are phenomenal. She recognises a man from her past there, and they both know secrets about each other which could get them killed. They are each others enemies and the stakes are high.

I was on tenterhooks throughout reading this. The underlying tension bubbled to the surface frequently but it was during the quiet bits that I was most afraid for Klara and her daughter. Interestingly, both get a voice here ,and I think it works really well to have both the mother and the child try work out the world around them. Both excellently written and brave people. Klara's past, told through flashbacks just shows how people during wartime had to do anything to survive and these faces, masks were hard to hide afterwards.

It's moving, emotional and traumatic all at once. Heartbreaking yet one character in particular shows that humanity can lie in the most unexpected of places.

Recommended.

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