



2015

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein

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Author: Wein, Elizabeth

Title: *Code Name Verity*

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: Disney-Hyperion

ISBN: 9781423152880

Number of Pages: 332

Rating: Outstanding

Reading/Interest Level: Young Adult

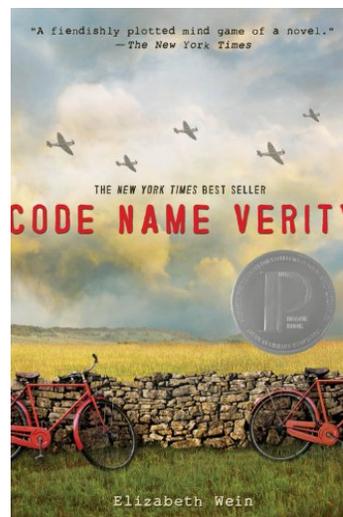
Keywords: Historical Fiction; Friendship; Aviation; Espionage; Rebellion

Review:

Artfully dodging their way around official British Army regulations during WWII, Maddie flies her best friend, Julie, a spy, to meet up with the French Resistance. When anti-aircraft fire damages the tail of Maddie's plane, Julie must parachute down to the pre-arranged site, which she misses. Julie does meet up with her second contact, but then she is caught by the Germans. Her written confession—actually the story of her friendship with Maddie—makes up the first part of the novel. Maddie's record makes up the second half of the book and completes the picture of Julie. After Julie jumps, Maddie realizes that she has Julie's identification papers and forces the plane to land. The landing destroys the plane and leaves Maddie a reluctant addition to the French Resistance. Maddie then explains how she learns to do things she never thought possible, like shooting a gun and being a spy, and how she and Julie team up unexpectedly to complete the original mission.

The plot unfolds subtly with unexpected connections and twists, which make the reader regularly reassess what Maddie thought she knew. While this makes for a deliciously fun and compelling read, it does mean that this book is probably too advanced for most middle school/early high-school readers. For those who tackle the whole thing, though, the characters draw us in almost immediately and the unfolding story keeps us involved to the very end.

Reviewer: Tom Smith



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