



2017

Wait for Me

Caroline Leech

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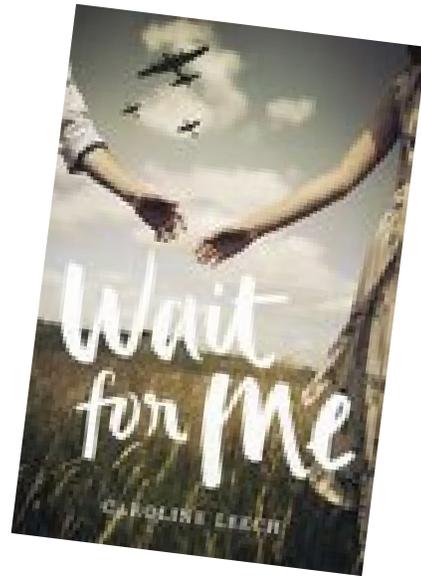
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Book Review

Title: Wait for Me
Author: Caroline Leech
Reviewer: Liz Sugihara
Publisher: Harper Teen
Year: 2017
ISBN: 9780062459886
Pages: 361
Interest Level: Young Adult
Rating: Excellent



Review

It is 1945 and World War II has yet to end. Lorna Anderson's days are filled with working on her family's farm, going to school with her best friend Iris, and trying to not worry about her two brothers who are away fighting. Lorna is shocked when her father allows Paul Vogel, a German prisoner of war, to work on their Scottish farm. At first, his presence on the farm worries her, but when she gets to know Paul she realizes that he isn't so different. Despite the ongoing tensions around them, the two grow to care for each other. When people in town discover their young romance, disapproving rumors spread. Miraculously, the war in Europe ends and people begin to soften towards the idea of Paul and Lorna being together.

Wait for Me offers readers a different, more intimate perspective on how individual lives were affected by World War II. Throughout the novel, Lorna's emotions about serious issues (such as brothers missing in action, her inner conflict about being friends with the enemy, etc.) seem to lack depth but matches the overall tone of the novel. According to the author, Caroline Leech, love stories similar to Lorna and Paul's actually occurred. While Lorna and Paul are fictional characters, Leech, who is Scottish herself, explains in the author's note that many of the places and events in the novel are real. In this debut novel, Leech aptly captures the essence of first love, conflicting loyalties, and a people who are ready for the war to be over.

*Contains mild language and brief sexual assault.